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SIGNIFICANT E-DOCUMENTS

ABOLISHING NUCLEAR WEAPONS: WHY THE UNITED STATES SHOULD LEAD. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. George Perkovich. Web posted October 24, 2008. Efforts to re-invigorate a movement to abolish nuclear weapons are rising on the international agenda. For states without weapons, talk of nuclear disarmament is embraced as a welcome change, but viewed with skepticism. The author outlines four security areas where the long-term project of abolishing nuclear weapons would best serve U.S. interests: preventing proliferation, preventing nuclear terrorism, reducing toward zero the threat of nuclear annihilation, and fostering new optimism for U.S. global leadership. [Note: contains copyrighted material]
http://carnegieendowment.org/files/abolishing_nuclear_weapons.pdf [PDF format, 8 pages].

ABSENTEE VOTING FOR U.S. CITIZENS. U.S. Embassy in London. Web posted October 2008. The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) grants U.S. citizens overseas the right to vote in federal elections in the United States. Federal elections include primaries, as well as general and special elections for the President, Vice President, U.S. Senators, and U.S. Representatives to Congress. The UOCAVA applies only to federal elections. However, many states have enacted legislation whereby certain categories of citizens residing overseas can vote by absentee ballot for state or local officials. The same procedures for obtaining ballots are used for both local and federal elections.
http://www.usembassy.org.uk/cons_new/acs/scs/voting.html [HTML format, various paging].

ADMINISTERING GREEN PROGRAMS IN CONGRESS: ISSUES AND OPTIONS. Congressional Research Service, RL34694, Library of Congress. Jacob R. Straus. Web posted November 1, 2008. Programs to create an environmentally conscious workplace have long existed on Capitol Hill. Congress has been working to reduce consumption and conserve energy since the 1970s. Traditionally, these programs have been administered by the Architect of the Capitol. In recent Congresses, the House of Representatives and the Senate have created separate greening programs. In addition, the Architect of the Capitol has developed green programs for the Capitol Complex. In the 110th Congress, the Architect of the Capitol's role in administering facilities-related programs on behalf of the Senate has remained unchanged. The Architect of the Capitol also administers greening programs for the Capitol Complex.
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL34694.pdf> [PDF format, 35 pages].

AN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TEMPORARY U.S. PRESENCE IN IRAQ AND ITS ACTIVITIES AND WITHDRAWAL FROM IRAQ, BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT. American Friends Service Committee. Web posted October 22, 2008. The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), an international peace and social justice organization, has posted the first public English translation of the latest status of forces agreement between the U.S and Iraqi administrations on its web site. If ratified in Iraq, the agreement would permit U.S. troops to remain the country once the United Nations mandate ends this year and may begin the process of establishing permanent U.S. military bases there. The Arabic-language version of this document appeared in a major daily newspaper, Al-Sabah Al-Jadeed. [Note: contains copyrighted material]
<http://www.afsc.org/ht/a/GetDocumentAction/i/69064> [PDF format, 17 pages].

APPROACHES AND TOOLS FOR SEVERE ACCIDENT ANALYSIS FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. International Atomic Energy Agency. Web posted November 6, 2008. The publication specifically devoted to the analysis of severe accidents. Its application is oriented mainly towards pressurized water reactors (PWRs) and boiling water reactors (BWRs) and, to a more limited extent, water cooled water moderated power reactors (WWERs) and pressurized heavy water reactors (PHWRs). [Note: contains copyrighted material]
http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/Pub1327_web.pdf [PDF format, 220 pages].

AUSTRALIA: TERRORISM LAWS CONTROL ORDERS. Law Library of Congress. Web posted November 3, 2008.

Australia has the legislative basis for Control Orders, which are used to impose obligations, prohibitions, or restrictions on persons as deemed necessary to protect the public from terrorist acts. Control Orders may be requested by the Australian Federal Police and are issued by a court. The procedures governing Control Orders, the types of controls that may be imposed, and applicable time frames are set forth in the Criminal Code Act. An initial Interim Control Order, issued with the Attorney-General's consent, only becomes a Confirmed Control Order upon the court's approval, following a hearing at which the subject of the order is allowed to rebut the evidence. The Act provides streamlined procedures for urgent circumstances.
<http://www.loc.gov/law/help/australia-control-orders.pdf> [PDF format, 5 pages].

BACCALAUREATE EDUCATION AND THE EMPLOYMENT DECISION: SELF EMPLOYMENT AND THE CLASS OF 1993. U.S. Small Business Administration. Chad Moutray. Web posted October 27, 2008.

