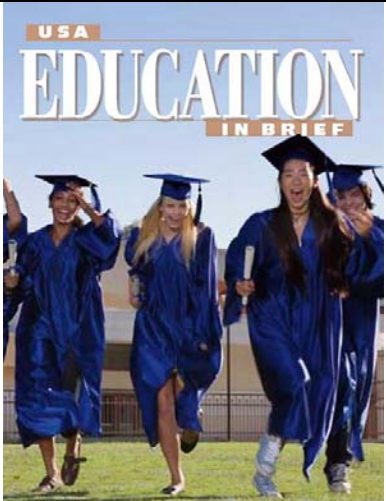




## IRC WHAT'S NEW November 2008

<b>Electronic Journals – all e-journals</b>	<b>IIP Publications – all publications</b>
<p><b>USA Education in Brief</b></p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="flex: 1;">  </div> <div style="flex: 2; padding-left: 10px;"> <p>USA Education in Brief covers the development of the public school movement, beginning with "common school," (the iconic little red schoolhouse) in the 18th century, through the Land-Grant university movement to the G.I. Bill of Rights and the civil rights movement which expanded educational opportunity to all U.S. citizens. Additional topics include 21st century challenges; civic, bilingual, and special education; foreign exchanges; and teaching democracy to a new generation.</p> </div> </div>	
<p><b>Ask America</b>            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 <a href="#">Ask America HomePage</a> to see upcoming ones, and read the transcripts of the previous webchats.</p>	<p><b>Podcasts</b>  <a href="http://www.america.gov/multimedia/podcasts.html">http://www.america.gov/multimedia/podcasts.html</a>            Audio files and transcripts from America.gov</p>
<p><b>Videos</b>  <a href="http://www.america.gov/multimedia/video.html?videoid=1498976413">http://www.america.gov/multimedia/video.html?videoid=1498976413</a>            Video files on foreign policy, U.S. politics, American life, democracy, science and health.</p>	<p><b>Blogs</b>  <a href="http://blogs.america.gov/">http://blogs.america.gov/</a>            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.</p>

## SIGNIFICANT E-DOCUMENTS

**2008 CIVIC HEALTH INDEX: BEYOND THE VOTE.** National Conference on Citizenship. Web posted October 21, 2008.

The 2008 survey finds that Americans are actively engaged with this year's presidential election; however, not many people expect to work on the issues raised in the campaign after Election Day.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.ncoc.net/pdf/civichealth2008-web.pdf> [PDF format, 38 pages].

**ADVANCE SUMMARY: U.S. CRUDE OIL, NATURAL GAS, AND NATURAL GAS LIQUIDS RESERVES 2007 ANNUAL REPORT.** Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy. October 2008.

Record-high additions to U.S. dry natural gas proved reserves in 2007 totaled 46.1 trillion cubic feet (Tcf), more than double the 19.5 Tcf of dry natural gas actually produced in the United States during the year, according to the report. As a result, total proved reserves of dry natural gas in the U.S. at the end of 2007 rose to 237.7 Tcf, 13 percent above the year-end 2006 level and the highest level in the 31 years EIA has published annual reserves data. For the first time in four years, U.S. proved oil reserves increased during 2007, as proved reserve additions of 2.0 billion barrels exceeded production of 1.7 billion barrels. Year-end proved reserves in 2007 stood at 21.3 billion barrels, nearly two percent higher than at the end of 2006.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/pub/oil\\_gas/natural\\_gas/data\\_publications/advanced\\_summary/current/adsum.pdf](http://www.eia.doe.gov/pub/oil_gas/natural_gas/data_publications/advanced_summary/current/adsum.pdf) [PDF format, 22 pages].

**AL-QAEDA AND ITS AFFILIATES: A GLOBAL TRIBE WAGING SEGMENTAL WARFARE.**

RAND Corporation. David Ronfeldt. Web posted October 10, 2008.

Al Qaeda and its affiliates are operating much like a global tribe waging segmental warfare, according to the paper. It describes the dynamics of classic tribes: what drives them, how they organize, how they fight. Al Qaeda fits the tribal paradigm. Al Qaeda and affiliates are using the information age to reiterate ancient patterns of tribalism on a global scale. Ronfeldt suggest that the tribal paradigm should be added to the network and other prevailing paradigms to help figure out the best policies and strategies for countering these violent actors.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/reprints/2008/RAND\\_RP1371.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/reprints/2008/RAND_RP1371.pdf) [PDF format, 23 pages].

**AMERICAN PUBLIC HAS MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES' ISSUE POSITIONS.** National Annenberg Election Survey. Kate Kenski and Kathleen Hall Jamieson.

Web posted October 2, 2008.

Many Americans are unable to identify where the major party candidates' stand on various issues ranging from health care to abortion to free trade, according to recent data collected by the University of Pennsylvania's National Annenberg Election Survey. Only a little over a quarter (28

percent) of adults were able to identify Senator John McCain as the presidential candidate more likely to support free trade agreements like NAFTA.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.annenbergpublicpolicycenter.org/Downloads/Releases/NAES%202008/Political%20Knowledge%20final.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages].

**ANXIETY OVER ENERGY, JOBS, AND WEALTH SHAKES AMERICA'S GLOBAL ECONOMIC CONFIDENCE.** Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Web posted October 15, 2008.

The report shows that economic anxiety is causing Americans to shift their foreign policy views and priorities. Energy has emerged as a major source of concern, along with jobs and an unfair distribution of wealth. These concerns are negatively impacting views of globalization, immigration, NAFTA, and the U.S. economic future. The American public's unease is evident in the strong majority (64%) that believes that the distribution of income and wealth in the U.S. has become less fair. Eighty-two percent of those who believe this indicate that globalization and international trade are "very" or "somewhat" important to their assessment.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/UserFiles/File/POS\\_Topline%20Reports/POS%202008/2008%20Public%20Opinion\\_Economic.pdf](http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/UserFiles/File/POS_Topline%20Reports/POS%202008/2008%20Public%20Opinion_Economic.pdf) [PDF format, 8 pages].

**ARCTIC REPORT CARD 2008.** National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. Web posted October 17, 2008.

Temperature increases, a near-record loss of summer sea ice, and a melting of surface ice in Greenland are among some of the evidence of continued warming in the Arctic, according to the review. One example of these changes in arctic climate is the autumn air temperatures which are at a record 5 degrees C (9 degrees F) above normal, because of the major loss of sea ice in recent years. The loss of sea ice allows more solar heating of the ocean. That warming of the air and ocean affects land and marine life, and reduces the amount of winter sea ice that lasts into the following summer. The year 2007 was the warmest on record for the Arctic, continuing a general Arctic-wide warming trend that began in the mid-1960s.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.arctic.noaa.gov/reportcard/index.html> [HTML format, various paging].

**ARE NEW NUCLEAR BARGAINS ATTAINABLE?** Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Deepti Choubey. Web posted October 10, 2008.

The United States and other countries with nuclear weapons take action toward further disarmament, in the hopes that countries without them will support additional efforts to prevent the further spread and use of nuclear weapons. But non-nuclear-weapon states take a different view. Citing the unfulfilled promises of nuclear-weapon states, they declare such a bargain to be unfair and a misreading of the political landscape.

A better understanding of the views of non-nuclear-weapon states would provide the next U.S. administration with a serious opportunity to lead the rebuilding of a dangerously damaged nonproliferation regime, explains Deepti Choubey.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/new\\_nuclear\\_bargains.pdf](http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/new_nuclear_bargains.pdf) [PDF format, 26 pages].

**BEING ONLINE IS NOT ENOUGH. PEW CENTER ON THE STATES.** Sue Urahn et al. October 17, 2008.

State elections websites are often too difficult for voters to find and use to answer questions such as whether they are registered to vote, where to vote and what will be on the ballot, according to the study. It analyzes 50-state elections websites' usability and finds that when voters cannot easily locate information online, it diverts limited resources to operate help lines which can cost as much as \$100 per call in staffer time.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Election\\_reform/VIP\\_FINAL\\_101408\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Election_reform/VIP_FINAL_101408_WEB.pdf) [PDF format, 36 pages].

**CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: 2008.** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Web posted October 11, 2008.

The publication outlines national efforts to protect children from environmental risks over the last year. The agency has funded research on how the environment affects children's health, promoted the education of health care providers, published information about how climate change affects children's health, and assembled data to quantify the extent of children's health issues. Issues in the report include childhood asthma, lead poisoning, exposure to the sun, children and chemicals, integrated pest management, Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units and research findings.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/2008\\_highlights.htm/\\$file/OCHP\\_2008\\_Highlights\\_508.pdf](http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/2008_highlights.htm/$file/OCHP_2008_Highlights_508.pdf) [PDF format, 32 pages].

