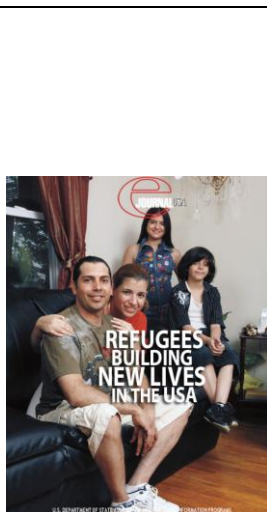




AMERICAN INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER Ankara, Turkey

E-Documents October 2010 – Issue 1

■ Electronic Journals – all e-journals



Refugees Building New Lives in the USA

Since 1980, millions of refugees have been resettled in the United States. Individual Americans welcome and help integrate refugees into U.S. communities large and small and, in turn, the resettled refugees enrich American culture. This edition of eJournal USA presents some background information and includes several personal stories.

Volume 15, Number 6,
ISSN 1948-4399 (online)

■ IIP Books – all publications



■ Ask America

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

■ Podcasts

<http://www.america.gov/multimedia/podcast.html>

Audio files and transcripts from America.gov

<p>■ Videos http://www.america.gov/multimedia/video.html Video files on foreign policy, American life, economy, global challenges, international relations.</p> <p>■ Videos on Youtube This channel delivers videos on American life, culture and politics. Produced by the U.S. Department of State for international audiences, the videos illustrate values that underlie U.S. policies and explore interests shared by Americans and people around the world. http://www.youtube.com/american.gov</p>	<p>■ Communities http://www.america.gov/communities.html Blogs at America.gov offers readers a place to discuss designated topics with experts from the United States and around the world, and to share their comments and reactions with the broader Internet public. Social Networks of America.gov goes where the conversation is. Follow us on your favorite social networking sites.</p>
<p>JOIN AMERICA.GOV ONLINE COMMUNITIES</p> <p> FACEBOOK  TWITTER  YouTube  Flickr</p> <p>■ GOVFRESH IS A LIVE FEED OF OFFICIAL NEWS FROM U.S. GOVERNMENT TWITTER, YOUTUBE, RSS, FACEBOOK, FLICKR ACCOUNTS AND MORE, ALL IN ONE PLACE.</p>	<p>■ Today's Web Picks Article Alert is a free aggregation and digest service that links readers to interesting and informative periodical literature (magazine and other journal articles) on a variety of topics including (1) American Life, (2) Economy, (3) Global Challenges, and (4) International Relations. We also offer (5) Top Ten Lists and Other Cool Stuff. We hyperlink to the original texts and supply a short "teaser." There's a lot of great reading on the web and not enough time to find it all. We can help! http://www.america.gov/publications/article-alert.html</p>
<p> Facebook Page of U.S. Embassy Ankara / You may become a fan and follow posts about media, cultural and educational events sponsored by the US Embassy in Ankara.</p>	

SIGNIFICANT DOCUMENTS

COMBATING POVERTY AND INEQUALITY: STRUCTURAL CHANGE, SOCIAL POLICY AND POLITICS. U.N. Research Institute for Social Development. September 3, 2010.

Poverty reduction is a central feature of the international development agenda and contemporary poverty reduction strategies increasingly focus on "targeting the poor", yet poverty and inequality remain intractable foes. The report argues that this is because many current approaches to reducing poverty and inequality fail to consider key institutional, policy and political dimensions that may be both causes of poverty and inequality, and obstacles to their reduction.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/ao9wcl> [HTML format with links].

A FAIR CHANCE AT LIFE: WHY EQUITY MATTERS FOR CHILD MORTALITY. Save the Children. September 9, 2010.

The report compares mortality rates of poor children and rich children in 32 countries. In many countries that are successfully reducing child mortality, progress is concentrated among the poorest and most disadvantaged children. Conversely, in countries making slow or no progress, disparities in life chances between children from the poorest and richest backgrounds tend to be extreme. The evidence is clear. Prioritizing poor children is one of the surest ways to make the progress on tackling child mortality that is so urgently needed. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/arnzrs> [PDF format, 46 pages].

THE GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS REPORT 2010-2011. World Economic Forum. September , 2010.

Switzerland tops the overall ranking in The Global Competitiveness Report. The U.S. falls two places to fourth position, overtaken by Sweden (2nd) and Singapore (3rd). The Nordic countries continue to be well positioned in the ranking, with Sweden, Finland (7th) and Denmark (9th) among the top 10, and with Norway at 14th. Sweden overtakes the US and Singapore this year to be placed 2nd overall. The United Kingdom, after falling in the rankings over recent years, moves back up by one place to 12th position. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/9DnhCO> [PDF format, 515 pages].

ALWAYS ON THE RUN: THE VICIOUS CYCLE OF DISPLACEMENT IN EASTERN CONGO. Human Rights Watch. September 14, 2010.

This 88-page report documents abuses against the displaced by all warring parties in all phases of displacement, during the attacks that uproot them; after they have been displaced and are living in the forests, with host families, or in camps; and after they or the authorities decide it is time for them to return home. The report is based on interviews with 146 people displaced from their homes in eastern Congo, as well as government officials, humanitarian workers, and journalists. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/aib1lq> [HTML format with links].

TERRITORIAL DISPUTES AND SEABED PETROLEUM EXPLOITATION: SOME OPTIONS FOR THE EAST CHINA SEA. Brookings Institution. Guo Rongxing. September 2010.

Throughout history, physical terrain, political fiat, and conquest have divided states into separate political entities just as much as race, ethnicity, language, and religion. One result is man-made and sometimes arbitrary or even imposed boundaries. Compared to other kinds of cross-border areas, internationally disputed areas are always characterized by undemarcated boundaries as well as political and institutional uncertainties. The paper sets out to analyze the critical analytical and policy issues relating to maritime boundary disputes and undersea hydrocarbon exploitation in the East China Sea. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/dBGdYu> [PDF format, 36 pages].

CIVIL SOCIETY IN DARFUR. U.S. Institute of Peace. Theodore Murphy and Jerome Tubiana. September 2010.

The report explores civil society's role in Darfur's greater peace process, examines mediators' efforts to harness civil society to date, and argues that civil society could be extremely useful to the peacemaking process, but only if its representatives to the process are carefully selected and properly involved in the process. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/ajpxLi> [PDF format, 20 pages].

IRAN'S GLOBAL AMBITIONS – PART I. YaleGlobal. Jamsheed K. Choksy. September 13, 2010.

Iran has pursued global influence while the U.S. busied itself with war east and west of the nation. As major powers impose sanctions for violation of its non-proliferation commitment, Iranian leaders cultivate ties with developing nations. Messages drawing on pride in the ancient Persian Empire resonate; recent polls show a majority of Arabs in Middle East states, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Egypt, hold favorable views of Iran developing nuclear weapons. Many of these citizens are marginalized, chafing under dictatorial rule condoned by the West. Iran also promises gas pipelines in Asia, promotes trade with China, forms alliances with Latin American nations disgruntled over U.S. policies, and divides the U.N. Security Council, while taking on leadership roles in U.N. committees. Choksy warns Iran's goals are no secret. A flurry of international activity which might seem hollow, could eventually transform into effective power. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/9Zq9Ce> [HTML format, various paging].

IRAN'S GLOBAL AMBITIONS – PART II. YaleGlobal. Willem van Kemenade. September 15, 2010.

Holding the third largest oil reserves in the world, Iran is an attractive trade partner, giving it an edge in the world economy. The series examines Iran's big power ambitions and its ability to divide the international community to achieve its goal. As Iran rejects demands to end high level enriching nuclear fuel, the UN Security Council in June approved a fourth round of sanctions aimed against the country's dominant military. China and Russia, both expressing concern about US intervention, resist the toughest proposals for sanctions. "The big question is whether China at this stage will openly support Iran in alleviating the sanctions," asks the author. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/d3jAr0> [HTML format, various paging].

IRAN'S GLOBAL AMBITIONS – III. YaleGlobal. Bruce Stokes. September 17, 2010.

The UN Security Council has imposed a series of sanctions on Iran for failing to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Iran insists it complies with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Bruce Stokes reports on a survey in 22 nations by the German Marshall Fund, including questions on Iran. Majorities throughout Europe and the US, Japan, China, India, as well as Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, hold unfavorable views of the country's policies. The survey reveals emerging consensus opposed to Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons, but also divisions among and within nations on how to respond to the defiance, including doubts over US handling of the issue. Support for a military strike emerges only after other options are exhausted, and many citizens express a preference for avoiding military conflict. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/cvX70t> [HTML format, various paging].

IRAQI-U.S. COST-SHARING: IRAQ HAS A CUMULATIVE BUDGET SURPLUS, OFFERING THE POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER COST-SHARING. U.S. Government Accountability Office. September 13, 2010.

Since 2003, the U.S. has reported obligating \$642 billion for U.S. military operations in Iraq and provided about \$24 billion for training, equipment, and other services for Iraqi security forces. To assist Congress in overseeing efforts to encourage the Iraqi government to contribute more toward the cost of securing and stabilizing Iraq, the report provides information on (1) the amount and availability of Iraq's budget surplus or deficit, (2) the amount of Iraq's financial deposit balances, and (3) the extent to which Iraq has spent its financial resources on security costs. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/9GReZq> [PDF format, 78 pages].

PAKISTAN'S FUTURE: THE BELLAGIO PAPERS. Brookings Institution. Stephen P. Cohen. September 2010.

The following papers are one component of a project conducted at the Brookings Institution in 2010. They were written by the participants in a conference in Bellagio, Italy in May 2010 that examined the future of Pakistan. These included the continuation of the “establishment” dominated Pakistan, a state in which democratic forms—if not democracy—were maintained. This is also a state with stable if not good relations with two of its neighbors, Afghanistan and India. Overt military rule was also discussed, as was the emergence of a truly “Islamic” state, or even a full-fledged democracy. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/aE6lGz> [PDF format, 157 pages].

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: ENVIRONMENT OUTLOOK. U.N. Environment Programme. 2010.

Over the past 12 years, within the GEO framework, UNEP has produced a series of global integrated environmental assessment reports aimed at providing comprehensive, scientifically credible, and policy-relevant assessments on the interaction between environment and society. In line with its core mandate of keeping the global environment under review, UNEP has developed a series of extensive consultative and participatory processes that have led to the production of four volumes of the comprehensive Global Environment Outlook (GEO). In Latin America and the Caribbean, this regional focus was designed both to adapt the generalizations of the global assessment to the considerably different environmental, political, economic and cultural realities of the LAC region, and to support regional, national, local and thematically focused groups to use the same methods to assess their immediate concerns. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/cdrx7j> [PDF format, 380 pages].

ACHIEVING AND SUSTAINING EARTH OBSERVATIONS: A PRELIMINARY PLAN BASED ON A STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT BY THE U.S. GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS. Office of Science and Technology Policy, The White House. September 2010.

“We live in an era of unprecedented stress on our planet. the combination of population growth, climate change, resource demand, and the continuing development of coastal and built areas creates significant challenges for the nation. to meet these challenges, there is a need for information about the earth system and how it is changing over time. A robust infrastructure of earth observations is necessary to support the nation’s need to inform decisions and policy. Additionally, in this ever more global society, information and understanding derived from earth observations are important in sustaining the U.S. role in global leadership.”
<http://bit.ly/ayrTrK> [PDF format, 69 pages].

AMERICANS SPENDING MORE TIME FOLLOWING THE NEWS. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. September 12, 2010.

There are many more ways to get the news these days, and as a consequence Americans are spending more time with the news than over much of the past decade. Digital platforms are playing a larger role in news consumption, and they seem to be more than making up for modest declines in the audience for traditional platforms. As a result, the average time Americans spend with the news on a given day is as high as it was in the mid-1990s, when audiences for traditional news sources were much larger. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/cTeGEy> [PDF format, 145 pages].