The study shows that the self-employed closely resemble the larger population in many ways. Unlike others who pursue wage-and-salary occupations in the not-for-profit or government sectors, students in the class of 1993 who were self-employed in 2003 were less likely to have earned or be currently enrolled in graduate education. Graduates with social science and "other" majors were more likely to be self-employed. In addition, those individuals who chose self-employment had shorter job tenures than others, such as those who now work for government or the military.
<http://www.sba.gov/advo/research/rs333tot.pdf> [PDF format, 37 pages].

"CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW? HOW CELL PHONES ARE TRANSFORMING MARKETS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA." Center for Global Development. Jenny Aker. October 27, 2008.

The author assesses the impact of mobile phones on grain market performance in one of the world's poorest countries. Cell phones have a great impact over time: as more markets have cell phone coverage, the greater the reduction in price differences. It is primarily due to changes in grain traders' marketing behavior: cell phones lead to reduced search costs, more market information, and increased efficiency in moving goods across the country. The report concludes by outlining the ways in which information technology can be used as an effective poverty-reduction strategy in low-income countries. [Note: contains copyrighted material]
<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/894409/> [Website, click to download PDF file, 3 pages].

CAPACITY SURVEY: REGIONAL AND OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY 2008. United Nations University. November 10, 2008.

The study is the first global survey of the capacities of all regional organizations in the field of peace of security, conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping, enforcement, and peacebuilding. Over the last decade, regional organizations have been empowered by the United Nations and national governments concurrently to maintain peace and security. The Survey maps out, in a comparative and descriptive fashion, their history, capacities and operational experience. [Note: contains copyrighted material]
http://www.cris.unu.edu/fileadmin/user_upload/capacity_survey.pdf [PDF format, 159 pages].

THE CHALLENGE OF HUNGER 2008. International Food Policy Research Institute. Klaus Von Grebmer et al. October 14, 2008.

The report comes at a time of dramatic changes in world food markets, with high food prices threatening the food security of millions of vulnerable households. Hunger and malnutrition are back in the headlines. The report incorporates data only until 2006, the most recent available. However, it highlights the countries and regions facing the greatest risk in the current context of high food prices. 33 countries have levels of hunger that are alarming or extremely alarming. The index shows that South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa continue to suffer from high levels of hunger, and whereas South Asia has made rapid progress in combating hunger, Sub-Saharan Africa has made only marginal progress. For hungry and malnourished people in these regions, rising food prices pose serious threats. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/cp/ghi08.pdf> [PDF format, 44 pages].

CHINA'S PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS. National Bureau of Economic Research. Huifang Tian and John Whalley. October 2008.

China is now both the largest and most rapidly growing carbon emitter, and has much higher emission intensity relative to GDP than OECD countries. In the Copenhagen negotiation, there will be strong pressure on China to take on emissions reduction commitments and China's concern will be to do so in ways that allow continuation of a high growth rate and fast development. Larger funds and flexibility in their use will also raise China's willingness to make commitments. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w14460.pdf> [PDF format, 37 pages].

CHINESE NATIONAL STRATEGY OF TOTAL WAR. Air University Research Information Management System. Michael J. Good. Web posted October 26, 2008.

The recent trends in the growth of China's national power across all elements are analyzed to determine if there is an underlying national strategy based on the Chinese concept of total warfare. The research seeks to determine if China is currently engaged in a total war with the United States across nontraditional forms of conflict including economic, political, information, financial, cyber, and industrial warfare. The results indicate that China does possess a long term national strategy for engagement in a total war with the United States consistent with Chinese military strategy, and is actively pursuing this strategy across all elements of national power.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<https://www.afresearch.org/skins/rims/display.aspx?ModuleID=be0e99f3-fc56-4ccb-8dfe-670c0822a153&Action=researchproject&ObjectID=f2bb9596-5d11-4a87-aeb1-587bd06add3>
[Website, click to view PDF format, 66 pages].

COAL INITIATIVE REPORTS: A RESOURCE AND TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT OF COAL UTILIZATION IN INDIA. Pew Center on Global Climate Change. Ananth P. Chikkatur. October 2008.

Electricity production in India is projected to expand dramatically in the near term to energize new industrial development, while also easing the energy shortages throughout the country. Much of the new growth in electricity production will be fueled by domestic coal resources; however, there is worldwide concern about increased coal use, as greater carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from coal combustion will exacerbate climate change. The study reviews coal utilization in India and

examines current and emerging coal power technologies with near- and long-term potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from coal power generation. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/india-coal-technology.pdf> [PDF format, 52 pages].

THE COST OF FAILURE FACTORIES IN AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION. American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. Mark Schneider. Web posted October 30, 2008. American higher education absorbs a larger share of GDP than that of other countries, but it has not produced a particularly high proportion of college graduates. College graduation rates are actually worse than the very low benchmark of high school graduation rates, but higher education institutions are not held accountable. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.28863/pub_detail.asp [HTML format, various paging].