**COUNTRY ANALYSIS BRIEFS: BRAZIL.** Energy Information Administration. Web posted October 3, 2008.

Brazil is the 10th largest energy consumer in the world and the third largest in the Western Hemisphere, behind the United States and Canada. Total primary energy consumption in Brazil has increased significantly in recent years. In addition, Brazil has made great strides in increasing its total energy production, particularly oil, over the past decade. Increasing domestic oil production has been a long-term goal of the Brazilian government.

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Brazil/Background.html> [HTML format, various paging].

**COUNTRY ANALYSIS BRIEF: SOUTH AFRICA.** Energy Information Administration. Web posted October 9, 2008.

South Africa has only small deposits of oil and natural gas and relies on coal production for most of its energy needs. The country has a highly developed synthetic fuels industry, mainly derived from coal. South Africa's economy is structured around large-scale, energy-intensive mining and primary minerals industries, pushing its energy intensity to above average levels, with only 10 other countries having higher commercial primary energy intensities. Due to its large coal deposits, South Africa is one of the cheapest electricity suppliers in the world. Although the cost of electricity in South Africa is among the world's lowest, strong economic growth, rapid industrialization and a mass electrification program led to demand for power outstripping supply in early 2008.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/South\\_Africa/Background.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/South_Africa/Background.html) [HTML format, various paging].

**DE FACTO DISENFRANCHISEMENT.** American Civil Liberties Union and Brennan Center for Justice, New York University School of Law. Erika Wood and Rachel Bloom. Web posted October 4, 2008.

A report released by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law reveals widespread misunderstanding among state election officials of laws governing the right to vote of citizens with felony convictions.

A second ACLU report, also released today, finds that voter registration forms in states across the country fail to clearly explain the eligibility of voters with criminal records.

Both reports reveal widespread problems that endanger the voting rights of hundreds of thousands of eligible voters in a presidential election year.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://brennan.3cdn.net/578d11c906d81d548f\\_1tm6iiqab.pdf](http://brennan.3cdn.net/578d11c906d81d548f_1tm6iiqab.pdf) [PDF format, 24 pages].

**DIGITAL QUALITY OF LIFE: UNDERSTANDING THE PERSONAL AND SOCIAL BENEFIT OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REVOLUTION.** Information Technology and Innovation Foundation. Robert D. Atkinson and Daniel D. Castro. Web posted October 11, 2008.

In the new global economy information technology (IT) is the major driver of both economic growth and improved quality of life. The report documents how IT, since the mid-1990s, has been the principal driver of increased economic growth not only in the United States but also in many other nations. Information technology is also at the core of dramatic improvements in the quality of life for individuals around the world. The report shows how IT is the key enabler of many of today's key innovations and improvements in our lives and society, from better education and health care, to a cleaner and more energy-efficient environment, to safer and more secure communities and nations.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.itif.org/files/DQOL.pdf> [PDF format, 185 pages].

**DR CONGO: OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECOVERY IN NORTHERN KATANGA.** Refugees International]. October 8, 2008.

A concerted effort to tackle aggressively road access issues in northern Katanga can accelerate the creation of basic services and stimulate economic activities. Improved security, communities' welcoming attitudes towards returning refugees, and a commitment from local government officials to help returnees and residents provide an opportunity in an area known for its geographic isolation, battered infrastructure and chronic humanitarian needs. The report recommends that the Congolese authorities, international donors and development-oriented agencies should seize this opportunity to rebuild the region and reduce the risk of a relapse of violence.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.refugeesinternational.org/content/article/detail/10861> [HTML format, various paging].

**ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.** National Conference of State Legislature. Web posted 21, 2008.

The report summarizes the climatic changes affecting each state, the potential fiscal impact, and the affect of any future climate changes. States are taking the lead to implement policies that address climate change and environmental sustainability. The federal government is likely to enact climate legislation within the next few years.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.ncsl.org/print/envIRON/ClimatechangeOver.pdf> [PDF format, 2 pages].

**ECOSYSTEM SERVICES: A GUIDE FOR DECISION MAKERS.** World Resources Institute. Janet Rananathan et al. Web posted October 7, 2008.

Development and the environment have traditionally been managed separately, but the report guides decision makers in how this can be reconciled to increase prosperity and protect the planet. The authors contend that development planners often assume that the natural assets that development depends upon will always be there. Conservationists, on the other hand, are often preoccupied with minimizing the negative impacts of development on nature or putting it off limits to people. The guide uses ecosystem services - the benefits of nature - to make the link between nature and development. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://pdf.wri.org/ecosystem\\_services\\_guide\\_for\\_decisionmakers.pdf](http://pdf.wri.org/ecosystem_services_guide_for_decisionmakers.pdf) [PDF format, 96 pages].

**ECOSYSTEM SERVICES DERIVED FROM WETLAND CONSERVATION PRACTICES IN THE UNITED STATES PRAIRIE POTHOLE REGION WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THE U.S.**

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION RESERVE AND WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAMS.** U.S. Geological Survey. Robert A. Gleason et al. Ed. Web posted October 6, 2008. Implementation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) has resulted in the restoration of approximately 2,200,000 ha (5,436,200 acres) of wetland and grassland habitats in the Prairie Pothole Region. These restored habitats are known to provide various ecosystem services; however, little work has been conducted to quantify and verify benefits on program lands (lands enrolled in the CRP and WRP) in agriculturally dominated landscapes of the Prairie Pothole Region. A study was initiated to develop and apply approaches to quantify changes in ecosystem services resulting from wetland restoration activities funded by the USDA.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/pp/1745/pdf/pp1745web.pdf> [PDF format, 69 pages].

**ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.** RAND Corporation. Web posted October 10, 2008

Alternative sources of fossil fuels such as oil sands and coal-to-liquids have significant economic promise, but the environmental consequences must also be considered, according to the study. It provides a review of coal-to-liquids and Canadian oil sands technologies, considers possible impacts on fuel costs from future limitations on carbon dioxide emissions, and compares costs of the alternative fossil fuels to conventional petroleum fuels in 2025. Development of oil sands can also cause large-scale disturbances of land and habitat.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical\\_reports/2008/RAND\\_TR580.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2008/RAND_TR580.pdf) [PDF format, 98 pages].



**ESTABLISHING RESILIENT MARINE PROTECTED AREA NETWORKS. – MAKING IT HAPPEN.** [World Wildlife Federation]. October 9, 2008.

The world depends upon healthy ocean ecosystems: either as a source of food or revenue, or as a key shaper and regulator of climate and weather. This dependency and the need to embrace sustainable development led nations of the world to agree to a series of high-level political commitments for marine conservation and marine protected areas (MPAs).

The study, which has pooled global experience on MPAs, is intended to be useful to countries and their various organizations in helping them build effective networks of MPAs. It provides real-life examples from around the globe and outlines the steps necessary to turn political ambitions into reality.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://assets.panda.org/downloads/mpas\\_report\\_making\\_it\\_happen.pdf](http://assets.panda.org/downloads/mpas_report_making_it_happen.pdf) [PDF format, 128 pages].

**FDI SPILLOVERS AND THEIR INTERRELATIONSHIPS WITH TRADE.** Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Molly Leshner and Sebastien Miroudot. October 7, 2008.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) represents an increasingly important dimension of international economic integration with global FDI flows growing faster than output over the past two decades.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/63/42/41457019.pdf> [PDF format, 40 pages].

**FEDERAL ACCESS POLICIES AND HIGHER EDUCATION FOR WORKING ADULTS.** Center for American Progress. Derek V. Price and Angela Bell. Web posted October 20, 2008.

The baby boomer generation's looming retirement and the requirement of college-level skills to compete in today's fast-changing economic landscape have recharged our public dialogue about postsecondary education. However, the dialogue focuses too much on making college affordable and not enough about making sure students finish their degrees, according to the study.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/10/pdf/access\\_policies.pdf](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/10/pdf/access_policies.pdf) [PDF format, 28 pages].

**FEEDING THE FUTURE: THE ROLE OF THE U.S. ETHANOL INDUSTRY IN FOOD AND FEED PRODUCTION.** Renewable Fuels Association. Web posted October 5, 2008.

Just how much animal feed does the American ethanol industry produce each year? According to a new analysis, America's ethanol producers delivered 23 million metric tons of livestock and poultry feed to the world last year, or nearly three times the amount of wheat, sorghum, barley and oats fed to U.S. livestock in the 2007/08 marketing year. The amount of feed produced by the ethanol industry in 2007/08 is roughly equivalent to the combined total amount of feed consumed by cattle on feed last year in Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado-the nation's four largest feedlot states.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.ethanolrfa.org/objects/documents/1913/feed\\_co-products.pdf](http://www.ethanolrfa.org/objects/documents/1913/feed_co-products.pdf) [PDF format, 8 pages].