ASSESSING THE TERRORIST THREAT. Bipartisan Policy Center. Peter Bergen and Bruce Hoffman. September 10, 2010.

The report details how the terrorist threat has evolved since the attacks in 2001, including the development of homegrown networks and the increasingly diverse and decentralized nature of terrorism [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/aHOvgA> [PDF format, 44 pages].

EARLY READING: IGNITING EDUCATION FOR ALL. Brookings Institution. Rebecca Winthrop et al. September 8, 2010.

Learning to read is a fundamental part of the first few years of primary education for early and sustained success in school. Yet, in many developing countries, a distressing number of students are not learning to read at all during these critical first years of schooling. On September 8, International Literacy Day, the Center for Universal Education (CUE) at Brookings and the International Reading Association hosted a discussion on how ensuring literacy in the early grades can help to fulfill the promise of quality education for all. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/aZT3Aw> [PDF format, 71 pages].

LEVERS OF CHANGE: PATHWAYS FOR STATE-TO-DISTRICT ASSISTANCE IN UNDERPERFORMING SCHOOL DISTRICTS. Center for American Progress. William J. Slotnik. September 2010.

When school districts fail to meet their responsibilities to educate students, state departments of education by law have to step up and become the responsible party. But, if state departments of education are to achieve better results, there is a fundamental need for new approaches and new sets of players. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/brnUPh> [PDF format, 56 pages].

REDUCING STUDENT POVERTY IN THE CLASSROOM. Center for American Progress. Saba Bireda and Joy Moses. September 2010.

Schools are ideal locations for social programs because they have unparalleled access to poor students and their families, they are located in the neighborhoods in which families live, are recognized and familiar community institutions, and have established relationships with low-income students and their families. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/cn0R4B> [PDF format, 31 pages].

SINCE THE START OF THE GREAT RECESSION, MORE CHILDREN RAISED BY GRANDPARENTS. Pew Research Center. September 9, 2010.

One child in 10 in the United States lives with a grandparent, a share that increased slowly and steadily over the past decade before rising sharply from 2007 to 2008, the first year of the Great Recession, according to the analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data. The phenomenon of grandparents serving as primary caregivers is more common among blacks³ and Hispanics than among whites, but the sharpest rise since the recession began has been among whites.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/bwjyvG> [PDF format, 7 pages].

COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH QUALITY EDUCATION. Brookings Institution. Allison Anderson. September 16, 2010.

Climate change threatens to undo and even reverse the progress made toward meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and poses one of the most serious challenges to reducing global poverty for the international community. However, the education sector offers a currently untapped opportunity to combat climate change. The brief reviews the current policies and actions on climate change and the barriers to engaging the education sector in the discussions on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/autal5> [PDF format, 16 pages].

GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND THE UNITED STATES. Small Business Administration. Zoltan J. Acs and Laszlo Szerb. September 14, 2010.

The research study constructs a multifaceted tool for measuring and comparing countries' overall entrepreneurial health. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/9xYoAk> [PDF format, 62 pages].

REGIONAL TRADE BLOCS: THE WAY TO THE FUTURE? Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Alejandro Foxley. September 2010.

With global trade talks stalled and lower demand from major economies that were hit hard by the global economic crisis, regional trade agreements are emerging as a way for middle-income countries to increase trade, spur growth, and lower unemployment rates. In the report, the author analyzes how three regions, Eastern Europe, Latin America, and East Asia, are increasing trade within their borders and building a broader free trade system. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/d0lwvl> [PDF format, 65 pages].

RETHINKING THE (EUROPEAN) FOUNDATIONS OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION: A POLITICAL ECONOMY ESSAY. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Peter Draper. September 2010.

Support for regional economic integration in Africa runs high amongst the continent's international development partners and African elites. However, its expression in European forms of economic integration is not appropriate to regional capacities and in some cases may do more harm than good, according to the report. The report reconceptualizes the foundations of African economic integration through reviewing key debates within each literature and comparing the results across disciplinary boundaries. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/bySYSE> [PDF format, 34 pages].

THE ROLE OF THE U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL. Council on Foreign Relations. Carin Zissis and Lauren Vriens. September 16, 2010.

A profile of the UN's senior leadership position--the organization's secretary-general. What tasks are incumbent on the official, and how have past secretary-generals interpreted the role? [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/a2QA2R> [HTML format, various paging].

MONETARY TRANSMISSIONS OF GLOBAL IMBALANCES IN ASIAN COUNTRIES. International Monetary Fund. Woon Gyu Choi and Il Houg Lee. September 2010.

The paper explores the linkages between the global and domestic monetary gaps, and estimates the effects of monetary gaps on output growth, inflation, and net saving rates using panel data for 20 Asian countries for 1980-2008. It finds a significant pass-through of the global monetary gap to domestic monetary gaps, which in turn affect output growth and inflation, in individual emerging market and developing countries in Asia. The authors provide evidence that the global monetary condition is partly responsible for the current account surplus in Asia. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/bZpoVd> [PDF format, 27 pages].

COUNTRY ANALYSIS BRIEFS: UNITED KINGDOM. Energy Information Administration. September 2010.

The United Kingdom (UK) is the largest producer of oil and second-largest producer of natural gas in the European Union (EU). After years of being a net exporter of both fuels, the UK became a net importer of natural gas and crude oil in 2004 and 2005, respectively. Production from UK oil and natural gas fields peaked in the late 1990s and has declined steadily over the past several years, as the discovery of new reserves has not kept pace with the maturation of existing fields.

In response, the government has begun a three-pronged approach to address the predicted domestic shortfalls: 1) increasing domestic production; 2) establishing necessary import infrastructure, such as liquefied natural gas (LNG) receiving terminals and transnational pipelines; and 3) investing in energy conservation.
<http://bit.ly/bOztA6> [PDF format, 11 pages].

WITHOUT PROTECTION: HOW THE LEBANESE JUSTICE SYSTEM FAILS MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS. Human Rights Watch. September 16, 2010.

The report reviews 114 Lebanese judicial decisions affecting migrant domestic workers. It finds that lack of accessible complaint mechanisms, lengthy judicial procedures, and restrictive visa policies dissuade many workers from filing or pursuing complaints against their employers. Even when workers file complaints, the police and judicial authorities regularly fail to treat certain abuses against domestic workers as crimes. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/9zK1wT> [HTML format with links].

AFGHANISTAN'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Robert D. Lamb. September 16, 2010.

Saturday is Election Day in Afghanistan. About 2,000 candidates are vying for one of the 249 open seats in the Wolesi Jirga, the lower house of the National Assembly. But, as Afghan and international security forces work overtime to protect polling stations, voters, and candidates, serious questions loom. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/cGjYS3> [HTML format, various paging].

ADOLESCENT LITERACY. Alliance for Excellent Education. September 15, 2010.

Our society is demanding ever more literate workers and citizens. As technology advances and the American economy grows increasingly knowledge based, individuals must be able to read, write, and communicate at higher levels in order to remain economic and social contributors. A student's level of literacy is a critical determinant of success in secondary school and beyond. Currently, more than half of America's secondary students struggle to read their textbooks and other course materials. Still, research demonstrates that adolescents' literacy levels can improve with intensive, comprehensive instruction. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/b4X6WP> [PDF format, 3 pages].

DEBUNKING THE MYTH OF THE OVERCOMPENSATED PUBLIC EMPLOYEE. Economic Policy Institute. Jeffrey Keefe. September 15, 2010.

The research in this paper investigates whether state and local public employees are overpaid at the expense of taxpayers. Thirty-seven states are struggling with substantial budget deficits. Several governors have identified excessive public employee compensation as a major cause of their states' fiscal duress. The remedies they propose include public employee pay freezes, benefits reductions, privatization, major revisions to the rules of collective bargaining, and constitutional amendments to limit pay increases, each as a necessary antidote to the public employee overpayment malady. The data analysis, however, indicate that public employees, both state and local government, are not overpaid. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/aLD4Le> [PDF format, 14 pages].

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF OBESITY IN THE UNITED STATES. Brookings Institution. Ross A. Hammond and Ruth Levine. September 14, 2010.

Over the past several decades, obesity has grown into a major global epidemic. In the U.S., more than two-thirds of adults are now overweight and one-third is obese. The report provides an

overview of the state of research on the likely economic impact of the U.S. obesity epidemic at the national level. Research to date has identified at least four major categories of economic impact linked with the obesity epidemic: direct medical costs, productivity costs, transportation costs, and human capital costs. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/cDAor9> [PDF format, 11 pages].

AN EVALUATION OF THE DATA FROM THE TEACHER COMPENSATION SURVEY: SCHOOL YEAR 2006-07. National Center for Education Statistics. September 15, 2010.

The report provides an overview of the Teacher Compensation Survey (TCS) data collection in 17 states for school year 2006-07. It also includes a comparison of state administrative records with other sources of data, data availability and quality. This report discusses the uses of the data, and the limitations and advantages of the TCS.
<http://bit.ly/d5Lm37> [PDF format, 84 pages].

FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES: VIETNAM JULY 1970-JANUARY 1972. U.S. Department of State. Web posted September 8, 2010.

The Department of State releases *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1969–1976, Volume VII, Vietnam, July 1970–January 1972*. The volume documents U.S. policy towards the war in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia from July 1970 to January 1972. It is the second of five volumes covering the end of the Vietnam war under Presidents Nixon and Ford, 1969–1975.
<http://bit.ly/b5hOD4> [PDF format, 1128 pages].

HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT IN AMERICA. Alliance for Excellent Education. September 15, 2010.

Nationwide, about seven thousand students drop out every school day. This statistic may not have been noticed fifty years ago, but the era during which a high school dropout could earn a living wage has ended in the United States. By dropping out, these individuals significantly diminish their chances to secure a good job and a promising future. Moreover, each class of dropouts is responsible for substantial financial and social costs to their communities, states, and country in which they live. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/c7xVSX> [PDF format, 3 pages].

INCOME, POVERTY, AND HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE IN THE UNITED STATES: 2009. U.S. Census Bureau. September 16, 2010.

The data shows that real median household income in the United States in 2009 was \$49,777, not statistically different from the 2008 median. The nation's official poverty rate in 2009 was 14.3 percent, up from 13.2 percent in 2008, the second statistically significant annual increase in the poverty rate since 2004. There were 43.6 million people in poverty in 2009, up from 39.8 million in 2008, the third consecutive annual increase. Meanwhile, the number of people without health insurance coverage rose from 46.3 million in 2008 to 50.7 million in 2009, while the percentage increased from 15.4 percent to 16.7 percent over the same period.
<http://bit.ly/b5bpcN> [PDF format, 88 pages].

MIXED VIEWS OF GOP PROPOSALS ON ENTITLEMENTS. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. September 13, 2010.

The public has sharply different reactions to major changes in Social Security and Medicare programs being proposed by some leading Republicans. While a majority favors a proposal to allow some private investments in Social Security, there is considerably less support for the idea of ending Medicare and replacing it with a system of vouchers for purchasing private insurance.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/cOaRTN> [HTML format, various paging].

PENNY WISE, POUND FOOLISH: WHY TACKLING CHILD POVERTY DURING THE GREAT RECESSION MAKES ECONOMIC SENSE. Center for American Progress. Harry J. Holzer. September 16, 2010.

The author explains why we need a set of policy responses to mitigate the effects of the Great Recession on parents and their children. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/d8n4CC> [PDF format, 19 pages].

THE RISE OF APPS CULTURE. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Kristen Purcell et al. September 15, 2010.