COSTS OF ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU) FISHING IN EU FISHERIES. Pew Environment Group. Rob Tinch et al. November 2008.

According to the research, more than 27,000 new jobs could be created in the European Union (EU) through the elimination of Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing. IUU fishing takes many forms, including fishing without a license, misreporting of catches, fishing in closed areas or with illegal gear, and taking undersized fish. The research includes selected costs and key stocks where clear evidence of IUU fishing exists. However, the true costs of IUU fishing are likely to be considerably higher than these estimates. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Protecting_ocean_life/eftec_Costs_IUU_Fishing.pdf [PDF format, 75 pages].

COUNTING ON GRADUATION. Education Trust. Web posted October 26, 2008.

Among industrialized nations, the United States is the only country in which today's young people are less likely than their parents to have earned a high school diploma. According to the Trust, the policymakers in many states are setting graduation improvement targets that won't get our young people ready to compete in the knowledge-driven world of the 21st century. Federal law requires states to set benchmarks for improvements in reading and math achievement and for graduating high school students on time. However, the various methods states use to compute graduation rates obscure the reality that too few students are completing high school on time. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www2.edtrust.org/NR/rdonlyres/6CA84103-BB12-4754-8675-17B18A8582AC/0/CountingonGraduation1008.pdf> [PDF format, 10 pages].

COUNTRY ANALYSIS BRIEFS: CARIBBEAN. Energy Information Administration. Web posted October 30, 2008.

The islands of the Caribbean basin are predominantly net energy importers, with the exception of Trinidad and Tobago. Agriculture and natural resource extraction activities continue to constitute the basis of the islands' economies, though the tourism and service sectors are growing. In recent years, there has been concern that higher global oil prices will impair the Caribbean economies, as they are highly dependent upon oil for the energy needs. In response, the island nations have been discussing ways to promote alternative energy sources and better integrate their energy

sectors.

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

DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S INDEPENDENT SPENDING LEAD MAY DECIDE MARGINAL HOUSE RACES. Campaign Finance Institute. Web posted October 25, 2008.

One-sided party spending, combined with strong fundraising by the candidates, has put Democrats in a strong position to gain a significant number of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives for the second election in a row. The conclusion is based on the analysis of the candidates and parties' reports filed with the Federal Election Commission on October 15, covering activity through September 30, as well as the parties' reported independent spending through October 21st. The open seats, where the incumbent is not running in the general election, have been looking like fertile ground for the Democrats. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.cfinst.org/pr/prRelease.aspx?ReleaseID=207> [HTML format, various paging].

DESPITE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES, PEOPLE TRAVELING OVER HOLIDAYS FEEL TIME AND MONEY SPENT IS SMALL PRICE TO PAY TO BE WITH LOVED ONES. Travel Industry Association. November 11, 2008.

Despite current economic challenges, 60 percent of people who will travel during the holidays strongly feel the time and money spent is a small price to pay to be with people they love, it was revealed in a survey quantifying why people take trips during the holidays. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.tia.org/pressmedia/pressrec.asp?Item=925> [HTML format, various paging].

DRUG TRAFFICKING AS A SECURITY THREAT IN WEST AFRICA. Office on Drugs and Crime, United Nations. Web posted October 28, 2008.

According to the report, a declining U.S. cocaine market and a rising European one appear to have prompted South American cocaine traffickers to make use of low-governance areas in West Africa as transit zones. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Drug%20Trafficking-West%20Africa-ENG-final.pdf> [PDF format, 54 pages].

ENSURING STUDENT ACCESS TO FEDERAL LOANS. U.S. Department of Education. Web posted November 8, 2008.

The U.S. Department of Education is ensuring students and their families continue to have uninterrupted and timely access to Federal student loans by taking steps to maintain stability in student lending through both the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) and Direct Loan Program. As credit markets for student loans continue to tighten, there is a growing concern among schools, students and lenders about the availability of funds for the 2009-10 academic year.

<http://www.ed.gov/students/college/aid/ecasla-facts.html> [HTML format, various paging].

EUROPE@RISK: A GLOBAL RISK NETWORK BRIEFING. World Economic Forum. Web posted October 26, 2008.

The study examines the global risks pertinent to Europe, Russia, Eastern Europe, Turkey and

Central Asia. The current financial crisis will have profound effects on the region and its consequences on the real economy are still unfolding. Banks on both sides of the Atlantic were bailed out and rescue plans for the financial sector were put in place all over Europe. The report highlights that the contagion effects of the financial meltdown will affect the real economy of the region. In Western Europe, growth prospects are being revised downwards, industrial production is decreasing in several countries and unemployment is likely to increase. In Central Asia, countries which have high levels of financing through international capital markets will be more vulnerable to the global financial turmoil. [Note: contains copyrighted material]
<http://www.weforum.org/pdf/globalrisk/Europe@Risk08.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages].