**A FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUDGET FOR THE FUTURE: FIXING THE CRISIS IN DIPLOMATIC READINESS.** American Academy of Diplomacy. October 2008.

The report recommends that the State Department hire 4,735 more Foreign Service staffers and

other key personnel between fiscal 2010 and 2014. New hires would be involved in core diplomatic efforts such as operating embassies and working with businesses and nongovernmental organizations abroad; engage in public diplomacy; administer economic assistance programs like those at USAID; and manage reconstruction and stabilization projects similar to ones in Iraq and Afghanistan. Those staffers would fill a 2008 shortfall of 2,400 employees, the authors say, and help State expand its activities while allowing more employees to receive much-needed training. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.academyofdiplomacy.org/publications/FAB\\_report\\_2008.pdf](http://www.academyofdiplomacy.org/publications/FAB_report_2008.pdf) [PDF format, 30 pages.]

**FTC SHUTS DOWN, FREEZES ASSETS OF VAST INTERNATIONAL SPAM E-MAIL NETWORK.** Federal Trade Commission. Web posted October 15, 2008.

A U.S. district court has ordered a halt to the operations of a vast international spam network that peddled prescription drugs and other bogus products. The network has been identified as the largest “spam gang” in the world by the anti-spam organization Spamhaus. The Federal Trade Commission has received more than three million complaints about spam messages connected to this operation, and estimates that it may be responsible for sending billions of illegal spam messages.  
<http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2008/10/herbalkings.shtm> [HTML format, various paging].

**GETTING THE PEOPLE PART RIGHT: A REPORT ON THE HUMAN RESOURCES DIMENSION OF U.S. PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.** U.S. Department of State. 2008.

Public diplomacy, the effort to understand, inform and influence foreign publics in support of foreign policy objectives, has never been more important to the security of U.S. than it is today. The challenges confronting U.S. public diplomacy (PD) are varied and there is no single easy fix for them. Getting the human resources dimension of public diplomacy right, however, can go a long way toward enhancing the overall effectiveness of our nation’s outreach to the world. The report casts a spotlight on these important issues and offers some concrete recommendations for improvement.  
<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/106297.pdf> [PDF format, 41 pages].

**GLOBAL BEEF TRADE: EFFECTS OF ANIMAL HEALTH, SANITARY, FOOD SAFETY, AND OTHER MEASURES ON U.S. BEEF EXPORTS.** U.S. International Trade Commission. John Giamalva et al. Web posted October 8, 2008.

U.S. beef processors and beef cattle ranchers lose billions of dollars in export opportunities each year because of animal health and food safety measures in other countries that are inconsistent with international standards and vary by country, according to the study. Animal health and food safety regulations in Japan and Korea accounted for most of the export losses over the period. The study provides an overview of the U.S. and global beef markets and information on animal health and food safety measures facing U.S. and other major beef exporters in major destination markets.  
<http://hotdocs.usitc.gov/docs/pubs/332/pub4033.pdf> [PDF format, 279 pages].

**GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS REPORT 2008-2009.** World Economic Forum. Michael E. Porter and Klaus Schwab. Web posted October 9, 2008.

The United States tops the overall ranking in report. Switzerland is in second position followed by



Denmark, Sweden and Singapore. European economies continue to prevail in the top 10 with Finland, Germany and the Netherlands following suit. A number of countries in the Middle East and North Africa region are in the upper half of the rankings, led by Israel, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Tunisia, with particular improvements noted in the Gulf States since last year. In sub-Saharan Africa, South Africa, Botswana and Mauritius feature in the top half of the rankings, with several countries from the region measurably improving their competitiveness.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.weforum.org/documents/gcr0809/index.html> [HTML format, various paging].

### **THE GLOBAL NUCLEAR DETECTION ARCHITECTURE: ISSUES FOR CONGRESS.**

Congressional Research Service, RL34574, Library of Congress. Dana A. Shea. Web posted October 19, 2008.

The U.S. government has implemented a series of programs to protect the nation against terrorist nuclear attack. Some of these programs predate September 11, 2001, while others were established since then. Most programs are within the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; the Departments of Defense, Energy, and State; and agencies that became part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) upon its creation, and they are focused on detecting the illicit acquisition and shipment of nuclear and radiological materials and protecting and securing nuclear weapons. These disparate programs have historically been viewed as lacking coordination and centralized oversight. Congress, in its oversight capacity, has shown interest in the development and implementation of the global nuclear detection architecture and in the decision making process attendant to investments in it.

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL34574\\_20080923.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL34574_20080923.pdf) [PDF format, 25 pages].

**GREEN AFFORDABLE HOUSING.** U.S. Government Accountability Office. Web posted October 7, 2008.

Rising energy prices and concerns about the environment have fueled interest in “green building,” resource-efficient construction and maintenance practices that reduce adverse impacts on the natural environment. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) spends an estimated \$5 billion on energy costs annually in its affordable housing programs and has recently taken steps to reduce its energy costs.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0946.pdf> [PDF format, 68 pages].

**A GUIDE TO THE HOUSING CRISIS: TEN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.** Century Foundation. Bernard Wasow. Web posted October 4, 2008.

As Congress tries to work out a financial rescue plan, many people are still trying to understand how the financial institutions got into so much trouble in the first place, and why the government needs to take action to bail them out. In an issue brief Bernard Wasow answers ten crucial questions about the housing crisis. The questions include why did lenders make so many bad loans for mortgages and why are so many different banks and brokerages all over the world in hot water.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.tcf.org/publications/economicsinequality/housing\\_brief.pdf](http://www.tcf.org/publications/economicsinequality/housing_brief.pdf) [PDF format, 6 pages].

**INFLATION TARGETING IN BRAZIL.** Levy Economics Institute, Bard College. Philip Arestis et al. Web posted October 2, 2008.

The paper is to examine inflation targeting (IT) in emerging countries by concentrating essentially on the case of Brazil. The IT monetary policy regime has been adopted by a significant number of countries. While the focus of the paper is on Brazil, which began inflation targeting in 1999, it also examines the experience of other countries, both for comparative purposes and for evidence of the extent of this “new” economic policy’s success.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.levy.org/pubs/wp\\_544.pdf](http://www.levy.org/pubs/wp_544.pdf) [PDF format, 30 pages].

**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE FINANCIAL COOPERATION.** Brookings Institution. Ralph C. Bryant. October 2, 2008.

The financial meltdown is now worldwide. Financial institutions have failed or are under severe pressure not only in the United States but in the United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Italy, Ireland, Iceland, Russia, China, India, and other nations. The turmoil began with falling prices for housing and for securities and derivatives backed by mortgages. But it is increasingly unanchored from those original causes. Herd behavior and self-fulfilling expectations are now threatening even healthy, adequately capitalized institutions.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2008/1002\\_financial\\_crisis\\_bryant.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2008/1002_financial_crisis_bryant.aspx) [HTML format, various paging].

**IS AMERICA READY TO VOTE?** Brennan Center for Justice, New York University School of Law. October 16, 2008.

With millions of Americans expected to confront an array of voting technologies on Nov. 4, election experts from the Brennan Center for Justice gives 50-state report card that grades every state on its preparedness to respond to Election Day voting system problems like broken machines, software malfunctions, or long lines that result from voting equipment breakdowns or misallocation of machines.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/is\\_america\\_ready\\_to\\_vote](http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/is_america_ready_to_vote) [HTML format, various paging].

**MANAGING TEMPORARY MIGRATION: LESSONS FROM THE PHILIPPINE MODEL.**

Migration Policy Institute. Dovelyn Rannveig Agunias. October 2008.

Developing countries can proactively manage large-scale, systematic, and legal movement of temporary migrant workers. The report analyzes the system the Philippines uses to manage the temporary migration of millions of Filipinos who work in countries around the globe. For many, the Philippines' system of managing temporary migration has unrivaled sophistication, making it a model for other developing countries hoping to access the benefits of global labor mobility.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/Insight\\_POEA\\_Oct07.pdf](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/Insight_POEA_Oct07.pdf) [PDF format, 44 pages].

**MEETING THE CHALLENGE: U.S. POLICY TOWARD IRANIAN NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT.**

Bipartisan Policy Center. Web posted October 15, 2008.

The development of nuclear weapons capability by the Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the most critical national security challenges facing the United States. The study includes a primer on the complex historical, political, social, economic, military, legal and technological issues that underlie and influence the current situation.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.bipartisanpolicy.org/ht/a/GetDocumentAction/i/8448> [PDF format, 117 pages].

**NETWORKED FAMILIES: PARENTS AND SPOUSES ARE USING THE INTERNET AND CELL PHONES TO CREATE A “NEW CONNECTEDNESS” THAT BUILDS ON REMOTE CONNECTIONS AND SHARED INTERNET EXPERIENCES.** Pew Internet & American Life Project. Tracey L. M. Kennedy et al. October 19, 2008.