Some 35% of U.S. adults have software applications or “apps” on their phones, yet only 24% of adults use those apps. Many adults who have apps on their phones, particularly older adults, do not use them, and 11% of cell owners are not sure if their phone is equipped with apps. Among cell phone owners, 29% have downloaded apps to their phone and 13% have paid to download apps.” An apps culture is clearly emerging among some cell phone users, particularly men and young adults,” say the authors. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/djLsAF> [PDF format, 46 pages].

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION: SUSTAINED MANAGEMENT ATTENTION NEEDED TO ADDRESS LONG-STANDING PROGRAM WEAKNESSES. U.S. Government Accountability Office. Web posted September 16, 2010.

Workers who “blow the whistle” on prohibited or unlawful practices that they discover during their employment can play an important role in the enforcement of federal laws. However, these whistleblowers may also risk reprisals from their employers, sometimes being demoted, reassigned, or fired. Federal laws establish whistleblower protection processes, whereby workers who believe that they have faced retaliation for blowing the whistle can report their allegations to the appropriate federal agency, which then determines the merit of their claims. The Whistleblower Protection Program at the Department of Labor’s (Labor) Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is responsible for receiving and investigating most whistleblower complaints filed by nonfederal workers.
<http://bit.ly/aJ92YX> [PDF format, 50 pages].

CRISIS OF RELEVANCE AT THE U.N. Council of Foreign Relations. Bernard Gwertzman. September 20, 2010.

The United Nation’s sixty-fifth General Assembly opens amid doubts about its relevance. But Stewart Patrick says that despite other multilateral venues, U.N. efforts on the part of refugees, development, and other issues remain essential. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/9T8Uxy> [HTML format, various paging].

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE 2025. Atlantic Council. September 20, 2010.

The report analyzes the gap between current international governance institutions, organizations and norms and the demands for global governance likely to be posed by long-term strategic challenges over the next 15 years. The report is the product of research and analysis by the NIC and EUISS following a series of international dialogues co-organized by the Atlantic Council, TPN, and other partner organizations in Beijing, Tokyo, Dubai, New Delhi, Pretoria, Sao Paulo & Brasilia, Moscow, and Paris. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/90jWAh> [PDF format, 82 pages].

STEPS OUT OF THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CRISIS. YaleGlobal. Jens Martens. September 20, 2010.

As world leaders gather in New York to review the progress of the Millennium Development Goals set a decade ago, the enormity of the task ahead is clear. As the economic crisis spread across the globe, the government quickly adopted stimulus packages to stave off collapse. The fixes were temporary, though, failing to address immense structural challenges of trade imbalances, wage inequality and declining natural resources combined with growing populations. The developmental goals included global partnership, environmental sustainability and universal education. But divisive politics and opposition from the few who profit from reckless development subvert the agenda. Resistance to comprehensive plans to tackle global development – mitigating its social and environmental impacts – means no long-term resolution for unemployment, poverty and conflict, explains Jens Martens.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/aVInIJ> [HTML format, various paging].

ELECTORAL VIOLENCE IN NIGERIA. Council on Foreign Relations. John Campbell. September 21, 2010.

Nigeria's upcoming election, scheduled for January 2011, may well be the first in the country's history featuring a genuine political contest between the predominantly Christian South and the Muslim North. Candidates could be tempted to leverage Nigerians' ethnic and religious identities for political gain, a practice that may lead to widespread electoral violence or even a military coup. The memo concludes that the United States should capitalize on the value elite Nigerians place on their country's bilateral relationship with the United States to hedge against the worst outcomes the 2011 election might produce. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/ahWSZH> [HTML format with links].

"TARGETS OF BOTH SIDES" VIOLENCE AGAINST STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND SCHOOLS IN THAILAND'S SOUTHERN BORDER PROVINCES. Human Rights Watch. September 20, 2010.

The report details how ethnic Malay Muslim insurgents, who view the government educational system as a symbol of Thai state oppression, have threatened and killed teachers, burned and bombed government schools, and spread terror among students and their parents.

The insurgents have also used Islamic schools to indoctrinate and recruit students into their movement. At the same time, Thai army and paramilitary forces are disrupting education and placing students at unnecessary risk of insurgent attack by occupying schools for long periods as bases for their counterinsurgency operations. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/98Cmll> [HTML format with links].

THE ARCTIC: A VIEW FROM MOSCOW. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Dmitri Trenin and Pavel Baev. September 20, 2010.

The Arctic is emerging as the world's next hot spot for oil and gas development. As the melting ice cap opens new shipping lanes and makes it easier to access strategic energy reserves, countries are racing to gain control over the Arctic's abundant natural resources. The authors offer a view from Moscow on what the opening of the Arctic means. While there is a strong desire to compete over the resources in order to meet increasing energy demands, the authors argue that all countries, with Russia in a leading role, can benefit more through cooperation. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/bAUdVM> [PDF format, 44 pages].

SUSTAINING THE MOMENTUM OF FISCAL REFORM IN HUNGARY. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Colin Forthun and Robert Hagemann. September 13, 2010.

Hungary has faced a considerable challenge to regain credibility following persistent and high fiscal deficits. Efforts during recent years have produced substantial results. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/amfBCD> [PDF format, 38 pages].

BRAZIL'S EARLY URBAN TRANSITION: WHAT CAN IT TEACH URBANIZING COUNTRIES? International Institute for Environment and Development. George Martine and Gordon McGranahan. Web posted September 2010.

The paper specifically describes the urbanization experience of Brazil, by far the largest country in Latin America, and which has attained levels of urbanization that surpass those of most European countries. Despite historical differences in timing and context, the trajectory of urbanization in Brazil holds many parallels and key lessons for other countries that are currently undergoing rapid urban growth. Reflections based on this narrative, including both the account of failed policies of the past and the innovative but partly proven policies of the present, could help policymakers in countries facing similar challenges deal more successfully with their own urban transitions. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/b4weI0> [PDF format, 78 pages].

CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM FOR PEACE IN COLOMBIA. U.S. Institute of Peace. Virginia M. Bouvier. September 2010.

The new Colombian administration that took office in early August faces a unique set of peacemaking challenges and opportunities related to the country's internal armed conflict. Following a spate of tensions with neighboring countries regarding the presence of illegal armed groups along Colombia's border areas, newly-inaugurated President Juan Manuel Santos moved quickly to create new mechanisms with his neighbors to ensure that contentious regional issues are addressed before they reach the boiling point. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/c7c7py> [PDF format, 5 pages].

ARE YOU GAINFULLY EMPLOYED?: SETTING STANDARDS FOR-PROFIT DEGREES. Education Sector. Ben Miller. September 2010.

The U.S. Department of Education had released a new proposal that would make it more difficult for for-profits to access billions of dollars in federal funds. At the center of the proposal is a rule called "gainful employment" that would penalize for-profit colleges and other vocational training programs for saddling students with more debt than they can pay back. For-profits have grown by leaps and bounds in recent years, largely free of federal regulation. That freedom would be significantly curtailed if the gainful employment standard takes effect. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/9emT2G> [PDF format, 19 pages].

BACK TO COLLEGE. U.S. Department of Labor. September 2010.

In 2009, there were over 10,000 establishments, places of employment, whether campuses, offices, research facilities, or other locations, operated by colleges and universities in the United States. The report presents Bureau of Labor Statistics data related to college and university students and graduates, as well as colleges and universities as an industry and place of employment.

<http://bit.ly/bQoT4p> [PDF format, 15 pages].

ENGAGING DIVERSE VIEWPOINTS: WHAT IS THE CAMPUS CLIMATE FOR PERSPECTIVE-TAKING? American Association of Colleges and Universities. Eric L. Dey and Associates. September 2010.

According to the report, Core Commitments, a signature initiative of the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), aims to reclaim and revitalize the academy's role in fostering students' development of personal and social responsibility. The initiative is designed to help campuses create learning environments in which all students reach for excellence in the use of their talents, take responsibility for the integrity and quality of their work, and engage in meaningful practices, including taking seriously the perspectives of others, that prepare them to fulfill their obligations as students in an academic community and as responsible global and local citizens. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/dj7s4B> [PDF format, 44 pages].

FEW SAY RELIGION SHAPES IMMIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT VIEWS. Pw Research Center for the People & the Press. September 17, 2010.

Many Americans continue to say their religious beliefs have been highly influential in shaping their views about social issues, including abortion and same-sex marriage. But far fewer cite religion as a top influence on their opinions about several other social and political issues, including how the government should deal with immigration, the environment and poverty.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/buflpK> [PDF format, 36 pages].

FISCAL POLICY CHOICES IN UNCERTAIN TIMES. Congressional Budget Office. Douglas W. Elmendorf. September 16, 2010.

The Congressional Budget Office expects that the economic recovery will proceed at a modest pace, leaving the unemployment rate above 8 percent until 2012. There are monetary and fiscal policy options that, if applied at a sufficient scale, would increase output and employment during the next few years. Such options would have costs as well. Expansionary fiscal policy would increase federal budget deficits and debt relative to current baseline projections. Policymakers need to address those trade-offs.

<http://bit.ly/bsVHji> [PDF format, 17 pages].

THE HIGH-INCOME RATE REDUCTIONS: THE NEGLECTED STEPCHILD OF THE BUSH TAX CUTS. American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. Alan D. Viard. September 2010.

Congress is considering allowing the Bush tax cuts' rate reductions for high-income households to expire at the end of 2010 while providing a deficit-financed extension of the middle-class portion of the tax cuts. This combination would damage economic growth by hiking marginal tax rates on saving and investment while swelling the budget deficit. The vulnerable state of the high-income rate reductions is largely due to the failure of supporters of the Bush tax cuts to make the economic-growth case for these reductions, says the author. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/clYISn> [PDF format, 8 pages].

INSIGHTS ON THE EFFECTS OF MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION ON PRICES AND CONSUMPTION. RAND Corporation. Beau Kilmer. September 21, 2010.

This is the transcript of the testimony presented before the California State Assembly Public Safety Committee and California State Senate Public Safety Committee on September 21, 2010. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/cKCITm> [PDF format, 15 pages].

THE NEW 'CLUSTER MOMENT': HOW REGIONAL INNOVATION CLUSTERS CAN FOSTER THE NEXT ECONOMY. Brookings Institution. Mark Muro and Bruce Katz. September 21, 2010.

Twenty years after Harvard Business School professor Michael Porter introduced the concept to the policy community and 10 years after its wide state adoption, clusters ,geographic concentrations of interconnected firms and supporting or coordinating organizations, have reemerged as a key tool and rubric in Washington and in the nation's economic regions.

After a decade of delay, the executive branch and Congress have joined state and local policymakers in embracing "regional innovation clusters" (RICs) as a framework for structuring the nation's economic development activities. At the state level, governors and gubernatorial candidates of both parties are maintaining or stepping up their longstanding interest. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/a0icSH> [PDF format, 59 pages].

RURAL AMERICA AT A GLANCE, 2010 EDITION. U.S. Department of Agriculture. September 13, 2010.

The study highlights the most recent indicators of social and economic conditions in rural areas for use in developing policies and programs to assist rural areas. The 2010 edition focuses on the U.S. rural economy, including employment trends, poverty, and demographics.

<http://bit.ly/9liewn> [PDF format, 6 pages].

SMALL BUSINESS EMPLOYMENT: BANK LENDING RESTRAINS JOB CREATION. U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee. September 13, 2010.

The report shows that small business hiring has not started to increase, although larger and mid-sized firms continue to increase hiring. Additionally, the report finds that the number of small business loans and the dollar value of these loans are both dropping. The number of loans made to small businesses, which peaked at 27.2 million in the second quarter of 2008, has fallen by over 4.8 million since then, a drop of 17.8 percent. The total value of those loans fell by \$60 billion to approximately \$650 billion.

<http://bit.ly/8XEmE2> [PDF format, 4 pages].