FACT SHEET: PROTECTING VOTING RIGHTS AND PROSECUTING VOTER FRAUD. U.S. Department of Justice. November 2008.

Among the Department of Justice's highest priorities are protecting voting rights and combating voter fraud. The Department's Civil Rights Division enforces specific federal laws that help to ensure all qualified voters have an opportunity to cast their ballots and have them counted, while the Department's Criminal Division oversees the nationwide enforcement of federal laws integrity of the federal election process.
http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/pr/press_releases/2008/10/10-31-08_crt-crm-fact-sheet.pdf [PDF format, 3 pages].

FACT SHEET: TREASURY STRENGTHENS PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST IRAN. U.S. Department of Treasury. Web posted November 6, 2008.

On October 16, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which has members representing 32 jurisdictions and is the world's premier standard-setting body for anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CFT), warned for the fourth time about the risks posed to the international financial system by continuing deficiencies in Iran's AML/CFT regime. The FATF called for all countries to strengthen preventive measures to protect their financial systems from this risk. Consistent with multilateral calls for action, the U.S. Treasury Department is revoking the "U-turn" general license today to protect U.S. financial institutions individually, and the U.S. financial system as a whole, from the significant terrorist financing and proliferation risks posed by Iran.
<http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/hp1258.htm> [HTML format, various paging].

FEDERAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGENDA FOR NET-ZERO ENERGY, HIGH-PERFORMANCE GREEN BUILDINGS. National Science and Technology Council. Web posted October 23, 2008.

The construction and buildings sector consumes enormous amounts of energy, clean water, and materials. Buildings use about one-third of the world's energy. The agenda contains six major building technology goals that define the major transformational advances needed for energy, water, and material use for Net Zero Energy, high-performance green buildings.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://ostp.gov/galleries/NSTC%20Reports/FederalRDagendaforNetZeroEnergyHighPerformanceGreenBuildings.pdf> [PDF format, 76 pages].

FIRST STEPS TOWARD RESTORING AMERICAN LEADERSHIP: LEGALITY MATTERS.

Century Foundation. Jeffrey Laurenti. Web posted November 8, 2008.

The author, Laurenti, suggests that to reclaim American leadership and credibility in resolving the many deepening crises on America's international agenda, the next administration must move swiftly to reverse the U.S. rupture with international law and institutions of the past decade. The report argues that the collapse of America's global standing during this decade has real and measurable consequences in shriveled U.S. capacity to influence events worldwide. The United States had honored international legal commitments without harm to America's core interests from the presidencies of Truman and Eisenhower to those of Ford and Carter. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.tcf.org/publications/internationalaffairs/Jeff_Agenda_Long.pdf [PDF format, 19 pages].

FOREIGN-BORN VETERANS OF THE US ARMED FORCES. Migration Policy Institute. Web posted October 31, 2008.

As the United States prepares to commemorate Veterans Day on Nov. 11, the report gives an analysis of a sometimes overlooked group of U.S. armed forces veterans: those born in other countries. There are over 644,000 foreign-born veterans of the U.S. armed forces, accounting for nearly 3 percent of all surviving U.S. veterans. This figure does not include those currently serving in the military. The analysis shows that most foreign-born U.S. veterans migrated from European or Latin American countries. The countries where the highest numbers of U.S. immigrant veterans were born were the Philippines, representing 12 percent of foreign-born veterans, and Mexico, birthplace to 11 percent. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/FS22_Veterans_103008.pdf [PDF format, 4 pages].

THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS: THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF). Congressional Research Service, RS22976, Library of Congress. Martin A. Weiss. October 27, 2008.

The report discusses two potential roles the International Monetary Fund (IMF) may have in helping to resolve the current global financial crisis: (1) immediate crisis control through balance of payments lending to emerging market and less-developed countries and (2) increased surveillance of the global economy through better coordination with the international financial regulatory agencies.

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS22976_20081027.pdf [PDF format, 6 pages].

HIDDEN RESERVOIR: WHY WATER EFFICIENCY IS THE BEST SOLUTION FOR THE SOUTHEAST. American Rivers. Jenny Hoffner. Web posted October 25, 2008.