American families are using a wide range of communication media to keep in contact with each other. Married couples with minor children stand out because they have higher rates of internet and cell phone usage, computer ownership and broadband adoption than other household configuration. For today’s married-with-children households, ownership of multiple gadgets and communication tools is a standard feature of life. For example, 89% of married-with-children households own multiple cell phones, and nearly half (47%) own three or more mobile devices. Children in these households are somewhat less likely to own a cell phone than they are to go online: 57% of these children (aged 7-17) have their own cell phone.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP\\_Networked\\_Family.pdf](http://pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_Networked_Family.pdf) [PDF format, 44 pages].

**OPEC OIL EXPORT REVENUES.** Energy Information Administration. Web posted October 8, 2008.

Based on projections from the Short Term Energy Outlook (STEO), members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) could earn \$1,084 billion of net oil export revenues in 2008, and \$1,084 billion in 2009. Through September, OPEC has earned an estimated \$821 billion in net oil export earnings in 2008. Last year, OPEC earned \$671 billion in net oil export revenues, a 10 percent increase from 2006. Saudi Arabia earned the largest share of these earnings, \$194 billion, representing 29 percent of total OPEC revenues.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/OPEC\\_Revenues/Factsheet.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/OPEC_Revenues/Factsheet.html) [HTML format, various paging].

**PAST ECONOMIC DOWNTURNS AND THE OUTLOOK FOR FOUNDATION GIVING.**

Foundation Center. Steven Lawrence. Web posted October 14, 2008.

Since the current economic crisis began in the latter half of 2007, the Foundation Center have been fielding questions about the possible impact of a downturn on foundation giving. Since the Foundation Center began collecting data on all grant making private and community foundations in 1975, the country has weathered several recessions. During each of these recessionary periods, 1980, 1981-82, 1990-91, and 2001, U.S. foundation giving in inflation-adjusted dollars did not decline and, in fact, increased slightly.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://foundationcenter.org/research\\_update/](http://foundationcenter.org/research_update/) [HTML format, various paging].

### **PENSIONS IN PERIL: ARE STATE OFFICIALS RISKING PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**

**RETIREMENT BENEFITS BY PLAYING GLOBAL WARMING POLITICS?** National Center for Public Policy Research. Steven J. Milloy and Thomas Borelli. Web posted September 29, 2008.

Global warming has emerged as an important issue for investors, including state and local pension funds. Although global warming regulation appears likely to cause significant adverse impacts to the broad economy and stock market, a substantial minority of state and local pension funds are nonetheless actively promoting global warming regulation, while the majority of state and local pension funds have yet to promote or oppose such regulation. Compounding this problem is the fact that many of these pension fund systems are dangerously under funded and are relying on predicted investment returns that are unlikely to occur.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.nationalcenter.org/NPA575.html> [HTML format, various paging].

### **POTENTIAL HEALTH RISKS OF EXPOSURE TO NOISE FROM PERSONAL MUSIC**

**PLAYERS AND MOBILE PHONE INCLUDING A MUSIC PLAYING FUNCTION.** Scientific

Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks, European Commission. Konrad Ydzinski and Thomas Jung. Web posted October 15, 2008.

Listening to personal music players at a high volume over a sustained period can lead to permanent hearing damage, according to an opinion of the EU Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR). The scientific opinion shows that 5-10% of personal music player listeners risk permanent hearing loss, if they listen to a personal music player for more than one hour per day each week at high volume settings for at least 5 years.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scenihhr/docs/scenihhr\\_o\\_018.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihhr/docs/scenihhr_o_018.pdf) [PDF format, 81 pages].

### **THE PRESIDENT'S IDENTITY THEFT TASK FORCE REPORT.** Federal Trade Commission.

Web posted October 21, 2008.

The report shows the progress the federal government has made in addressing identity theft since the Task Force's Strategic Plan was released last year. Highlights of the report include expansion of the Task Force's data security and identity theft business and consumer education campaigns; exploring means of improving consumer authentication processes to prevent the use of stolen information to commit identity theft; launching new initiatives to help identity theft victims recover; and improving law enforcement tools to investigate and prosecute identity thieves.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.ftc.gov/os/2008/10/081021taskforcereport.pdf> [PDF format, 70 pages].

### **PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION PROCESS IN NEED OF A MAJOR UPGRADE.** American

Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. Norman J. Ornstein. October 16, 2008.

The most vulnerable period for the United States is the first few months of a new administration. According to Ornstein, the best step to take now would be to follow the State of the Union model. Bush should agree to have one or two of his top Cabinet members, say the secretaries of State and the Treasury, resign as of 9 a.m. January 20, with Bush nominating the incoming president's choices so that the Senate can confirm them before the inauguration. This insures that at least one top official representing the views of the new president and clearly in the line of succession

would be away in case of disaster.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.aei.org/publications/filter.all,pubID.28777/pub\\_detail.asp](http://www.aei.org/publications/filter.all,pubID.28777/pub_detail.asp) [HTML format, various paging].

**PREVENTION OF RICKETS AND VITAMIN D DEFICIENCY IN INFANTS, CHILDREN, AND ADOLESCENTS.** American Academy of Pediatrics. Carol L. Wagner and Frank R. Greer. Web posted October 13, 2008.

Rickets in infants attributable to inadequate vitamin D intake and decreased exposure to sunlight continues to be reported in the United States. There are also concerns for vitamin D deficiency in older children and adolescents. Because there are limited natural dietary sources of vitamin D and adequate sunshine exposure, due to concern for the risk of skin cancer, the recommendations to ensure adequate vitamin D status have been revised to include all infants, including those who are exclusively breastfed and older children and adolescents.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.aap.org/new/VitaminDreport.pdf> [PDF format, 11 pages].

**THE ROLE OF THE INTERNET IN BURMA'S SAFFRON REVOLUTION.** Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University. Mridul Chowdhury. Web posted October 6, 2008.

The 2007 Saffron Revolution in Burma was in many ways an unprecedented event in the intersection between politics and technology. It is an example of an Internet driven protest which did not lead to tangible political change. It is also of interest because of the complex interaction between eyewitnesses within the country and a networked public sphere of bloggers, student activists, and governments around the globe. The case study examines the root causes, progress, and outcomes of the Saffron Revolution and attempts to parse out the extent to which technology may have played a useful or detrimental role in the unfolding of events.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/sites/cyber.law.harvard.edu/files/Chowdhury\\_Role\\_of\\_the\\_Internet\\_in\\_Burmas\\_Saffron\\_Revolution\\_0.pdf](http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/sites/cyber.law.harvard.edu/files/Chowdhury_Role_of_the_Internet_in_Burmas_Saffron_Revolution_0.pdf) [PDF format, 17 pages].

**THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME.** Statewatch. Tony Bunyan. Web posted October 3, 2008.

The analysis looks at the ideology in the Future group report, Freedom, Security and Privacy, the area of European Home Affairs. The EU is currently developing a new five year strategy for justice and home affairs and security policy for 2009-2014. The proposals set out by the shadowy 'Future Group' include a range of extremely controversial measures including techniques and technologies of surveillance and enhanced cooperation with the United States.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.statewatch.org/analyses/the-shape-of-things-to-come.pdf> [PDF format, 60 pages].

**THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE 2008.** U.N. Food Agriculture Organization. Web posted October 15, 2008.

The report explores the implications of the recent rapid growth in production of bio-fuels based on agricultural commodities. The boom in liquid bio-fuels has been largely driven by policies in developed countries in support of climate-change mitigation, energy security and agricultural development. The growing demand for agricultural commodities for the production of bio-fuels is

having significant repercussions on agricultural markets, and concerns are mounting over their negative impact on the food security of millions of people across the world.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/i0100e/i0100e.pdf> [PDF format, 138 pages].

**STATISTICS: POCKET BOOK.** [European Central Bank]. October 2008.

The book, a monthly, contains selected macroeconomic indicators for the individual Member States of the European Union, as well as comparisons between the Euro area, the United States and Japan.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.ecb.int/pub/pdf/stapobo/spb200810en.pdf> [PDF format, 55 pages].

**STATUS AND TRENDS IN THE EDUCATION OF AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA**

**NATIVES: 2008.** U.S. Department of Education. Jill Fleury DeVoe et al. Web posted October 11, 2008.

The report examines both the educational progress of American Indian/Alaska Native children and adults and challenges in their education. It shows that over time more American Indian/Alaska Native students have gone on to college and that their attainment expectations have increased. Despite these gains, progress has been uneven and differences persist between American Indian/Alaska Native students and students of other racial/ethnic groups on key indicators of educational performance.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2008/2008084.pdf> [PDF format, 203 pages].