STILL AN HOURGLASS?: IMMIGRANT WORKERS IN MIDDLE-SKILLED JOBS. Migration Policy Institute. Randy Capps et al. September 2010.

It has been conventional wisdom that the immigrant workforce is shaped like an hourglass — wide at the top and the bottom but narrow in the middle. In reality, immigrants are more evenly dispersed across the skills spectrum than has been widely recognized, say the authors.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/d4OycD> [PDF format, 21 pages].

A THOUSAND CUTS: WHAT REDUCING THE FEDERAL BUDGET DEFICIT THROUGH LARGE SPENDING CUTS COULD REALLY LOOK LIKE. Center for American Progress. Michael Ettlinger and Michael Linden. September 20, 2010.

The deficits our nation will run for the next few years are important for getting the country back on a solid economic foundation, according to the report. It also recommends planning for longer-term deficits. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/a7D8ml> [PDF format, 58 pages].

U.S. MEAT DEMAND: THE INFLUENCE OF ANIMAL WELFARE MEDIA COVERAGE. Kansas State University. September 2010.

U.S. consumers are expressing increasing interest in the production practices used in modern food production. An issue rapidly increasing in importance to consumers is the treatment of farm animals raised for meat, milk, and eggs destined for human consumption. Recently U.S. residents in several states have signaled concern for animal well-being through ballot initiatives that prohibit the use of particular practices i.e., gestation crates/stalls in swine production. However, a critical question remains: what, if any, influences do animal-welfare concerns have on aggregate consumer demand for meat? [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/91KApz> [PDF format, 2 pages].

WALKING AWAY: A THIRD OF THE PUBLIC SAYS IT'S SOMETIMES OK TO STOP PAYING A MORTGAGE. Pew Research Center. Paul Taylor et al. September 15, 2010.

A majority of Americans say it is "unacceptable" for homeowners to stop making their mortgage payments and abandon their homes, according to a Pew Research Center survey. But more than a third (36%) say the practice of "walking away" from a home mortgage is acceptable, at least under certain circumstances. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/czGgSY> [PDF format, 10 pages].

CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS TO DEVELOPING NATIONS, 2002-2009. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Richard F. Grimmett. September 10, 2010.

This report is prepared annually to provide Congress with official, unclassified, quantitative data on conventional arms transfers to developing nations by the United States and foreign countries for the preceding eight calendar years for use in its policy oversight functions. All agreement and delivery data in this report for the United States are government-to-government Foreign Military Sales (FMS) transactions. Similar data are provided on worldwide conventional arms transfers by all suppliers, but the principal focus is the level of arms transfers by major weapons suppliers to nations in the developing world. Developing nations continue to be the primary focus of foreign arms sales activity by weapons suppliers. During the years 2002-2009, the value of arms transfer agreements with developing nations comprised 68.3% of all such agreements worldwide. More recently, arms transfer agreements with developing nations constituted 72.8% of all such agreements globally from 2006-2009, and 78.4% of these agreements in 2009.
<http://bit.ly/9WRdG8> [PDF format, 89 pages].

GLOBAL EDUCATION DIGEST 2010: COMPARING EDUCATION STATISTICS ACROSS THE WORLD. U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. September 23, 2010.

According to the Digest, boys and girls in only 85 countries will have equal access to primary and secondary education by 2015, if present trends continue. Seventy-two countries are not likely to reach the goal, among which, 63 are far from reaching parity at the secondary level.

"This new data tells us that we need to re-affirm our commitment to education and gender equality," said UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bokova. "The advances made in improving girls' and women's access to education and training over the past decades risk being undermined by reductions in international aid and national investments as the world struggles to cope with interlocking crises. Yet, we all know that compromising the education of girls and women will only lead to more vulnerability and reinforce the vicious cycle of poverty." [Note: contains copyrighted

material].

<http://bit.ly/aKQ313> [PDF format, 277 pages].

OBESITY AND THE ECONOMICS OF PREVENTION: FIT NOT FAT. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. September 23, 2010.

The report examines the current obesity epidemic, giving new comparative data, trends and projections across OECD countries and outlining causes and costs. It also notes ways in which the private sector and governments encouraged obesity and makes recommendations for ways they can contribute to combating it. Across OECD countries, one in 2 adults is currently overweight and 1 in 6 is obese. The rate of overweight people is projected to increase by a further 1% per year for the next 10 years in some countries. Rates are highest in the United States and Mexico and lowest in Japan and Korea, but have been growing virtually everywhere. Children have not been spared, with up to 1 in 3 currently overweight. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/93SKBs> Executive Summary [PDF format, 8 pages].

<http://bit.ly/a59JHT> [HTML format with links].

PROACTIVE TRANSPARENCY: THE FUTURE OF THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION? World Bank Institute. Helen Darbishire. September 14, 2010.

The paper identifies four primary drivers of proactive disclosure throughout history. The first is the need to inform the public about laws and decisions and the public's right to be informed, to know their rights and obligations. The second is the public's demand for the information needed to hold governments accountable both at and between elections. The third is the demand for information in order to participate actively in decision-making. The fourth is the provision to the public of information needed to access government services, which has expanded significantly in the past decade with growth of electronic access to services or 'e-government.'

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/dDeq4r> [PDF format, 60 pages].

SHORT SALE BANS: SHOOTING THE MESSENGER? Cato Institute. Laurence Copeland. September 14, 2010.

In response to the recent financial crisis, many governments chose to ban or restrict short sales, hoping to mitigate the impact of the stock market downturn. Stock markets function as a continuous election, held to determine the allocation of resources with buyers voting for and sellers voting against investment in particular stocks. Banning short selling is akin to disenfranchising the "no" voter, thereby creating a distortion in the resource allocation process, says the author. Ban-induced price distortions damage the integrity of stock prices among investors and potentially cause stocks to expand beyond what is optimal for the firms and the economy. Despite these costs, short sales bans continue to be pursued. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/c1iomD> [HTML format, various paging].

PEOPLE AND PLACES: CAN THEY ALIGN TO BRING GROWTH TO AFRICA? Center for Global Development. Peter Heller. September 22, 2010.

The essay explores how demographic factors affect infrastructure and the choices policymakers should make concerning infrastructure development.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/b2071j> [HTML format with links].

MAKING THE CASE TO AMERICANS: ASEAN=JOBS. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Ernest Bower. September 21, 2010.

This coming Friday at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York, President Barack Obama will host his counterparts from 8 of the 10 ASEAN nations for the second U.S.- ASEAN Summit. The luncheon is important because it institutionalizes American engagement in ASEAN on equal footing with other major partners such as China, India, Japan, and others. The 10 (ASEAN comprises 10 countries) + 1 (USA) formula is an important part of the structure the United States needs to have in place to pursue its strategic and economic interests in the region and in all of Asia over the long term. The absence of President H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia from the summit, however, underlines the indisputable fact that U.S. engagement in Southeast Asia remains well intended but imperfect. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/cbnAG3> [PDF format, 18 pages].

NO EASY TASK TO READ THE TEA LEAVES IN NORTH KOREA. National Endowment for Democracy. John Knaus. September 17, 2010.

The on-again-off again meeting of the Workers' Party that is reportedly taking place this week in North Korea comes at a critical time for the country. For over a year, speculation has been circulating on the Korean peninsula that Kim Jung-il is in poor health and that he has begun the preparations for his third son, Kim Jong-un, to take over the reins of power in North Korea. Unconfirmed reports that Kim Jong-un escorted his father on his recent trip to China only fuelled the belief that Kim Jong-un is the heir apparent to the Kim dynasty. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/dfWvGG> [HTML format, various paging].

UPPING THE ANTE IN CHINA-JAPAN CLASH. Council on Foreign Relations. Sheila A. Smith. September 22, 2010.

The escalating dispute between Beijing and Tokyo about Japan's detention of a Chinese fishing boat captain is a challenge for Washington and raises concerns about Chinese maritime activities in the Asia Pacific, says the author. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/alGpeZ> [HTML format, various paging].

CHALLENGES FOR A SQUABBLING EUROPE – PART I. YaleGlobal. Katinka Barysch. September 22, 2010.

Even after the devastation of the Second World War, bitterly fought by Europeans, the continent united in rebuilding its economy. Now, as internal challenges combine with external competition, Europe struggles to find a common vision for economic initiatives, suggests this series. The failure of European leaders to reform governance could endanger the euro as single currency, notes the author. Member nations could vigorously enforce fiscal rules and coordinate macroeconomic policies; nations that rely on exports can't expect all nations to be savers. Europe lacks leaders who can rally citizens and member nations behind a common agenda for economic reform, euro rescue and other initiatives that can keep crises at bay and solidify integration. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/ahZxji> [HTML format, various paging].

“ONCE YOU ENTER, YOU NEVER LEAVE:” DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION OF PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL OR MENTAL DISABILITIES IN CROATIA. Human Rights Watch. September 23, 2010.

The report documents the plight of the more than 9,000 persons with intellectual or mental disabilities living in institutions in Croatia and the lack of community-based programs for housing and support. It finds that while more than 4,000 persons with mental disabilities are living in

institutional settings in Croatia, the country has places for only seven people in supportive community living programs. The situation is not much better for people with intellectual disabilities: Croatia has facilities for only about 250 people in community living programs, while approximately 5,000 remain in institutions. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/aOcDLJ> [HTML format, various paging].

COUNTRY ANALYSIS BRIEFS: LIBYA. Energy Information Administration. September 2010.

The Libyan economy is heavily dependent on the hydrocarbon industry which, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), accounted for over 95 percent of export earnings and an estimated 80 percent of fiscal revenues in 2008 – preliminary 2009 data and short-term forecasts indicate that these figures will remain relatively stable through 2014. According to the Oil and Gas Journal (OGJ), Libya holds around 44 billion barrels of oil reserves, the largest in Africa, and slightly over 54 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of natural gas reserves. In 2009, total oil production (crude plus liquids) was approximately 1.8 million barrels per day (bbl/d).
<http://bit.ly/b3bCxH> [PDF format, 8 pages].

PUTTING THE “KERALA MODEL” TO REST: LESSONS FOR A NEW ERA OF DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA. American Enterprise Institute. Apporva Shah. September 20, 2010.

In a country where two out of five citizens, about 450 million people, live in poverty, it is no exaggeration to say that the development experience of Kerala, a coastal state on the southwestern tip of India, stands out as extraordinary. Despite a history of anemic economic growth, this state of 32 million boasts effectively universal literacy rates and life expectancy levels close to many Western societies. Because of this, the "Kerala model" has been hailed by NGOs, development experts, and Western academics as an alternative path for human development in which a robust welfare system rather than economic growth drives social progress. The real story, however, according to the report, is quite different from this received wisdom about the "Kerala model". Through the use of historical evidence and quantitative data, this paper shows that government welfare policies in Kerala had less positive impact on social development and more negative impact on economic development than commonly perceived. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/cKesua> [PDF format, 36 pages].

BRAZILIANS UPBEAT ABOUT THEIR COUNTRY, DESPITE ITS PROBLEMS. Pew Global Attitudes Project. September 22, 2010.

As the eight years of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's presidency draw to a close, Brazilians offer largely positive assessments of where their country stands. At a time when global publics are mostly glum about the way things are going in their countries, half of Brazilians say they are satisfied with national conditions, and 62% say their nation's economy is in good shape. Of the 21 other publics included in the survey, only the Chinese are more upbeat about their country's overall direction and economic conditions. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/c0lJjQ> [PDF format, 44 pages].

BREAKING INTO THE CORPORATE SUPPLY CHAIN. Center for an Urban Future. Mark Foggin. September 2010.

The report reveals that strikingly few small businesses become suppliers to the nation's largest corporations but argues that helping more of them make this leap could give small firms a much-needed boost and help spark an economic recovery. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/9ne3LU> [PDF format, 22 pages].