The Southeast can save over \$700 million and new water supply for over one million residents by embracing water efficiency solutions like stopping leaks and upgrading old buildings. The report outlines nine proven, timely and cost-effective steps that local leaders can take to save water and help ensure their rivers remain valuable community assets. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://amr.convio.net/site/DocServer/SE_Water_Efficiency_Oct_2008_opt.pdf?docID=8421&JSessionIdr001=tj4otzeo24.app14a [PDF format, 36 pages].

HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY STIMULATE THE ECONOMY. Heritage Foundation. William W. Beach. October 24, 2008.

When the economy is struggling, Congress has a tendency to invoke the same tried and failed policies of the past. Typically, these policies promise hundreds of billions of dollars in government spending while doing little to actually revitalize economic activity. According to Beach, the test for distinguishing good stimulus ideas from bad ones should be this: Is the proposal likely to raise the economy to a sustained, higher level of growth? [Note: contains copyrighted material] http://www.heritage.org/Research/Economy/upload/wm_2113.pdf [PDF format, 3 pages].

ICE MULTIFACETED STRATEGY LEADS TO RECORD ENFORCEMENT RESULTS
REMOVALS, CRIMINAL ARRESTS, AND WORKSITE INVESTIGATIONS SOARED IN FISCAL YEAR 2008. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement]. Web posted October 25, 2008. Reflecting the impact of heightened, strategic enforcement efforts, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) efforts reached record levels in virtually every enforcement category in fiscal year 2008, from criminal, gang and fugitive alien arrests to federal prosecutions and formal deportations. The significant increase is a direct result of ICE's expanded interior immigration enforcement strategy, focusing on three priorities, targeting criminal and fugitive aliens, eliminating the magnet of illegal employment, and dismantling the infrastructure that supports illegal immigration including the criminal organizations engaged in wide-spread identity theft and document fraud. <http://www.ice.gov/pi/nr/0810/081023washington.htm> [HTML format, various paging].

INTERNATIONAL LABOR MIGRATION IN A GLOBALIZING ECONOMY. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Robert E. B. Lucas. Web posted October 24, 2008. As globalization spread dramatically over the last twenty years, migration expanded less rapidly than either trade or foreign investment. Nonetheless, the migration remains contentious, often being blamed for income stagnation, even as some economists praise it as the fastest route to raising world incomes. Money sent by migrants to their home countries can promote rapid growth in developing regions, and the withdrawal of laborers can induce higher wages or less underemployment for those left behind. However, the flow of money can dry up quickly and unexpectedly, as has happened recently in Mexico. [Note: contains copyrighted material] http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/international_migration_globalizing_economy.pdf [PDF format, 32 pages].

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. Global Migration Group. Web posted November 2, 2008. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in its sixtieth anniversary, remains the primary international articulation of the fundamental rights of all members of the human family. Among its main findings is the assessment that despite the many positive contributions migration makes to the development of countries of origin and destination, it is essential that migrants are seen not solely as agents of development. They are human beings with rights that States have an obligation to protect even when they exercise their sovereign right to determine who enters and remains in their territory. Cooperation between governments in countries of origin, transit and destination, and among non-governmental organizations, civil society and migrants themselves, is vital for ensuring that international human rights instruments are implemented and that migrants are aware of their rights and obligations. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.globalmigrationgroup.org/pdf/Int_Migration_Human_Rights.pdf [PDF format, 144 pages].

INSIDE OBAMA'S SWEEPING VICTORY. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. November 5, 2008.

Barack Obama captured the White House on the strength of a substantial electoral shift toward the Democratic Party and by winning a number of key groups in the middle of the electorate. Overall, 39% of voters were Democrats while 32% were Republicans, a dramatic shift from 2004 when the electorate was evenly divided. The Democratic advantage in Election Day party identification was significantly larger than in either of Bill Clinton's victories. Without a doubt, the overwhelming backing of younger voters was a critical factor in Obama's victory, according to an analysis of National Election Pool exit polls that were provided by National Public Radio. Obama drew two-thirds (66%) of the vote among those younger than age 30. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1023/exit-poll-analysis-2008> [HTML format, various paging].

KEY WORLD ENERGY STATISTICS 2008. International Energy Agency. October 2008. The study encompasses oil, natural gas, coal, electricity and renewable energy sources. It includes Canadian production of coal, the electricity consumption in Thailand, the price of diesel oil in South Africa and thousands of other useful energy facts. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.iea.org/textbase/nppdf/free/2008/key_stats_2008.pdf [PDF format, 82 pages].

MANAGING FOR EXCELLENCE. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of Interior. Web posted October 25, 2008.

This is the concluding report for the Managing for Excellence Initiative. It documents the conclusion of the initiative and charts the course for ongoing implementation of the resulting decisions. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.usbr.gov/excellence/Finals/concludingreport.pdf> [PDF format, 78 pages].