**TAIWAN-U.S. RELATIONS: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND THEIR POLICY IMPLICATIONS.**

Congressional Research Service, RL34683, Library of Congress]. Kerry Dumbaugh. Web posted October 19, 2008.

U.S.-Taiwan relations have undergone important changes, sparked in part by the increasing complexity of Taiwan's democratic political environment and the continued insistence of Beijing that the separately ruled Taiwan is a part of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou, elected on March 22, 2008, in a surprisingly broad electoral victory, has moved quickly to repair Taiwan's relations with the PRC. The Taiwan government also is seeking to raise its international profile in other ways involving the United States.

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL34683\\_20080925.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL34683_20080925.pdf) [PDF format, 30 pages].

**TERRORIST ASSETS REPORT.** Office of Foreign Assets Control, U.S. Department of the Treasury. Web posted October 13, 2008.

The blocked asset amounts described in the report represent amounts frozen under U.S. sanctions programs that block all property and interests in property of designated parties. The Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (the TRIA) includes a provision making blocked assets of a terrorist party available to satisfy certain judgments against terrorist parties, including judgments based on claims for which sovereign immunity of foreign states is waived by claims for personal injury or death.

<http://treas.gov/offices/enforcement/ofac/reports/tar2007.pdf> [PDF format, 19 pages].



**TOBACCO UNDERGROUND: THE BOOMING GLOBAL TRADE IN SMUGGLED CIGARETTES.** Center for Public Integrity. Web posted October 21, 2008.

The illicit trafficking of tobacco is a multibillion-dollar business today, fueling organized crime and corruption, robbing governments of needed tax money, and spurring addiction to a deadly product. So profitable is the trade that tobacco is the world's most widely smuggled legal substance. The booming business stretches from counterfeiters in China and renegade factories in Russia to Indian reservations in New York and warlords in Pakistan and North Africa.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.publicintegrity.org/investigations/tobacco/pages/introduction/> [HTML format, various paging].

**TORTURE AND IMPUNITY IN JORDAN'S PRISONS: REFORM FAIL TO TACKLE WIDESPREAD ABUSE.** Human Rights Watch. October 2008.

According to the report torture remained widespread and routine in Jordan's prisons at the time of a research in 2007. The 2008 updates reveal that problems of torture and accountability persist. Allegations of ill-treatment, often amounting to torture, were heard from 66 out of 110 prisoners interviewed. Prison guards torture inmates with near impunity because police prosecutors and police judges at the Police Court do too little to pursue cases against their fellow officers. Prison conditions remain poor, especially health, food, and visitation provisions, despite an ambitious but ill-considered reform program excessively focused on building new prisons.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://hrw.org/reports/2008/jordan1008/> [HTML format, various paging].

**TRENDS IN UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRATION: UNDOCUMENTED INFLOW NOW TRAILS LEGAL INFLOW.** Pew Hispanic Center. Jeffrey S. Passel and D'Vera Cohn. Web posted October 11, 2008.

There were 11.9 million unauthorized immigrants living in the United States in March 2008, according to Pew estimates. It is clear from the estimates that the unauthorized immigrant population grew more slowly in the period from 2005 to 2008 than it did earlier in the decade. It also is clear that from 2005 to 2008, the inflow of immigrants who are undocumented fell below that of immigrants who are legal permanent residents. That reverses a trend that began a decade ago.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/94.pdf> [PDF format, 25 pages].

**THE U.S. FINANCIAL CRISIS: LESSONS FROM SWEDEN.** Congressional Research Service, RS22962, Library of Congress]. James K. Jackson. Web posted October 17, 2008.

In the early 1990s, Sweden faced a banking and exchange rate crisis that led it to rescue banks that had experienced large losses on their balance sheets and that threatened a collapse of the banking system. Some analysts and others argue that Sweden's experience could provide useful lessons for the execution and implementation of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. The banking crisis facing the United States is unique, so there are no exact parallels from which to draw templates. Sweden's experience, however, represents a case study in how a systemic banking crisis was resolved in a developed country with democratic institutions. The report provides an overview of the Swedish banking crisis and an explanation of the measures

Sweden used to restore its banking system to health.

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS22962\\_20080929.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS22962_20080929.pdf) [PDF format, 6 pages].

### **U.S. METRO ECONOMIES: CURRENT AND POTENTIAL GREEN JOBS IN THE U.S.**

**ECONOMY.** United States Conference of Mayors. Web posted October 6, 2008.

According to the study, the U.S. economy currently generates more than 750,000 green jobs, a number that is projected to grow five-fold to more than 4.2 million jobs over the next three decades. The report is the first calculation of its kind to measure how many direct and indirect jobs are in the new and emerging U.S. green economy. Current green jobs are well distributed across the country. Approximately 85% are located in metropolitan areas, while the remaining ones are found in non-metro counties.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.usmayors.org/pressreleases/uploads/GreenJobsReport.pdf> [PDF format, 41 pages].

**WHAT ARE THE DRIVING FORCES OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CYCLES?** National Bureau of Economic Research. Mario J. Crucini et al. October 2008.

The report examines the driving forces of G-7 business cycles. It decomposes national business cycles into common and nation-specific components using a dynamic factor model. The report finds a large common factor in oil prices, productivity, and the terms of trade. Productivity is the main driving force, with other drivers isolated to particular nations or sub-periods.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w14380.pdf> [PDF format, 41 pages].

**WHEN MONEY TALKS: ARAB SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUNDS IN THE GLOBAL PUBLIC POLICY DISCOURSE.** Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Sven Behrendt. October 2008.

The financial interdependence that sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) created between the West and the Arab world could help stabilize multilateral relations and promote economic development and political stability in the Middle East, concludes the paper.

The author studies the rise of Arab SWFs, assesses their investment strategy, and evaluates the policies of Arab investors and Western nations.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/arab\\_sovereign\\_wealth\\_funds.pdf](http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/arab_sovereign_wealth_funds.pdf) [PDF format, 32 pages].

**WILL THE PLUNGE IN GRAIN PRICES MEAN LOWER FOOD PRICES AT THE SUPERMARKET?** Renewable Fuels Association. October 15, 2008.

The 2008 corn, wheat, and soybean crops are well on their way to being among the largest ever in the United States. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Crop Production Report, farmers are expected to produce the second-largest corn crop ever, the largest wheat crop in over 10 years, and the fourth-largest soybean crop on record.<sup>1</sup> USDA's most recent report estimated the 2008 corn crop at 12.2 billion bushels with an average yield per acre of 154 bushels. The expectation of increased production, coupled with a decrease in speculative investment in the commodities markets and recent fall in oil prices, has led to sharply lower grain prices in recent weeks. Based on the recent arguments of the grocery industry, meat processors

and others, lower grain prices should mean lower retail food prices for consumers. Thus far, however, it seems highly unlikely that reduced grain and oilseed prices alone will lead to lower retail food prices, as there are many complex factors that influence retail food pricing.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.ethanolrfa.org/objects/documents/1945/will\\_the\\_plunge\\_in\\_grain\\_prices\\_mean\\_lower\\_food\\_prices\\_at\\_the\\_supermarket.pdf](http://www.ethanolrfa.org/objects/documents/1945/will_the_plunge_in_grain_prices_mean_lower_food_prices_at_the_supermarket.pdf) [PDF format, 7 pages].

### **WORLD RESOURCES 2008: ROOTS OF RESILIENCE – GROWING THE WEALTH OF THE POOR.** United Nations Development Programme et al. Web posted October 13, 2008.

Expanding nature-based enterprises can increase income for the world's rural poor. This approach, as outlined in the report, can also develop the rural poor's resilience to social and environmental threats such as climate change. Three-quarters of the 2.6 billion people who live on less than \$2 a day are dependent upon local natural resources for their livelihoods. Threats such as climate change and ecosystem degradation are beginning to strain those livelihoods, and it will be necessary to shape development strategies that build resilience against such threats and ensure stable and prosperous communities.

The report argues that properly fostered nature-based enterprises can improve rural livelihoods and, in the process, create resilience to economic, social, and environmental threats.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://pdf.wri.org/world\\_resources\\_2008\\_roots\\_of\\_resilience.pdf](http://pdf.wri.org/world_resources_2008_roots_of_resilience.pdf) [PDF format, 277 pages].