BREAKING THE MOLD: COMBINING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS WITH EXPANDED LEARNING TIME TO HELP EDUCATIONALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS. Center for American Progress. Isabel Owen. September 22, 2010.

Isabel Owen examines two school wide reform models that challenge the rigid boundaries of the conventional school model in order to close the achievement gap. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/9dUbsi> [PDF format, 44 pages].

THE FEDERAL ROLE IN CONFRONTING THE CRISIS IN ADOLESCENT LITERACY. Alliance for Excellent Education. September 20, 2010.

Results from national reading assessments reveal that millions of young people leave high school without the advanced reading and writing skills required for career and college success. Young adults who lack reading and writing proficiency will likely be relegated to the ranks of unskilled workers in a world where literacy is an absolute precondition for success. While federal and state strategies have begun to focus on the adolescent literacy crisis, more than ever it is time to build upon these initial efforts. The brief describes the role that the federal government can play to advocate for a comprehensive, national, and school wide focus on K–12 literacy.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/cEdFbU> [PDF format, 10 pages].

A HEAVY BURDEN: THE INDIVIDUAL COSTS OF BEING OVERWEIGHT AND OBESE IN THE UNITED STATES. School of Public Health and Health Services, The George Washington University. Avi Dor et al. September 21, 2010.

The authors conclude that the individual cost of being obese is \$4,879 and \$2,646 for women and men respectively, and adding the value of lost life to these annual costs produces even more dramatic results: \$8,365 and \$6,518 annually for women and men, respectively. The analysis demonstrates costs are nine times higher for women and six times higher for men who are obese, which is defined as an individual with a Body Mass Index (BMI) more than 30, than for an overweight person, which is defined as someone with a BMI between 25-29. The findings also reveal a significant difference between the impact of obesity on men and women when it comes to job-related costs, including lost wages, absenteeism and disability.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/agEdwz> [PDF format, 27 pages].

HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT MIDTERMS DEPENDS ON YOUR PARTY. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. September 22, 2010.

Republicans are more likely to say this year's election is more important than most and that news coverage of politics makes them angry. They are also more upbeat about their preferred candidates' chances in November than are Democrats or independents.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/d0GDrP> [HTML format, various paging].

PROGRESS TOWARD RESTORING THE EVERGLADES: THIRD BIENNIAL REVIEW 2010. National Research Council. September 23, 2010.

Ten years after its inception, a multibillion dollar plan to restore the Florida Everglades has improved the pace of project implementation, the relationship between federal and state partners, and research efforts, says a new congressionally mandated report from the National Research Council. However, challenges remain in achieving targets for both water quality and flow, requiring further scientific analysis to determine the repercussions of trading off one for the other.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/9sel9d> [HTML format with links].

SAFER SKIES: FOR BIRDS AND PEOPLE. U.S. Department of Agriculture. September 23, 2010.

The wings of planes and of nature often compete for the same airspace at the same time. When that happens, collisions may occur that result in damage to aircraft and sometimes in injuries or even death to passengers and crew. The January 2009 emergency landing of Flight 1539 on the Hudson River dramatically demonstrated this hazard. To help reduce the risk of these potentially dangerous interactions, WS biologists provide airport operators across the Nation with advice and recommendations on how to keep runways and flight paths clear of wildlife.

<http://bit.ly/bIRBWt> [PDF format, 4 pages].

TSUNAMI WARNING AND PREPAREDNESS: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE U.S. TSUNAMI PROGRAM AND THE NATION'S PREPAREDNESS EFFORTS. National Research Council. September 17, 2010.

The nation's ability to detect and forecast tsunamis has enhanced since 2004, but efforts are insufficient to meet challenges posed by tsunamis generated near land that leave little time for warning, says the report. The report calls for a national assessment of tsunami risk and improved communication and coordination among the two federal Tsunami Warning Centers, emergency managers, media, and the public. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/9UHzW> [HTML format with links].

WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH: PROGRESS, PITFALLS, AND PROMISE. Institute of Medicine. September 23, 2010.

A concerted effort to boost research on women's health over the last two decades has lessened the burden of disease and reduced deaths due to cardiovascular disease, breast cancer, and cervical cancer, says a new report from the Institute of Medicine. The effort has yielded less but still significant progress in reducing the effects of depression, HIV/AIDS, and osteoporosis on women, added the committee that wrote the report. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/bBXgmk> [HTML format with links].

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR CLEAN COOKSTOVES: THE UNITED STATES COMMITMENT BY THE NUMBERS. U.S. Department of State. September 21, 2010.

On September 21, 2010, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, a public-private partnership led by the United Nations Foundation, which focuses on creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household solutions. The U.S. Department of State, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Centers for Disease Control and National Institutes of Health, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), all of whom are founding partners of the Alliance, have forged an unprecedented government effort to mobilize financial resources, top-level U.S. experts, and research and development tools to help the Alliance achieve its target of '100 by 20,' which calls for 100 million homes to adopt clean and efficient stoves and fuels by 2020.

<http://bit.ly/cvtDdA> [HTML format, various paging].

<http://bit.ly/9PFBN6> Remarks by Secretary Clinton [HTML format, various paging].

ESCAPING NORTH KOREA: THE PLIGHT OF DEFECTORS. National Endowment for Democracy. Carl Gershman. September 23, 2010.

This is the full transcript of the testimony by Carl Gershman to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/awgJ94> [HTML format, various paging].

CHALLENGES FOR A SQUABBLING EUROPE – PART II. YaleGlobal. Francois Godement. September 24, 2010.

European Union ideals, along with the euro as common currency, could be a formidable force in the world. But in recent years, members have failed to unite to tackle challenges that have emerged. This YaleGlobal series examines how the lack of direction inhibits their influence. A rising Asia could spur Europe to action, and in the second of two articles, François Godement, provides a comprehensive to-do list for Europe and China. The article cautions that the combined challenges of global governance, security and declining natural resources require clear thinking and policies. Uniting around a set of priorities, coordinating messages, ensuring fair representation among global institutions, a search for common values, could increase EU influence in global affairs. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/c3QVJE> [HTML format, various paging].

FEDERATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – A PARALLEL CRISIS. International Crisis Group. September 28, 2010.

Whether the Federation – the mostly Bosniak and Croat part of Bosnia and Herzegovina – can solve its government crisis after October 3rd elections will go a long way to determining whether the country can survive, says the report. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/96ZA2b> [PDF format, 34 pages].

LOOSER REIN, UNCERTAIN GAIN: A HUMAN RIGHTS ASSESSMENT OF FIVE YEARS OF KING ABDULLAH'S REFORMS IN SAUDI ARABIA. Human Rights Watch. September 27, 2010.

The report assesses five years of Saudi reforms under King Abdullah from a human rights perspective. It finds that reform has manifested itself chiefly in greater tolerance for diverse opinions and an expanded public role for women, but that royal initiatives have been largely symbolic, with only modest concrete gains or institutional protection for rights. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/ckqQn3> [HTML format with links].

NAVIGATING POLITICAL CURRENTS TO ACHIEVE MIDDLE EAST PEACE. Center for American Progress. David A. Halperin and Matthew Duss. September 24, 2010.

Matthew Duss explain why the renewed Israeli-Palestinian negotiations will require sustained and determined U.S. involvement from the onset. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/dfBKyK> [PDF format, 22 pages].

NATURAL GAS IN INDIA. International Energy Agency. Anne-Sophie Corbeau. September 2010.

The Indian gas market is expected to be one of the fastest growing in the world over the next two decades. The paper analyzes this market, highlighting the current challenges. It first looks at the industry structure, presents the main players from industry as well as government, and gives an overview of the regulatory framework. The issue of pricing remaining crucial for both upstream and downstream development, the paper looks at both supply, domestic production and LNG imports, and demand. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/9A5t5O> [PDF format, 56 pages].

ELECTIONS A BLOW FOR CHAVEZ? Council on Foreign Relations. Joel D. Hirst. September 27, 2010.

The National Assembly elections on September 26th in Venezuela curtailed President Chávez's powers and opened the door to greater cooperation with the United States, says Joel Hirst. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/bskEVI> [HTML format, various paging].

VENEZUELA'S LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS: DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION MAKES MAJOR GAINS. The Heritage Foundation. Ray Walser. September 27, 2010.

On September 26, Venezuelan voters selected 165 members for its single-chamber National Assembly. Approximately 66.45 percent of an estimated 17 million eligible voters cast ballots. As with every election since 1998 in Venezuela, these elections became a referendum about the rule of authoritarian populist President Hugo Chávez. Despite alarmist predictions of violence by Chávez, the elections took place without violence and with only scattered reports of problems or irregularities. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/9uGSQJ> [HTML format, various paging].

2010 COLLEGE-BOUND SENIORS: TOTAL GROUP PROFILE REPORT. College Board. September 2010.

College-Bound Seniors presents data for high school graduates in the year 2010 who participated in the SAT Program. Because the accuracy of self-reported information has been documented and the college-bound population is relatively stable from year to year, SAT Questionnaire responses from these students can be considered accurate. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/bXepRs> [PDF format, 19 pages].

BIOMETRIC RECOGNITION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES. National Research Council. September 24, 2010.

Biometric recognition, the automated recognition of individuals based on their behavioral and biological characteristic, is promoted as a way to help identify terrorists, provide better control of access to physical facilities and financial accounts, and increase the efficiency of access to services and their utilization. Biometric recognition has been applied to identification of criminals, patient tracking in medical informatics, and the personalization of social services, among other things. In spite of substantial effort, however, there remain unresolved questions about the effectiveness and management of systems for biometric recognition, as well as the appropriateness and societal impact of their use. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/bKVFog> [HTML format with links].

FOREIGN POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT: STRUCTURE, PROCESS, POLICY, AND THE DRIP-BY-DRIP EROSION OF USAID. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Gerald F. Hyman. September 27, 2010.

Most bilateral government donors, including the United States, are rethinking the relation between their foreign policy and their development policy. Implicit in that rethinking are the organizational forms they take and the relations between them. How independent should development be from foreign policy? Should they have separate organizations? [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/9SIO7u> [PDF format, 42 pages].

FOREIGN POLICY AND THE 2010 MIDTERM ELECTIONS: TRADE. Council on Foreign Relations. Roya Wolverson. September 24, 2010.

With U.S. economic recovery still slow, trade policy looms as a factor in the congressional midterm races. The backgrounder explores the consequences for trade based on the outcome of the Democratic-Republican electoral struggle. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/aS6RrR> [HTML format, various paging].

MEDICAL TOURISM: HAVE INSURANCE CARD, WILL TRAVEL. National Center for Policy Analysis. Devon Herrick. September 22, 2010.

As insurers and employers look for ways to cut health care costs, medical tourism - both abroad and within the U.S. - is an increasingly popular option for expensive procedures and care, according to the report. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/bJxKgd> [PDF format, 2 pages].

THE NEXT ECONOMY: ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND TRANSFORMATION IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION. Brookings Institution. Jennifer S. Vey et al. September 27, 2010.

As the American economy works its way slowly out of the Great Recession, a consensus is developing among public and private-sector stakeholders that simply re-constructing our old economy, one based on highly-leveraged domestic consumption, would be a serious mistake, say the authors. The nation must instead focus on building the next economy, one that is oriented towards greater exporting, powered by a low-carbon energy strategy, driven by innovation, and that creates opportunities for all. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/aS8Ocx> [PDF format, 57 pages].

OBAMA VIEWED AS DOING BETTER THAN GOP LEADERS IN EXPLAINING VISION. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. September 27, 2010.

With just over a month to go before the midterm elections, the public by a wide margin says Barack Obama has done a better job than Republican congressional leaders in explaining his plans and vision for the country. Half (50%) of the public says Obama has done a better job, compared with just 28% who say GOP leaders have done better in laying out their plans and vision, according to the latest poll. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/dpRndE> [HTML format, various paging].