MEASURING SKILLS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY. Education Sector. Elena Silva. November 2008.

When ninth-graders at St. Andrew's School, a private boarding school in Middletown, Delaware, sat down last year to take the school's College Work and Readiness Assessment (CWRA), they faced the sort of problems that often stump city officials and administrators, but rarely show up on standardized tests, such as how to manage traffic congestion caused by population growth. The intellectual demands of 21st century work, today's leaders say, require assessments that measure more advanced skills. Today, college students, workers, and citizens must be able to solve multifaceted problems by thinking creatively and generating original ideas from multiple sources of information and tests must measure students' capacity to do such work. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.educationsector.org/usr_doc/MeasuringSkills.pdf [PDF format, 18 pages].

THE MILITARY COST OF SECURING ENERGY. National Priorities Project. Anita Dancs and Mary Orisich. Web posted November 5, 2008.

According to the report, the United States is spending between \$97 and \$215 billion dollars annually on military action to defend access to oil and natural gas reserves around the globe. It provides a critical analysis of the military cost of defending U.S. energy concerns overseas. The report estimates that the military spends up to 30 percent of its annual budget to secure access to energy resources internationally. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.nationalpriorities.org/auxiliary/energy_security/full_report.pdf [PDF format, 40 pages].

THE MONEY TRAIL: FINDING, FOLLOWING, AND FREEZING TERRORIST FINANCE.

Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Matthew Levitt and Michael Jacobson. November 2008.

The U.S. and international efforts to combat the financing of terrorism are an underappreciated and little-understood aspect of the global counterterrorism campaign. But since terrorist attacks are often inexpensive to mount, the September 11 attacks were staged for less than \$500,000, why should governments devote so much attention to tracking and severing the money trail for terrorism? The authors explore the critical role that money plays in the success of terrorist organizations, and why countering financial flows must be an integral part of the U.S.

government's counterterrorism strategy. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/templateC04.php?CID=302> [HTML format, with links to PDF files].

MUSLIMS IN AMERICA. Contexts and American Sociological Association. Jen'nan Ghazal Read. Web posted November 12, 2008.

Seven years after the terrorist attacks on U.S. soil catapulted Muslims into the American spotlight, concerns and fears over their presence and assimilation remain at an all-time high. Recent national polls find that four in 10 Americans have an unfavorable view of Islam, five in 10 believe Islam is more likely than other religions to encourage violence, and six in 10 believe Islam is very different from their own religion. All this despite the fact that seven in 10 admit they know very little about Islam. According to the author, many Americans are convinced Muslim Americans pose some kind of threat to American society. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://contexts.org/articles/files/2008/10/contexts-fall08-muslims-in-america.pdf> [PDF format, 5 pages].

NATO ENLARGEMENT: ALBANIA, CROATIA, AND POSSIBLE FUTURE CANDIDATES.

Congressional Research Service, RL34701, Library of Congress. Vincent Morelli. Web posted November 2, 2008.

At the April 2-4, 2008, NATO summit in Bucharest, Romania, it considered the candidacies for membership of Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia. The allies agreed to extend invitations to Albania and Croatia. Although the alliance determined that Macedonia met the qualifications for NATO membership, Greece blocked the invitation due to an enduring dispute over Macedonia's name. After formal accession talks, on July 9, 2008, the foreign ministers of Albania and Croatia and the permanent representatives of the current 26 NATO allies signed accession protocols amending the North Atlantic Treaty to permit Albania and Croatia's membership in NATO. The Bush Administration supports granting MAPs to Georgia and Ukraine. Both the Senate and House passed resolutions in the 110th Congress urging NATO to enter into MAPs with Georgia and Ukraine (S.Res. 439 and H.Res. 997, respectively). Despite strong U.S. support, the allies

decided after much debate not to offer MAPs to Georgia and Ukraine at Bucharest.
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL34701.pdf> [PDF format, 37 pages].

NEW SURVEY REVEALS STEEP DROPS IN OPIUM PRODUCTION AND CULTIVATION IN AFGHANISTAN. Office of National Drug Control Policy. Web posted October 26, 2008.
After two straight years of record opium production, the report finds that potential opium production in Afghanistan has declined steeply, by 31 percent, to 5,500 metric tons, down from 8,000 metric tons in 2007. In addition, Afghanistan's 2008 opium poppy crop decreased by 22 percent to 157,000 hectares, down from 202,000 hectares in 2007. The 2008 cultivation total is also nearly 10 percent below the 2006 level of 172,600. The 2008 estimate reports that opium poppy cultivation has been nearly eliminated in most of Afghanistan's North and East. There are now 18 poppy-free provinces in Afghanistan as compared to 15 in 2007, and 12 in 2006.
[Note: contains copyrighted material]
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/news/press08/102408.html> [HTML format, various paging].