## **ARTICLES**

### **DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES**

Cooper, Ann THE BIGGER TENT (Columbia Journalism Review, Vol. 47, no. 3, September/October 2008, pp. 45-47)

The question of "who is a journalist" is a thing of the past, with bloggers, amateur videographers, and others now widely recognized as falling within the "big tent" of mainstream journalism. The author says barriers will continue to erode, and while more traditional journalists are adopting the less formal blogs along with news aggregates, the bloggers are also doing some original reporting, along with disseminating news and opinion. The better question now is "what is journalism"; the author says the best of both worlds can be combined for the good of the public. "Old media will have to let go of some attitudes and assumptions that are no longer relevant, and new media will need to recognize standards that can infuse credibility and trust into this new journalism," she says. The goal of the fourth estate to hold power accountable, inform the citizenry and strengthen democracy still remains intact in this new age of journalism, she argues. Currently available online at [http://www.cjr.org/essay/the\\_bigger\\_tent\\_1.php](http://www.cjr.org/essay/the_bigger_tent_1.php)

Curry, Andrew PLEISTOCENE PARK (Wired, vol. 16, no. 10, October 2008, pp. 128-135)

The writer follows the transport and delivery of several European bison from a wildlife preserve in Belgium to an isolated reserve on the coast of Latvia where biologists are attempting to recreate an ecosystem unseen for 10,000 years. In the Pleistocene era, 1.8 million to 11,000 years ago, large mammals dominated the landscapes of Europe and North America, but within a few centuries 70-80 percent were wiped out, mostly because of human hunting. Select survivors and

descendant species can help restore the biodiversity and landscapes of long ago, biologists say, in what they are calling “rewilding.” The grazing patterns of these large herbivores fill a niche in the chain of life that promotes the existence of other species, these biologists maintain. The ecosystems that are created from their replacement may teach scientists a great deal about the complex interrelationships between different species. The scientists engaged in this effort in Latvia face considerable skepticism from other sectors of the scientific community. Those biologists who have nurtured the comeback of small populations of the European bison, for instance, are concerned that the experiment may disrupt the careful genetic balances maintained as a herd was built from a handful of survivors identified 50 years ago. Besides scientific issues, there are local politics. The successful effort to reintroduce the gray wolf in North American national parks was opposed by neighboring ranchers who wanted to keep the predators away from their herds. Commenting on these controversies, one scientist tells Curry rewilding still “makes sense on evolutionary time scales.”

Gardner, Gerald; Stern, Paul THE SHORT LIST: THE MOST EFFECTIVE ACTIONS U.S. HOUSEHOLDS CAN TAKE TO CURB CLIMATE CHANGE (Environment, vol. 50, no. 5, September/October 2008, pp. 12-24)

Individual efforts represent a “huge reservoir of potential for reducing carbon emissions and mitigating climate change,” according to the authors. About 38 percent of national carbon emissions come from U.S. households. More energy-efficient choices in household and motor vehicle technologies can make a more rapid and direct difference than policy revisions that take time and negotiation. The public needs better and more accurate advice on the most effective conservation measures individuals can take. Efficiency-improving actions save more energy than limiting use of inefficient equipment, studies find, and home upgrades can result in significant savings and reduction of carbon emissions. Government policies can assist by providing simple guides and incentives for “going green”.

Guterres, Antonio MILLIONS UPROOTED: SAVING REFUGEES AND THE DISPLACED (Foreign Affairs, Vol. 87, No. 5, September/October 2008, pp. 90-99)

At few times in history have so many people been on the move, says the author, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, blurring the traditional distinctions between refugees, internally displaced people, and international immigrants. Conflict and human rights violations are scattering millions of people who need access and resettlement assistance in other states. At the same time, authoritarian governments should not be allowed use “sovereignty” to shield themselves from international accountability if they abuse their citizens.

Hibbing, John R.; Larimer, Christopher W. THE AMERICAN PUBLIC'S VIEW OF CONGRESS (The Forum, vol. 6, no. 3, July 2008)

Hibbing, with the University of Nebraska/Lincoln, and Larimer, at the University of Northern Iowa, assert that Congress has long been unpopular with the American public, with approval numbers above fifty percent serving as the exception rather than the norm. In this essay they argue that such disapproval stems not from calculated reaction to policy outcomes or partisan attachments. Rather, people tend to disapprove of Congress for exactly the thing it was designed to be: an open and deliberative lawmaking body. The more Congress does its job, the more the public tends to disapprove. Available online at <http://www.bepress.com/forum/vol6/iss3/art6>

Kapstein, Ethan; Converse, Nathan WHY DEMOCRACIES FAIL: POVERTY, INEQUALITY, AND DEMOCRACY (Journal of Democracy, vol. 19, no. 4, October 2008, pp. 57-68)

The authors study data from waves of democratization between 1960 and 2004, concluding that certain conditions during the initial phases seem to predict whether the democracy will thrive or fail. Based on the data, Kapstein and Converse recommend that democratic assistance be given to ensure a free press, a tolerant and diverse educational system and an open civil society with a strong private economy. They write that poverty alone doesn't not predict failure, but the level of economic inequality does -- “those left by the wayside may lose confidence in democracy.” Finally, the authors state that the international community should encourage trade, international

cultural and educational exchanges, and participation in regional and international organizations that can help "lock in" the political and economic reform process.

Murray, Peter L. THE PRIVATIZATION OF CIVIL JUSTICE (Judicature, vol. 91, no. 6, May-June 2008, pp. 272-275, 315-316)

Murray, professor of law at Harvard University, describes the evolution of the civil justice industry with arbitrators and mediators -- private practitioners rather than public officers deciding cases. As a result of too many court cases, Congress has encouraged arbitration and mediation; Murray believes that the mediators and arbitrators now require more oversight. Only 1-2 percent of civil cases are heard by judges, and arbitrators/mediators may be influenced by repeat customers. He describes one arbitrator who decided 19 times for a credit card company; after deciding against the credit card company, he stopped getting cases. Along with other improvements, Murray suggests that Congress amend the Federal Arbitration Act to protect consumers and non-repeat players, allow judicial review of mediation and arbitration decisions, and provide mediation within the civil justice system using the court's judges as mediators.

Pinstrup-Andersen, Per; Herforth, Anna FOOD SECURITY: ACHIEVING THE POTENTIAL (Environment, vol. 50, no. 5, September/October 2008, pp. 48-60)

The authors evaluate how far world governments have come in meeting global food security since the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission) stated two decades ago that more than 730 million people were insufficiently nourished to lead productive lives despite an abundance of food. Presenting figures from the past and present, they discuss the critical role of food distribution. They predict food security problems will worsen unless governments prioritize protection food supplies in rural communities as well as urban centers, promote sustainable food production, and introduce policies that improve natural resources management and tackle trade distortions to ensure people can obtain the diverse, balanced diet required for good health.

Shadbolt, Nigel; Berners-Lee, Tim WEB SCIENCE: STUDYING THE INTERNET TO PROTECT OUR FUTURE (Scientific American, September 2008)

Studying the Web will reveal better ways to exploit information, prevent identity theft, revolutionize industry and manage our ever-growing online lives. The relentless rise in Web pages and links is creating emergent properties -- from social networking to virtual identity theft -- that are transforming society. A new discipline, Web science, aims to discover how Web traits arise and how they can be harnessed or held in check to benefit society. Important advances are beginning to be made; more work can solve major issues such as securing privacy and conveying trust. Currently available online at <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=web-science>

Zimmer, Carl SEARCHING FOR INTELLIGENCE IN OUR GENES (Scientific American, October 2008)

IQ is easy to measure and reflects something real. But scientists hunting among human genes for the factors that shape intelligence are discovering they are more elusive than expected. Researchers have powerful new technologies to probe genes and the brain, looking for the basis of intelligence differences among individuals. Their work is providing a new understanding of what intelligence is, while revealing unanticipated complexity in the interplay between genes and environment. The more scientists learn about the role of genes in intelligence, the more mysterious it becomes, but the quest is still worth pursuing. Currently available online at <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=searching-for-intelligence-in-our-genes>



## ECONOMIC SECURITY

Bate, Roger; Nugent, Rachel THE DEADLY WORLD OF FAKE DRUGS (Foreign Policy, no. 168, September/October 2008, pp. 57-65)

The fake-drug sector has continued to grow in speed and sophistication and, in the past decade, become one of the world's fastest-growing criminal enterprises, says the author, a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. Knock-offs have expanded, with often fatal consequences for unaware patients, from mostly lifestyle drugs to pharmaceuticals used in treating major diseases. A lack of quality oversight and enforcement makes poorer countries the most lucrative potential markets for counterfeiters. Bate points to China and India as the largest sources of dangerous fakes. The Indian government denies it has a problem, and in China, the military is rumored to be engaged in manufacturing and trade of fake drugs. The international community officially condemns counterfeiters but is too afraid to engage on a politically sensitive issue. NGOs contribute to the problem by purchasing inadequately-tested copy drugs from China and India. The author believes that pursuing major producers of fakes will require far more effective international drug testing and oversight as well as determination and funds. But he fears that it may take large-scale casualties for real action to occur.