THE REGISTERED NURSE POPULATION: FINDINGS FROM THE 2008 NATIONAL SAMPLE SURVEY OF REGISTERED NURSES. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. September 2010.

The number of licensed registered nurses (RNs) in the United States grew to a new high of 3.1 million between 2004 and 2008 according to a report released today by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). This increase of more than 5 percent features important gains in age and diversity of the workforce. For the first time in three decades, the youngest population of nurses grew, which is helping to restock the pool of RNs. At the same time, the older population of nurses continued to grow as well. The increase is the result of growing demand for RNs and responding growth enrollment. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/bG2j93> [PDF format, 359 pages].

REGULATORY BARRIERS TO A NATIONAL ELECTRICITY GRID. Center for Energy Policy and the Environment, The Manhattan Institute. Drew Thornley. September 2010.

The benefits of a truly national electricity grid have been known for years. Advantages include increased reliability and efficiency, as well as the potential to transmit power generated from renewable sources across long distances. Despite the promise of cheap, abundant, and reliable electricity, significant financial and regulatory barriers to the development of a national grid remain, according to the report. The report explores the regulatory barriers standing in the way of an interstate grid, including the authority of state public utility commissions to set transmission rates and approve facility siting. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/cVHH3t> [PDF format, 25 pages].

SNAPSHOT OF TELEVISION USE IN THE U.S. Nielsen. September 23, 2010.

With the new TV season upon us, Nielsen provides a look at what, and how, we watch TV in the U.S. Throughout 2009-2010, television viewing continued to fragment and adapt to new technologies such as digital video recorders and high-definition television.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/aSXQLI> [PDF format, 3 pages].

URBAN AMERICA'S ROUGH ROADS COSTING DRIVERS \$400 A YEAR. TRIP. Frank Moretti and Carolyn Bonifas. September 22, 2010.

Twenty-four percent of the nation's major metropolitan roads – interstates, freeways and other critical local routes – have pavements in poor condition, resulting in rough rides and costing the average urban motorist \$402 annually in additional vehicle operating costs, according to a new report by TRIP, a national transportation research group.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/aMsMrE> [PDF format, 2 pages].

U.S. RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE SURVEY. Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. September 28, 2010.

Atheists and agnostics, Jews and Mormons are among the highest-scoring groups on a new survey of religious knowledge, outperforming evangelical Protestants, mainline Protestants and Catholics on questions about the core teachings, history and leading figures of major world religions. On average, Americans correctly answer 16 of the 32 religious knowledge questions on the survey. Atheists and agnostics average 20.9 correct answers. Jews and Mormons do about as well, averaging 20.5 and 20.3 correct answers, respectively. Protestants as a whole average 16 correct answers; Catholics as a whole, 14.7. Atheists and agnostics, Jews and Mormons perform better than other groups on the survey even after controlling for differing levels of education. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/dtFZqL> [PDF format, 78 pages].

WHEN TECHNOLOGY MAKES HEADLINES: SOCIAL TRENDS AND NEW DEVICES GARNER GREATEST ATTENTION FROM THE MSM. Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism. September 27, 2010.

The mainstream news media have offered the American public a divided view of how information technology influences society, according to the new study. Over the past year, messages about the promise of technology making life easier and awe about new gadgets have vied in the news with worries about privacy, child predators, shrinking attention spans and danger behind the wheel. The most prevalent underlying message about technology's influence has been upbeat, the notion that technology is making life easier and more productive.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/a3v7Ab> [HTML format, various paging].

WOMEN IN MANAGEMENT: FEMALE MANAGERS' REPRESENTATION, CHARACTERISTICS, AND PAY. U.S. Government Accountability Office. Testimony Before the Joint Economic Committee, U.S. Congress by Andrew Sherrill. September 28, 2010.

The testimony discusses issues related to women in management. Although women's representation across the general workforce is growing, there remains a need for information about the challenges women face in advancing their careers. In 2001, using 1995 and 2000 data from the Current Population Survey, the report finds that women were less represented in management than in the overall workforce in 4 of the 10 industries reviewed.

<http://bit.ly/al1MrD> [PDF format, 10 pages].

JOB SEARCH ON THE INTERNET, E-RECRUITMENT, AND LABOR MARKET OUTCOMES. RAND Corporation. Farrukh Suvandulov. September 29, 2010.

Over the past decade, the Internet penetration rates have been on a sharp rise. The Internet has significantly changed the job application process and improved the channels of communication between employers and job-seekers. Yet despite significant interest in the topic, past studies offer little evidence on the role of the Internet in the job search process and its impact on labor market outcomes. The study uses cross-sectional and panel data from the United States, Germany, and South Korea, as well as a U.S. Army personnel dataset to look at the impact.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/c09wmW> [PDF format, 143 pages].

LEVELS & TRENDS IN CHILD MORTALITY REPORT 2010. U.N. Children's Fund. September 2010.

The data show continued progress in reducing the number of children who don't live to see their fifth birthdays. According to these estimates, the total number of under-5 deaths decreased globally from 1990 to 2009 from 12.4 million per year to 8.1 million. The global under-5 mortality rate has dropped by 1/3 over that period, from 89 deaths per 1,000 live births to 60 in 2009.

These estimates suggest 12,000 fewer children are dying each day around the world compared to 1990. However the tragedy of preventable child deaths continues. Some 22,000 children under 5 still die each day, with some 70% of these deaths occurring in the first year of the child's life.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/a49J9U> [PDF format, 24 pages].

MAKE IT THEIRS: THE IMPERATIVE OF LOCAL OWNERSHIP IN COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA INITIATIVES. U.S. Institute of Peace. Simon Haselock. September 2010.

The report illustrates the importance of local ownership in peace building and stabilization operations, not just in concept but in practice. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/9holl7> [PDF format, 20 pages].

THE NATO STRATEGIC CONCEPT: A SAG STRAWMAN. Atlantic Council. Julian Lindley-French et al. September 29, 2010.

Julian Lindley-French and Yves Boyer have led a Strategic Advisors Group project called STRATCON 2010 to provide provocative ideas and fresh thinking concerning the NATO Strategic Concept. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/aGVtU8> [PDF format, 7 pages].

U.S. WATER AND SANITATION AID. U.S. Government Accountability Office. September 24, 2010.

The Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 made access to safe water and sanitation for developing countries a U.S. foreign assistance policy objective. The U.S. provides such assistance mainly through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The Act requires the Secretary of State to develop a water and sanitation assistance strategy with the Administrator of USAID; designate high-priority countries for assistance; and report annually to Congress on, among other things, implementation of the strategy and progress toward the U.S. policy objective. In the report, GAO describes USAID's accomplishments and obligations of funds for water and sanitation assistance in fiscal years 2006-2009, assesses the Department of State's development of a U.S. water and sanitation strategy, and examines State's designation of high-priority countries.

<http://bit.ly/9Y7WzG> [PDF format, 63 pages].

REVIVING AGOA. Center for Global Development. Kimberly Ann Elliott. September 29, 2010.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) of 2000 marked a major change in U.S. trade policy for poor countries by extending duty-free treatment to almost all imports from eligible countries, with the goal of expanding trade and encouraging growth-oriented reforms. African exports to the U.S. did increase markedly, but they were concentrated in a few products from a handful of countries. To revive the program and expand its benefits, the author recommends that the Obama administration and Congress should work together on two main priorities: Remove or significantly ease remaining restrictions on agricultural products and Collaborate more effectively with African partners to improve the business climate and competitiveness.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/diTi4N> [HTML format with links].

ASIA'S CLOUDED HORIZON – PART I. YaleGlobal. Marvin Ott. September 27, 2010.

Leading Asia's growing power and influence, China takes an increasingly assertive stance on historical territorial disputes. The study examines foreign-policy conflicts in Asia and the potential for cooperation among economic giants, China, U.S. and Japan. Marvin Ott describes renewed U.S. interest in Southeast Asia. Staking claims to most of the waters, including busy trade lanes, China expects deference from its neighbors and rejects U.S. involvement, explains Asian policy specialist Marvin Ott. Ott warns that ASEAN nations fail to unite on many issues, but one point of agreement stands firm: the fear of being forced to choose between two big powers.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/91Tjso> [HTML format, various paging].

ASIA'S CLOUDED HORIZON - PART II. YaleGlobal. Yoichi Funabashi. September 29, 2010.

With new emerging economies and dispersion of power, the world can no longer depend on one or a handful of superpowers to manage problems, more so when small ones reduce the cooperation required for resolving global challenges. A recent example is the diplomatic spat between China and Japan after a fishing captain struck a patrol vessel near islands with disputed ownership. Yoichi Funabashi analyzes three impending challenges: North Korea succession and stability; maritime security; and declining supplies of energy and water.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/dmKUMg> [HTML format, various paging].

CIVIC EDUCATION AND PEACEBUILDING: EXAMPLES FROM IRAQ AND SUDAN. U.S. Institute of Peace. Daniel H. Levine and Linda S. Bishai. October 2010.

Between 2006 and 2010, the United States Institute of Peace developed several civic education programs for Iraq and Sudan as part of broader efforts to promote post conflict stability and development and help prevent a return to violence. The report describes those programs after first examining the conceptual bases for civic education and how they differ from and overlap with human rights. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/cu8Slq> [PDF format, 16 pages].

NEPAL'S POLITICAL RITES. International Crisis Group. September 29, 2010.

Nepal's transition from war to peace appears chaotic. Many commentators warn of coming anarchy; the establishment fears a collapse of the social order and the fragmentation of the nation. But such fears are misguided. Nepal is not in chaos; its transitions may be messy and confusing but they are not anarchic. There is an order within the political change, albeit one that can be mysterious and unappealing to outsiders; the resilience of Nepal's political processes acts

against fundamental transformations. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/b3QKtJ> [PDF format, 59 pages].

PAKISTAN AFTER THE FLOODS. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Akbar Zaidi. September 29, 2010.

As the floodwaters recede, Pakistan is assessing the impact of its worst-ever flooding and beginning the long rebuilding process. Over 20 million were affected and at its height, water covered a fifth of the country. The disaster is exacerbating Pakistan's existing problems and raising fears in the United States that it will delay efforts by the Pakistani military to move against militants taking refuge in tribal areas. The author assesses Pakistan's response, the country's aggravated economic problems, the security and political implications, and the slow reaction by foreign donors. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/aC52Fq> [HTML format, various paging].

2010 KIDS & FAMILY READING REPORT: TURNING THE PAGE IN THE DIGITAL AGE. Scholastic and Harrison Group. September 29, 2010.

The children age 6 – 17 and their parents share their views on a wide range of topics regarding reading in the 21st Century. The study finds that from age 6 - 17, the time kids spend reading books for fun declines while the time kids spend going online for fun and using a cell phone to text or talk increases. Parents express concern that the use of electronic and digital devices negatively affects the time kids spend reading books (41%), doing physical activities (40%), and engaging with family (33%). [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/bQvAUz> [PDF format, 56 pages].

FEEL NO PAIN: WHY A DEFICIT IN TIMES OF HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT IS NOT A BURDEN. Center for Economic and Policy Research. Dean Baker. September 2010.

With the economy suffering from near double-digit unemployment, public debate is dominated by concerns over the budget deficit and national debt. This discussion is unfortunate both because there is no reason for people to be concerned about the deficit at present, and more importantly, because it discourages action on the unemployment crisis that is devastating the country, according to the author. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/9eGnuf> [PDF format, 6 pages].

FISCAL POLICY REPORT CARD ON AMERICA'S GOVERNORS: 2010. Cato Institute. Chris Edwards. September 30, 2010.