NUCLEAR RENAISSANCE: ATOMS TO POWER THE FUTURE. National Center for Policy Analysis. Ross Wingo and H. Sterling Burnett. Web posted October 25, 2008.
The time is right for a reemergence of nuclear energy, according to the analysis. "As critics argue that nuclear power isn't a good option for various reasons and presidential candidates decry the use of foreign oil, I still have yet to hear of an alternative solution that addresses both the concerns of rising demand for electricity and reducing U.S. dependence on foreign imports," said NCPA Senior Fellow Sterling Burnett and co-author of the report. [Note: contains copyrighted material]
<http://www.ncpa.org/pub/ba/ba635/ba635.pdf> [PDF format, 2 pages].

THE PLUM BOOK (U.S. POLICY AND SUPPORTING POSITIONS). Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, U.S. Senate. November 12, 2008.
Every four years, just after the Presidential election, the U.S. Government Policy and Supporting Positions, commonly known as the Plum Book, is published, alternately, by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs and the House Committee on Government Reform. The Plum Book is used to identify president appointed positions within the Federal Government.
http://www.gpoaccess.gov/plumbook/2008/2008_plum_book.pdf [PDF format, 217 pages].

RUSSIAN-AMERICAN SECURITY RELATIONS AFTER GEORGIA. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Rose Gottemoeller Web posted November 4, 2008.
The crisis in Georgia bluntly revealed the failure by the United States and Russia to create a closer working relationship after the Cold War. With both countries now in presidential transition, the potential for new misunderstandings and tensions grows even greater. Established and well-understood treaties and agreements, which have previously inspired at least predictability and confidence in the bilateral relationship, could help establish a new book of rules both countries can embrace, explains Rose Gottemoeller. [Note: contains copyrighted material]
http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/russia_us_security_relations_after_georgia.pdf [PDF format, 8 pages].

SAVING OUR HISTORY: A REVIEW OF NATIONAL PARK CULTURAL RESOURCE PROGRAMS. National Academy of Public Administration. Frank Hodsoll et al. Web posted November 12, 2008.

The report responds to a request from the National Park Service (NPS) to provide independent recommendations to improve stewardship of cultural resources in our national parks, including historic structures, archeological sites, museum collections, cultural landscapes, and park histories. The Panel has identified ways that NPS can improve stewardship of these important national resources by strengthening performance-based management, ensuring park superintendent accountability, increasing flexibility in the use of funds, strengthening national leadership, and seeking additional funds and staff to reduce risks to cultural resources of national significance. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.napawash.org/pc_management_studies/NPS_Saving_Our_History_Oct2008.pdf [PDF format, 123 pages].

SINAI PERILS: RISKS TO MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN EGYPT AND ISRAEL. Human Rights Watch. November 2008.

Since 2006, over 13,000 refugees have passed through Egypt and crossed the Sinai border into Israel. Both Egypt and Israel have responded to this cross-border flow with policies that violate fundamental rights. Both countries are states parties to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, and as such should not punish refugees fleeing from persecution. Guidelines by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) state that detention of asylum seekers should be used only as a last resort. Israeli NGOs, student groups, volunteers, and other private citizens have challenged the government's treatment of new African arrivals, and have tried to fill the void left by the government's failure to provide support services to them. In Egypt, where 40 percent of the population lives below or near the poverty line, the plight of foreign migrants and refugees has not gained significant public sympathy. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.hrw.org/reports/2008/egypt1108/egypt1108web.pdf> [PDF format, 95 pages].

STOCK MARKET FLUCTUATIONS AND RETIREE INCOME: AN UPDATE. Brookings Institution. Gary Burtless. Web posted November 4, 2008.

The recent plunge in home values and even bigger dive in stock prices offer painful reminders of why Social Security seemed like such a good idea in the 1930s. Benefits are predictable, are guaranteed by the government, and are adjusted every year to keep their purchasing power stable. In contrast, workers who count on the stock market to fund their retirement have seen their savings shrink more than 40% over the past year. The question is: what kind of retirement plan offers the best guarantee workers will receive a predictable and comfortable income when they grow old? Luckily for most older Americans, the cornerstone of their retirement income is still a Social Security check. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2008/1031_market_burtless/1031_market_burtless.pdf [PDF format, 13 pages].

STRATEGIC COUNTERTERRORISM. Brookings Institution. Daniel Benjamin. Web posted October 27, 2008.