Galbraith, James K. HOW TO SAVE CAPITALISM? PLAN (Harper's, November 2008)

Galbraith writes that the challenge is not to save capitalism, but but "how to save the unique and successful mixed economy built in the United States over the eighty-five years since the New Deal." The U.S. economic system has a large public sector, which has traditionally been concerned with a range of projects for the common good. However, Galbraith argues that these functions are in peril, after thirty years of attack by "predators posing as conservatives and mouthing the rhetoric of 'free markets' ... their goal is to use the government to build monopolies, to control resources, to block regulation, to crush unions, to divert as much as possible from taxpayers into private pockets." He notes that government planning has been a "dirty word" in the U.S. for decades, the hard-line right believing that it "destroyed freedom." Galbraith counters that, if there is no planning, the only people in charge are lobbyists for the corporate world. He believes that the U.S. government needs a capacity to think and plan that is independent of Congress or the lobbying process, that will convey a sense of national purpose, and at present, such a plan needs to center around energy and climate change. This article is part of a series in the November issue of Harper's, HOW TO SAVE CAPITALISM: FUNDAMENTAL FIXES FOR A COLLAPSING SYSTEM. Currently available online at <http://harpers.org/archive/2008/11/0082254>

Pollan, Michael FARMER IN CHIEF (New York Times Magazine, October 9, 2008)

In an article framed as a letter to the President-elect, the author notes that food, an issue barely mentioned during the election campaign, may become a primary issue facing the next administration. While both candidates spent a lot of time talking about health care, energy independence and climate change, Pollan notes that the next President "will quickly discover that the way we currently grow, process and eat food in America goes to the heart of all three problems". Food production, processing and distribution in the U.S. is one of the biggest consumers of fossil fuels, using ten calories of hydrocarbon energy to bring one calorie of food energy from the farm to the supermarket. The goals of food production for most of the last few decades have been to produce large quantities of cheap, subsidized commodity crops, used in heavily processed convenience foods, contributing to the poor diet of most Americans. Pollan notes that the main challenge is to wean U.S. food production off fossil fuels and back onto "incoming sunlight" by relocalizing agriculture. Currently available online at <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/12/magazine/12policy-t.html>

Rickards, James A MOUNTAIN, OVERLOOKED (Washington Post, October 2, 2008, p. A23)

The author, former general counsel for the hedge fund Long-Term Capital Management (LTCM), which collapsed in 1999, writes that the complex mathematical models that Wall Street firms used



to calculate risk contained a “colossal conceptual error” — the assumption that risk is randomly distributed, and that an individual default event has no bearing on any other event. He notes that LTCM did not realize this a decade ago, and Wall Street does not appear to comprehend it today. Rickards argues that what was never considered was the overall stability of the system, which may appear random and chaotic, but “beyond chaos lies complexity that truly is unpredictable and cannot be modeled with even the most powerful computers.” Systems such as financial markets have complex interlocking relationships, not unlike a mountain covered with snow, in which one snowflake may not set off an avalanche by itself, but with the next one, and the next, it could. He notes that extreme events, such as are occurring now in the global financial markets, occur more often than most models predict, and because “we have scaled the system to unprecedented size, we can expect catastrophes of unprecedented size as well.” Available online at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/01/AR2008100101149.html>

## INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Abramowitz, Morton; Pickering, Thomas MAKING INTERVENTION WORK: IMPROVING THE UN'S ABILITY TO ACT (Foreign Affairs, Vol. 87, No. 5, September/October 2008, pp. 100-109) The United Nations must streamline its decision-making process, if the organization ever hopes to transform its ideals into actions, argue two former U.S. ambassadors. Grave crises in Burma and Sudan show that authoritarian leaders do not respond to international condemnation and that sanctions often have little impact on regime leaders. The authors point to UN reform reports underlining the importance of creating a UN “rapid reaction force,” closer coordination with nongovernmental humanitarian organizations, and more robust UN diplomacy. But while institutional change is essential, so too will be the daunting challenges of convincing China and Russia -- as well as skeptical legislators -- in the United States and Europe to take action.

Amend, Kurt COUNTERINSURGENCY PRINCIPLES FOR THE DIPLOMAT (Small Wars Journal, Posted July 19, 2008)

The recent resurgence of interest in insurgency and counterinsurgency has revealed a deficit in material written by and for the diplomat, the actor ostensibly responsible for the political component of a counterinsurgency campaign. To make political headway the diplomat-counterinsurgent needs to develop a strategic narrative, build a political strategy around the narrative, acquire expertise, become a catalyst for political change, and maximize contact with the local population. In doing so, he will make important contributions to and help accelerate success in a counterinsurgency campaign. Available online at <http://smallwarsjournal.com/mag/docs-temp/75-amend.pdf>

Ganji, Akbar THE LATTER-DAY SULTAN: POWER AND POLITICS IN IRAN (Foreign Affairs, Vol. 87, No. 6, November-December 2008, pp. 45-65)

According to Ganji, an Iranian journalist and dissident, Iran's problems will not go away with a departure of President Ahmedinejad. The most powerful person in Iran remains supreme leader Ali Khamenei; formally and informally over 20 years, he has made the key decisions for the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government, and has extended his influence into economic, religious, and cultural affairs through military force. As in a sultanate, Khamenei allows elections without ever sacrificing sovereignty, promotes and demotes officials at will, and leaves the agencies of state without power while using their resources for repression. Although officially an Islamic theocracy, in fact Islam does not run Iran but rather acts to serve Khamenei's state apparatus. “Given Khamenei's hold on power, it is safe to expect more continuity than difference even if Ahmadinejad loses next year's presidential election,” Ganji said. “This is especially true in the realm of foreign affairs: Ahmadinejad's blustery rhetoric aside, the defining features of Iranian foreign policy have been more or less constant over the past three decades.”

Iranian advocates of democracy and human rights oppose U.S. threats of military strike against Iran. The Bush administration's blunt language and tactics have only strengthened Khamenei and made transition to democracy more difficult, Ganji said. Currently available online at <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20081001essay87604/akbar-ganji/the-latter-day-sultan.html>

Hooper, Craig; Dolbow, Jim TO WIN HEARTS AND MINDS, GIVE COAST GUARD NEW HOSPITAL SHIPS (National Defense Magazine, vol. 93, no. 660, November 2008)  
The authors write that humanitarian missions are a perfect fit for the Coast Guard. Hospital ships should be added to its fleet; properly equipped, the Coast Guard can carry out missions, they say, in the diplomatic space in which the Navy cannot. Coast Guard hospital ships would offer the United States another way "to engage in politically sensitive disaster response and medical outreach projects." Such ships have the added advantage of being suitable platforms for command and control, educational outreach or floating bases. As the Navy's two existing hospital ships face retirement, the Coast Guard has an opportunity to convince Congress to fund this mission in a new way allowing the Navy to focus on its own modernization projects. This article has been cited by the blog Information Dissemination as a "clever idea," and one deserving of serious discussion. Available online at <http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/archive/2008/November/Pages/ToWinHeartsandMinds,GiveCoastGuardNewHospitalShips.aspx>

Kagan, Robert THE SEPTEMBER 12 PARADIGM: AMERICA, THE WORLD, AND GEORGE W. BUSH (Foreign Affairs, Vol. 87, No. 5, September/October 2008, pp. 25-39)  
Future presidents should not shy away from using U.S. power to promote American values. September 11 changed a presidential administration once leery of "nation building," into an activist for democracy, achieving minimal results while accelerating growing ambiguity from Europe. The United States and other democratic nations share a common aspiration for a liberal international order, argues the author, which is increasingly coming under pressure from both "great-power autocracies" and "radical Islamic terrorism." In the face of these challenges, "a return to realism" is as important as ever, and all sides must come together to offer both words and actions in democracy's defense. Currently available online at <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20080901faessay87502-p0/robert-kagan/the-september-12-paradigm.html>

Kinzer, Stephen INSIDE IRAN'S FURY (Smithsonian, vol. 39, no. 7, October 2008, pp.60-70)  
Americans need to understand some Iranian history before they cast the Tehran government as an international renegade in an attempt to acquire nuclear weapons, Kinzer asserts. Iran, one of the world's oldest nations, enjoyed an era of science and culture when Europe was in the Dark Ages. It began to decline in the 18th century, due to domination by foreign powers; in the 19th century, with the help of corrupt and ineffective Persian rulers, Britain gained influence. Iranians also have fresh memory of the 1953 CIA-backed coup, which deposed a democratic government and installed the authoritarian Mohammed Reza as Shah. Kinzer notes that a long history of foreign intrusion is behind Iran's push to build a nuclear program. However, the current regime maintains public support only through nationalist and anti-American propaganda; desire for greater engagement with the outside world is building today among the Iranian public, especially young people, who comprise a majority of the population. Currently available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/people-places/iran-fury.html>

Kohn, Richard COMING SOON: A CRISIS IN CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS (World Affairs, vol. 170, no. 3, Winter 2008, pp. 69-80)  
The author, Professor of History and Peace, War, and Defense at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, writes that the next president will face a fallout in relations between the armed forces and the civilian leadership almost as bad as the crisis that nearly sank the Clinton administration in 1993. The military leadership has become deeply suspicious of the civilian political class, for many reasons, including the bungled Iraq occupation, dislike of former Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, an overstretched Army and Marine Corps, and the absence of offspring of the elites in military ranks. Unsustainable military budgets, the mismatch between current threats

and a Cold-War-era military structure, and social issues, such as gays in the military and the spread of evangelical Christianity in the ranks will add to the tensions facing the next administration. The author urges the next President to appoint a Secretary of Defense who is knowledgeable and politically skilled, insulate the military from partisan politics and make frequent visits to military bases to help mend frayed relations.