State governments have had to make tough budget choices in recent years. Tax revenues have stagnated as a result of the poor economy, and that has prompted governors to take a variety of fiscal actions to close large budget gaps. Some governors have cut spending to balance their budgets, while others have pursued large tax increases. The policy analysis examines state budget actions since 2008. It uses statistical data to grade the governors on their taxing and spending records, governors who have cut taxes and spending the most receive the highest grades, while those who have increased taxes and spending the most receive the lowest grades. [Note: contains copyrighted material].
<http://bit.ly/cUCyUB> [PDF format, 32 pages].

ONLINE PRODUCT RESEARCH. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Jim Jansen. September 29, 2010.

The commercial use of the internet by American adults has grown since the mid-2000s, with 58% of Americans now reporting that they perform online research concerning the products and services that they are considering purchasing. That is an increase from 49% who said they

conducted product or service research online in 2004. Moreover, the number of those who do research about products on any given day has jumped from 15% of adults in September 2007 to 21% in September 2010. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/dkTZmQ> [PDF format, 12 pages].

POLICY DESIGN FOR MAXIMIZING U.S. WIND ENERGY JOBS. World Resources Institute. September 2010.

Wind power is a nascent industry in the U.S., but has the potential to spur job creation. Several studies show that wind power creates more jobs than power generation from fossil fuels. The nature of wind power is more labor-intensive than traditional energy, and it creates jobs in both manufacturing and skilled scientific, engineering, and service roles. However, compared to other large regional markets for wind, the U.S. has yet to reach its full job creation potential in the wind industry. Note: contains copyrighted material.

<http://bit.ly/9MTXJg> [PDF format, 2 pages].

PREPARE AND INSPIRE: K-12 EDUCATION IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH [STEM] FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE. President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. September 2010.

America is home to extraordinary assets in science, engineering, and mathematics that, if properly applied within the educational system, could revitalize student interest and increase proficiency in these subjects and support an American economic renewal, according to the report.

<http://bit.ly/95sBNW> [PDF format, 130 pages].

U.S. NATURAL GAS IMPORTS & EXPORTS: 2009. U.S. Energy Information Administration. September 28, 2010.

In 2009, net U.S. imports of natural gas were the lowest since 1994, representing just 12 percent of total consumption. The primary underlying cause for the lower level of net imports was continued strong levels of natural gas production in the lower 48 States. Dry natural gas production increased 3.3 percent compared with 2008 and was nearly 9 percent higher than in 2007. With these recent gains in domestic production, the U.S. is now the largest producer of natural gas in the world. U.S. domestic consumption decreased in 2009, which in turn contributed to a reduced demand for imports. Although liquefied natural gas (LNG) gross imports increased almost 30 percent (from a 5-year low established in 2008), LNG remains a very small source of supplies for the United States, accounting for less than 2 percent of consumption.

<http://bit.ly/cBmQLR> [HTML format with links].

WHY IS COLLEGE SO EXPENSIVE? National Center for Policy Analysis. Angelica Gonzalez and Courtney O'Sullivan. September 30, 2010.

Soft consumer demand in a weak economy has led many businesses to cut prices. But this is not the case in the market for higher education. Entering college freshmen and returning students face ever-higher tuition and fees. In fact, tuition at American universities has been increasing faster than inflation for the past 30 years. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://bit.ly/aiVZQX> [PDF format, 2 pages].

ARTICLES

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Angier, Natalie LISTENING TO BACTERIA (Smithsonian, vol. 41, no. 4, July/August 2010, pp. 76-82)

Bacteria are smarter than you think, according to the findings of the Princeton University microbiologist profiled in this article. Bonnie Bassler is a leader of a new field of microbiology called "quorum sensing," which studies the communication between bacteria. Contrary to traditional view, scientists now have found that bacteria "converse" in complex chemical languages. They discuss their shared environment, its conditions, and what actions they may take in concert, as their quorum is formed. "They can compost an elephant, fertilize an oak forest or light up the oceans in the eerie teal glow of bioluminescence," Angier writes. They can also decide to transform a chronic condition into a virulent one in the human body, causing serious disease symptoms, and even death. Having detected that process, researchers are hoping that they can develop a drug that will interrupt the process, though Bassler acknowledges that achieving that goal is still likely a decade away. Currently available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/specialsections/40th-anniversary/Listening-to-Bacteria.html>

Kurlantzick, Joshua THE HIRED GUNS (Newsweek, July 26, 2010)

Kurlantzick, a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, writes that, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, the number of lobbyists for foreign countries in Washington, D.C. has grown from about 1,800 in 2005 to 1,900 in 2009. Human-rights activists say that the amount of money spent on lobbying has grown at a faster rate — and by some of the most brutal regimes on earth, including several sanctioned by the U.S. for their human-rights abuses. Angola, one of the most corrupt nations in the world, spent more than \$3 million on lobbying in the first half of 2009. According to the author, the rise in foreign lobbying may have compromised the policymaking of U.S. government officials and may have reduced Washington's pressure on authoritarian regimes. Human-rights activists or government opponents in authoritarian countries are unable to make their case in Washington, or to match the funds spent by their rulers. The result, says Kurlantzick, is that "while thugs get heard in U.S. halls of power, the voices of their opponents remain silent." Currently available online at <http://www.newsweek.com/2010/07/26/the-hired-guns.html>

Mahr, Krista; Pinang, Tanjung LIVING IN LIMBO: THE ASYLUM PROBLEM (Time, July 5, 2010)

According to the U.N., there were over 15 million recognized refugees around the world at the beginning of 2009, and another 826,000 asylum seekers. Most are fleeing bloodshed, repression or poverty; many end up in countries where governments are ill-equipped both legally and economically to handle the volumes of people requesting protection at their borders. Many of those governments are increasing their efforts to keep out economic migrants and ramp up security. Refugees that do escape their home country can expect a long wait for settlement in a third country; no state is obligated to offer permanent homes to refugees in transit countries. So what can be done? Today's refugee crisis is a global one, and it demands responses from all nations — not just those who are bearing its brunt. Today, "there is freedom of goods and services, but there's not an acceptance of the movement of people," says Denis Nihill, the chief of mission for the International Organization for Migration in Indonesia. "It's not traditionally seen as being a multilateral issue." The author notes that finding ways to manage borders without excluding genuine asylum seekers won't be easy. Currently available online at <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1999274,00.html>

Parfitt, Tom PAVLOVSK'S HOPES HANG ON A TWEET (Science, vol. 329, August 20, 2010, p. 399)

The Pavlovsk Experimental Station of the N.I. Vavilov Institute of Plant Industry near St. Petersburg, Russia, is one of the oldest seed banks in the world, with several thousand varieties of fruit and other edible crops that exist nowhere else. Its treasure trove of genetic diversity is imperiled – much of the land may be sold later this year to developers for a housing project. The Russian government has no relocation plan, and moving the collection could take a decade – unlike most seed banks, Pavlovsk is a field collection of plants propagated by grafting, and cannot be stored as frozen seeds. A global Twitter campaign directed at Russian President Medvedev, who recently opened a Twitter account, has persuaded him to review a court ruling allowing the developers to proceed. More about the Twitter campaign can be found online at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/cary-fowler/kremlinrussia-stop-the-de_b_659123.html

Tolmé, Paul THE DIRTY TRUTH BEHIND CLEAN NATURAL GAS (National Wildlife, June/July 2010)

Natural gas may burn cleanly compared to other fossil fuels, but drilling for gas is environmentally destructive, causing air and water pollution, scarring the landscape and endangering wildlife and people. Since 2000, a drilling boom ensued when the previous administration opened up large swaths of public lands in Western states to gas drilling, exempting energy companies from environmental regulations. The gas deposits being exploited are in underground strata that require hydraulic fracturing – injecting a toxic cocktail of chemicals at high pressure into the rock formations to break them up and release the gas. The author notes that there is growing pressure on Congress to eliminate the environmental exemptions granted by the previous administration, and to require energy companies to use directional drilling in order to reduce the number of wells. Currently available online at <http://nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/Animals/Archives/2010/The-Dirty-Truth-Behind-Clean-Natural-Gas.aspx>

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Inman, Mason MINING THE TRUTH ON COAL SUPPLIES (National Geographic Daily News, September 8, 2010)

Coal burning may have a deleterious effect on the environment, but the conventional assumption is that there is enough coal to fuel global electricity consumption for decades. However, the conclusions of a new study fly in the face of the belief in abundant coal – its authors argue that global coal production could actually peak as early as 2011, and then begin a terminal decline. According to the study, much of the high-quality, easily mineable coal is gone, and what is left has lower energy density per ton, and is more difficult to extract from the ground. Additionally, currently accepted reserve figures may be considerably overstated, as they are based on methods unchanged since the 1970s. If what they predict is true, notes Inman, then a major restructuring and shrinking of the global economy will follow, since coal powers much of global electricity and steel production. They urge greater attention to conservation and improving efficiency of electricity production from coal. Available online at <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2010/09/100908-energy-peak-coal/>

Kotkin, Joel READY, SET, GROW (Smithsonian, vol. 41, no. 4, July/August 2010, pp. 60-67)

The population of the United States will likely grow by 100 million people over the next several decades, and urban development expert Joel Kotkin offers a few projections on how the country may be affected. Kotkin predicts this level of population growth will keep the U.S. vibrant while population drops in other developed world nations will lead them into decline. Excerpting his 2010 book THE NEXT HUNDRED MILLION, Kotkin agrees with other demographic predictions that the U.S. growth will be concentrated in immigrant populations. As a result, Hispanic Americans will comprise a larger proportion of the population, and the white population will slide below 50

percent. Contrary to the predictions of others, Kotkin doesn't see this increased population concentrating in major urban centers. Rather, he thinks Americans will continue to choose the suburbs in the future, and predicts that "super fuel efficient cars of the future are likely to spur smart sprawl." Fulfilling the promise of upward mobility for that growing population will be the major national challenge, the author predicts, and reviving the nation's manufacturing sector will be a key factor in doing so. Currently available online under the title THE CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS OF AMERICA: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/specialsections/40th-anniversary/The-Changing-Demographics-of-America.html>

Levinson, Marc FAULTY BASEL: WHY MORE DIPLOMACY WON'T KEEP THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM SAFE (Foreign Affairs, vol. 89, no. 3, May/June 2010, pp. 76-88)

Following some financial crises in the mid-1970s, representatives from the major economic powers have worked together to create regulations to make the global banking system safer. A new organization was formed in Basel, Switzerland, known as the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, and has crafted successive international agreements to regulate banking and securities. However, notes the author, Senior Fellow for International Business at the Council on Foreign Relations, Basel did little to protect against the global financial meltdown that started in 2007. In this article, published before the recently-concluded Basel III talks, Levinson argues that regulation at the national level creates more resilience than a single set of international rules, which could be exploited at a global level. As an example of such regulatory "diversity", he points to Spain, whose banks weathered the financial crisis much better than their other European counterparts, despite the collapse of the Spanish property market; Spain required its banks to set aside extra reserves for potential future losses. Levinson does not like the idea of an international bank bailout fund, which would present a moral hazard for lax national regulators; he concludes that "when it comes to financial regulation, less international diplomacy might be better than more."

Miller, Ken COPING WITH CHINA'S FINANCIAL POWER (Foreign Affairs, vol. 89, no. 4, July/August 2010)

China has been trying to make the best of its sudden financial might; it has been accumulating vast foreign currency reserves and spending it abroad on direct investment, aid and concessional loans to secure raw materials and new technologies that bolster domestic growth and the Communist Party's legitimacy, says Miller, the head of the banking firm Ken Miller Capital LLC. Miller calls these policies mercantilist, but acknowledges that the resources deployed overseas are relatively small and pale in comparison to what U.S. companies invest abroad. Having been present in the world's financial markets only ten years, China has yet to learn the best ways to achieve its overall domestic goals and be a responsible global financial player. The author outlines a positive scenario of China investing more in developed economies through different instruments. Liberalization of its capital flow policies would prompt Chinese companies to seek more opportunities for cross-border mergers and acquisitions, and lead to the emergence of strong national brands able to expand overseas. Renminbi convertibility would strengthen the China's international financial position and make Shanghai a major financial center. But both strategic shifts would dramatically change the character of the Chinese economic model and could lead to considerable domestic disruptions, Miller concludes.

Senor, Dan; Singer, Saul WHAT NEXT FOR THE START-UP NATION? (Wilson Quarterly, vol. 34, no. 3, Summer 2010, pp. 62-66)

Senor, with the Council on Foreign Relations, and Singer, columnist for the Jerusalem Post, write that the news headlines give little optimism for Israel's future, but both believe that Israel is poised to become a global innovation leader. Israel has become the "start-up king" of the world, having developed a knack at the most challenging aspect of technology: new ventures. The authors cite as an example the company Better Place, founded by Shai Agassi, which has made electric cars more practical by designing a system for swapping out batteries; Israel will be the first country to

begin mass replacement of vehicles with internal combustion engines. They believe that having to cope with all sorts of adversity has forced Israel to be nimble and adaptive. The country itself is a start-up, note the authors, and is a melting pot of different immigrant groups, which itself spurs creativity. Universal military service in Israel, and the intensive training involved, has cultivated the determination and willingness to risk failure in its entrepreneurial culture. They argue that if peace ever comes to the Middle East, it would be a boon to Israel, which could then shift its considerable defense spending to more productive purposes.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Andelman, David DOES EUROPE END AT THE BOSPORUS? (World Policy Journal online, posted August 17, 2010)

Andelman, editor of the World Policy Journal, notes that Turkey, which has been pursuing the path of a secular, modern democracy, and which has been trying to join the European Union for years and has been consistently turned down, may be finally casting its lot with the Middle East. The most recent sign of Turkey's change of mind was the dramatic confrontation with Israel over the Gaza blockade. Andelman writes that it is ironic that Greece, Turkey's long-time archrival, was admitted to the EU, instead of Turkey — and Greece's perilous finances now threaten to bring the EU down, while Turkey's growth rate is substantially higher than any other European country. He thinks it is unlikely that any more countries will be admitted to the EU, given its current precarious state. If Turkey does decide to turn to the Middle East for an alliance, it will most likely join the Gulf Cooperation Council; Turkey recently signed an agreement with Saudi Arabia. Andelman believes that, in the future, more countries will realize that they need to join regional economic and security blocs in order to survive an increasingly turbulent global environment. Currently available online at <http://www.worldpolicy.org/blog/does-europe-end-bosporus>

Bergenas, Johan THE NUCLEAR DOMINO MYTH (Foreign Affairs online, August 31, 2010)

According to Bergenas, research associate at the Henry L. Stimson Center, the historical record does not support a widespread notion that if Iran develops nuclear weapons, other Middle East countries will do so also. Aside from India and Pakistan, no other countries have locked into a race with nuclear neighbors. Also, Iran would likely use a nuclear weapon for deterrence, not as a credible threat to its neighbors, just as other nuclear powers do. Asserting the nuclear domino myth could become a self-fulfilling prophecy, creating excuses for Middle East countries to acquire nuclear weapons. Currently available online at <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/66738/johan-bergenas/the-nuclear-domino-myth>

Cohen, Avner; Miller, Marvin BRINGING ISRAEL'S BOMB OUT OF THE BASEMENT (Foreign Affairs, vol. 89, no. 5, September/October 2010, pp. 30-44)

Soon after its formation, Israel set out on a program to acquire nuclear weapons, out of fear of attack by hostile neighbors, yet was unsettled by the prospect of killing large numbers of innocent people, even to save their own. This led to a policy of nuclear opacity unique among nuclear weapons states; it was codified in a secret 1969 accord between President Richard Nixon and Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, in which the U.S. would shield Israel's nuclear program, as long as Israel did not openly acknowledge it. Subsequent U.S. and Israeli administrations have reaffirmed this policy, and it has the universal support of Israel's defense establishment and the public. The authors, with the Monterey Institute of International Studies and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology respectively, argue, however, that while opacity may have been justified in Israel's early years, it is now preventing Israel from showing that it is a responsible nuclear power. Cohen and Miller note that nuclear deterrence no longer prevents rogue entities from acquiring nuclear weapons, and in view of the growing support for a world free of nuclear weapons, Israel

cannot afford not to be a part of the debate. They also argue that the nuclear issue cannot be ignored as regards the current Israeli administration's political legitimacy in establishing a viable Palestinian state. A more open nuclear policy by Israel would also help increase international pressure on Iran to halt its nuclear program, especially among key countries like Russia, China and India.

Lichtenstein, Jesse DIGITAL DIPLOMACY (New York Times Magazine, July 18, 2010, pp. 24-29)

On Twitter, Jared Cohen and Alec Ross are among the most followed of anyone working for the U.S. government, coming in third and fourth after Barack Obama and John McCain. This didn't happen by chance. Their Twitter posts have become an integral part of a new State Department effort to bring diplomacy into the digital age, by using widely available technologies to reach out to citizens, companies and other non-state actors. Traditional forms of diplomacy still dominate, but 21st-century statecraft is not mere corporate rebranding (swapping tweets for broadcasts). Diplomacy may now include such open-ended efforts as the short-message-service (S.M.S.) social-networking program the State Department set up in Pakistan last fall. The State Department recently cut financing for some activist groups based outside Iran that promote democracy and began to focus on providing information technologies that would facilitate communication among dissidents in Iran. Restrictions imposed by U.S. sanctions were lifted to allow for the export of instant-messaging and anti-filtering software. Currently available online at http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/18/magazine/18web2-0-t.html?_r=1&emc=eta1

Starks, Tim FOR THEIR EARS ONLY (CQ Weekly, July 17, 2010)

In the late 1940s, early in the Cold War, Congress enacted the Smith-Mundt Act, designed to keep the State Department from the domestic use of propaganda aimed at foreign audiences. In July, two House members introduced legislation to dismantle Smith-Mundt, saying that it makes no sense in an era of the Internet and satellite communications, and may be interfering with efforts to combat terrorism. The Pentagon, which has embraced some of the law's precepts, have complained that Smith-Mundt prevents them from disseminating false information to deceive insurgents for fear that the bogus reports might end up getting republished as truth in the U.S.; the State Department recently prohibited a public radio station in Minneapolis from rebroadcasting Voice of America Somali-language broadcasts to the area's large Somali émigré community, even though there was nothing to prevent the station from airing broadcasts from terrorist groups in Somalia. The author notes that Smith-Mundt has not kept up with technology, and is complicating diplomacy in the age of global terrorism.

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

Bourne, Joel K. IRANIAN CURE FOR THE DELTA'S BLUES (AARP Bulletin, July-August 2010, pp. 12-14)

Iran is providing inspiration to a Mississippi community in the realm of health care. The people of the Mississippi Delta are among the poorest and most medically underserved in the U.S., but due to the initiative of Iranian-born Mohammad Shahbazi, M.D., chair of the Department of Behavioral and Environmental Health at Jackson State University, a Mississippi doctor and a health-care consultant were able to travel to Iran to learn about that country's ingenious methods for providing health care to poor, rural communities. The trip -- with the tacit approval of the National Institutes of Health and Iran's Ministry of Health -- provided the Americans with a look at Iran's system of using trained locals working out of "health houses." This method, which has won praise from the World Health Organization, has eliminated health disparities between rural and urban populations

over the last 30 years and reduced infant mortality in rural areas by tenfold. The American doctors are now trying to replicate an adapted version of the Iranian system by establishing Mississippi health houses and training single mothers currently on welfare to staff them. Currently available online at http://www.aarp.org/health/doctors-hospitals/info-06-2010/iranian_cure_for_the_deltas_blues.html

Douville, Judith A. TOBACCO SMOKING: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE (Choice, vol. 47, no. 10, June 2010, pp. 1829-1839)

Cigarette smoking is a major public health problem that affects most segments of society, beginning with teen-agers and working its way up to adults. In fact, several works target smoking in young people and efforts to prevent them from acquiring this habit. Now, the U.S. Government has spent millions of dollars to commission studies on these types of statistics along with reports on the environmental impact of secondhand smoke, smoking policies, lung cancer and other diseases related to smoking, regulation and litigation, and quitting smoking. The literature is substantial on an issue that will continue to generate much study and debate. Still, tobacco smoking continues to be widely used all over the world despite all the known health risks, and the medical costs associated with diseases caused by smoking are substantial.

Gilbert, Matthew Sakiestewa HOPI FOOTRACES AND AMERICAN MARATHONS, 1912-1930 (American Quarterly, Vol. 62, No. 1, March 2010, pp. 77-102)

American Indian runners became important athletes and representatives of the United States in the Olympic Games, despite the fact that American Indians had not yet been granted full citizenship. In 1912 the Los Angeles Times sponsored a marathon to find a candidate for the 1912 Olympics that would be held in Stockholm, Sweden. Surprisingly, two Hopi Indian contestants from the Sherman Institute Indian school significantly outdistanced everyone, winning the race and drawing attention to the Hopi expertise in long-distance running, a traditional sport in that tribe. The winner of the Los Angeles race, Philip Zeyouma, was selected for the Olympics but declined to go. Two other Indians, Jim Thorpe and Louis Tewanima did compete at Stockholm in 1912, briefly transcending the racism of the era.

Grossmann, John EXPANDING THE PALETTE (National Parks, vol. 84, no. 3, Summer 2010)

The U.S. National Parks are becoming more diverse in staff and in visitors, with the help of outreach programs aimed at urban-dwelling minority groups who often have limited exposure to national parks for economic and other reasons. African-Americans, particularly, have avoided rural parks because of memories of discrimination and lynchings of the pre-Civil Rights era. But this is changing as more diversity is reflected in America's park system, exemplified by several individuals profiled in this article who are park rangers or enthusiastic visitors. Currently available online at <http://www.npca.org/magazine/2010/summer/expanding-the-palette.html>

Hirschorn, Michael CLOSING THE DIGITAL FRONTIER (Atlantic Monthly, July/August 2010)

The Internet's founding ideology -- that information should be free, and that attempts to constrain it are not only hopeless but immoral -- is crumbling under the onslaught of applications ("apps"), smart phones, and pricing plans. The shift of the digital frontier from the Web, where the browser ruled supreme, to the smart phone, where the "app" and the pricing plan now hold sway, is far from a given, however, especially with the under-30 crowd accustomed to free content. The prospect of paying hundreds or thousands of dollars yearly for print, audio, and video on expensive new devices is not going to be an easy sell. Even so, media companies see profits to be made from pushing their best and most timely content through their apps instead of their Web sites. Currently available online <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/07/closing-the-digital-frontier/8131/>

Wilkinson, Katherine K. CLIMATE'S SALVATION? WHY AND HOW AMERICAN EVANGELICALS ARE ENGAGING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE (Environment, Vol. 52, No. 2, March/April 2010, pp. 47-55)

Scientists have presented the public with complex climate models and projections on rising temperatures to gain awareness of global warming. Growing numbers of supporters of climate change action offer up a much simpler argument: The Earth is God's creation, and it is the duty of humankind to protect and preserve it. While American evangelical Christians are often perceived to be quite conservative, on this issue, the political lines are not so cleanly drawn. "Climate Change: An Evangelical Call to Action" is a four-year old campaign that now has more than 260 followers. One plank of this document is that "Christian moral convictions demand our response to the climate change problem." Wilkinson argues that the climate change issue may end the traditional alliance between evangelical leaders and the Republican Party, at the same time it conveys understanding of the issue and a commitment to action to a new demographic group in the population.

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