St. John, Ronald Bruce LIBYA AND THE UNITED STATES: A FAUSTIAN PACT? (Middle East Policy, vol. 15, no. 1, Spring 2008, pp. 133-148)

Having served on the International Advisory Board of THE JOURNAL OF LIBYAN STUDIES, Dr. St. John feels both the United States and Libya have much to gain from a deeper relationship. Before establishing broader ties with Libya, the U.S. expects this country to end support for terrorism, acknowledge responsibility for the actions of Libyan officials, pay all appropriate compensation to the families of victims of the Lockerbie bombing, and eliminate weapons of mass destruction. Though the Libyan decision to renounce unconventional weapons marked a rare success for traditional arms-control diplomacy, issues of democracy and human rights have also been added to the list of American concerns about Libya.

Zambelis, Chris; Gentry, Brandon CHINA THROUGH ARAB EYES: AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST (Parameters, vol. 38, no. 1, Spring 2008, pp. 60-72)

Gentry and Zambelis, both associates with the political and security risk analysis firm Helios Global, Inc., focus on the influence of the U.S. in the Middle East. This influence is currently being challenged by China, as Beijing skillfully exploits Arab dissatisfaction with American policies. Sino-Arab relations are poised to develop and expand across social, political, economic, and cultural sectors. Washington cannot afford to ignore the unavoidable truth of the Arab world's growing interest in China's potential. Currently available online at <http://www.carlisle.army.mil/usawc/Parameters/08spring/zambelis.htm>

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

THE EDUCATION REVIEW (Washington Post Magazine, August 3, 2008)

This latest annual education issue focuses on three trends in education in the Washington, DC area that has implications for other school systems. In FAST LEARNERS, Emily Messner looks at a Montgomery County, Maryland, teacher in an acclaimed math and science magnet program who found that many students, although capable of more advanced mathematics classes, were still struggling. In LATE BLOOMER, Susan Sharpe discusses a retired English professor who signed up for a college course in botany and found himself in a familiar environment, but as a student on the other side of the desk. The last story, LESSONS FAR FROM HOME, chronicles the experiences and challenges of teachers hired from the Philippines to work in the Prince George's County, Maryland school system.

Adams, Jim THAT CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON (American Indian, vol. 9, no. 3, Fall 2008, pp. 54-59)

Jim Thorpe was American Indian Country's greatest athlete, having won three gold medals at the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm and played on the national college football team from the Carlisle (Pennsylvania) Industrial Indian School, winning a landmark 1911 game against Harvard. A major blow to Thorpe's reputation occurred when his amateur status was called into question, resulting in his Olympic medals being withdrawn. The author notes that this decision has been widely regarded as "official infamy"; a campaign by Thorpe's daughter was successful in restoring his medals. Adams writes that Thorpe's athletic achievements came at a low point in American-Indian history, only a generation after the Indian Wars; his exploits helped revive morale among the Indian population and create a new pan-Indian identity.

Christian, Margena BECOMING TYLER: BILL COLLECTOR TURNED BILLION-DOLLAR MEDIA MOGUL WAS MOLDED FROM PAIN, PROMISE AND PERSISTENCE (Ebony, October 2008 Vol. 63, No. 12, pp. 72-84)

Tyler Perry is an accomplished African American director, screenwriter, playwright and actor. Yet just ten years ago he was struggling, recently homeless, hungry and having trouble paying the rent on his apartment, yet persevered believing in his talent and message. In 1998 he finally found success in the theater. In 2005 his DIARY OF A MAD BLACK WOMAN brought him success in film. Perry has thrived in his movie career without the help of Hollywood; he owns 100 percent of his movies. He has also started added his name in front of his movies and plays: "I started to have them put my name on the marquee and on the ticket so that people would know this play is different from other shows. I was building a brand and it started to work. With film, I knew other movies would come along and try to duplicate what I was doing. That's why my name is front of my movies." From his Tyler Perry Studios in Atlanta he now manages a multimillion dollar enterprise. Having just turned 39, these achievements may be only the beginning for this tremendously talented individual.

Conrad, Cecelia BLACK WOMEN: THE UNFINISHED AGENDA (American Prospect, vol. 19, no. 10, October 2008, pp. A12-A15)

Conrad, an economist, is concerned that salaries of African-American women have not kept up with the rest of the population. She contends that persistent racial stereotypes have made it harder for black female high-school graduates to find their first job and then subsequently attain the same work resumes as other employees. Conrad credits the Social Security system for reducing poverty among black women, even though black women usually contribute less than other employees and at 65, receive less money from Social Security. She states that the presidential candidates should evaluate their anti-poverty initiatives for the specific impacts on black women.

Fitzgerald, Frances THE NEW EVANGELICALS (New Yorker, vol. 84, no. 19, June 30, 2008, pp. 28-35)

There is a new movement among evangelicals that is friendly to science, environmental protection (including fighting global warming), caring for the poor, immigration reform and humane treatment of detainees, and it is "posing the first major challenge to the religious right in a quarter of a century," writes journalist and author Frances Fitzgerald. Evangelical leaders such as Joel Hunter and Rick Warren are setting a national agenda very different from that of the fundamentalist right that had so much influence in the 2004 presidential election. The new evangelicals are theologically conservative and remain opposed to sex outside of heterosexual marriage and abortion, but "they lack the cultural attitudes descended from the fundamentalist resistance to modernist thought, such as a distrust of science, a rejection of institutional solutions to poverty." Hunter and others have been criticized, but polls show that half of all evangelicals have substantial differences with the religious right. "The younger generation, that's what's driving this thing," Hunter says. Pew polls find that while evangelicals aged 18-30 care more about abortion than their elders, they are less bothered by gay marriage, more concerned about health care and the poor, and more likely to champion environmental causes. The Democrats may pick up more evangelical votes in 2008, "but for reasons that could be circumstantial," says Fitzgerald. Polls during the primaries "showed that evangelicals were more concerned with jobs and the economy than with gay rights and abortion."

Prendergast, Amy SCIENTIFIC BIOGRAPHY IN THE UNITED STATES (Choice, vol. 46, no. 2, October 2008, pp. 227-237)

The author, a reference librarian at the University of South Alabama, notes that biographies can cast a valuable and interesting light on historical figures and the era in which they live. Prendergast focuses on scientists, beginning in the pre-Revolutionary War days when science was often both an avocation pursued by leisured gentlemen, and as a way to bring the rising United States to the attention of England and Europe. By World War II, scholarship and changing trends accelerated many changes in science as well as in society at large. Controversy arose

when scientific ideals of free intellectual exchange came into conflict with government interests in secrecy along with the discovery of the structure of DNA and the new fields of research that opened. Recent years have witnessed a spate of biographies and autobiographies of American scientists, from Benjamin Franklin, "the quintessential American scientist/statesman," to Rachel Carson. Prendergast considers such works chronologically and examines the way scientists embody the issues of their era as science and invention and their practitioners continue to influence American life and to be influenced by their political and social milieu.

Urschel, Donna CREATING THE UNITED STATES (Library of Congress Information Bulletin, vol. 67, no. 6, June 2008, pp. 95-102)

"Creating the United States" is the title of a current exhibition at the Library of Congress on the founding of the U.S., as revealed by documents from the Library of Congress' collection that chronicle the early years of the country's formation. This exhibition of colonial-era documents is evidence of the insight and creativity of the founding fathers, as well as collaboration and much compromise. It demonstrates that the Declaration, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights are living instruments that are central to the evolution of the United States. The search for a plan of national government and the creation of the Constitution was a slow, difficult process, as Americans moved from a patriarchal monarchy to citizen-leaders in a representative republic. Congress passed proposed amendments to the Constitution as one of its first orders of business. Viewed as unnecessary by many and a mere diversion by others, the first ten amendments, which became known as the Bill of Rights, became the bedrock of individual rights and liberties.

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