Terrorism is a real and urgent threat to the American people and interests, according to the

author. It is a threat that could become far more dangerous if terrorists acquire nuclear or biological weapons. An effective counterterrorism policy must go beyond uncompromising efforts to thwart those who seek to harm the U.S. today. To achieve a long-term objective, the policies need to embed counterterrorism in an overarching national security strategy designed to restore American leadership and respect in the world. [Note: contains copyrighted material]
http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2008/10_terrorism_benjamin/10_terrorism_benjamin.pdf [PDF format, 21 pages].

UNEVEN PROGRESS: THE EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS OF SKILLED IMMIGRANTS IN THE UNITED STATES. Migration Policy Institute. Jeanne Batalova and Michael Fix. Web posted October 25, 2008.

More than 1.3 million college-educated immigrants living in the United States are unemployed or working as taxi drivers, dishwashers, security guards or in other unskilled jobs because they are unable to make full use of their academic and professional credentials, according to the report. The report quantifies the scope of the 'brain waste' problem that affects 22 percent of the 6.1 million immigrants with a bachelor's degree or higher who are in the U.S. labor market. It analyzes and offers possible solutions for the credentialing and language-barrier hurdles that deprive the U.S. economy of a rich source of human capital at a time of increasing competition globally for skilled talent. [Note: contains copyrighted material]
<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/BrainWasteOct08.pdf> [PDF format, 70 pages].

U.S. FOREIGN AID TO THE PALESTINIANS. Congressional Research Service, RS22967, Library of Congress. Jim Zanotti. Web posted November 2, 2008.

The U.S. aid to the Palestinians has fluctuated considerably over the past three years, largely due to Hamas's changing role within the Palestinian Authority (PA). After Hamas led the PA government for over a year, its forcible takeover of the Gaza Strip in June 2007 led to the creation of a non-Hamas government in the West Bank. Since then, the U.S. has dramatically boosted aid levels to bolster the PA and President Mahmoud Abbas vis-à-vis Hamas. In FY2008, Congress appropriated a total of \$414.5 million in bilateral assistance to the Palestinians, the largest single year appropriation ever for the Palestinians.
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RS22967.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages].

WAGES IN THE NOFPROFIT SECTOR: MANAGEMENT, PROFESSIONAL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OCCUPATIONS. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Amy Butler. Web posted November 5, 2008.

The National Compensation Survey now publishes wage data on full-time workers in private nonprofit establishments. The data compares the average hourly earnings of full-time workers in private nonprofits, private industry as a whole, State governments, and local governments.
<http://www.bls.gov/opub/cwc/cm20081022ar01p1.htm> [HTML format, various paging].

WHITE SUPREMACISTS VENT RAGE OVER OBAMA'S WIN. Anti-Defamation League. Web posted November 8, 2008.

In the aftermath of the election victory of Barack Obama, white supremacists rushed to online discussion forums to vent anger and disbelief that voters had chosen an African-American candidate as the next president of the U.S. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) says that anger

among white supremacists and other right-wing extremists in response. According to ADL, racists are incredulous that Obama was elected primarily by white voters and are seething with anger at the prospect of an America led by an African-American man. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.adl.org/main_Extremism/rage.htm [HTML format, various paging].

WORLD OF WORK REPORT 2008. International Labour Organization. November 2008. Despite strong economic growth that produced millions of new jobs since the early 1990s, income inequality grew dramatically in most regions of the world and is expected to increase due to the current global financial crisis, according to the new study. It notes that a major share of the cost of the financial and economic crisis will be borne by hundreds of millions of people who haven't shared in the benefits of recent growth. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/inst/download/world08.pdf> [PDF format, 178 pages].

WORLD TARIFF PROFILES 2008. World Trade Organization and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Trade Centre. Web posted November 5, 2008.

Numbers play a fundamental role in key areas of trade negotiations. Perhaps more than in any previous multilateral round of negotiations, tariffs and formulas are at the core of the Doha negotiations. World Tariff Profiles provides detailed data on the bound and applied tariffs of WTO members. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/tariff_profiles08_e.pdf [PDF format, 235 pages].

ARTICLES

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Ballen, Kenneth BIN LADEN'S SOFT SUPPORT (Washington Monthly, vol. 40, no. 5, May/June 2008, pp. 19-23)

Ballen's public opinion surveys of Muslim countries indicate that even among bin Laden's strongest supporters, only 1-3 percent would vote for bin Laden or the Taliban to run the country. In Pakistan, bin Laden and al-Qaeda supporters considered an independent judiciary, free press, free elections and an improving economy the most important goals for their government--not implementing Sharia law. Based on the survey data, Ballen, president of a non-profit public opinion organization, has three recommendations: support for bin Laden is soft and can be made softer with right policies; the U.S. should demonstrate respect and compassion by improving the lives of individual Muslims by increasing student and work visas, direct humanitarian aid and trade agreements; and more effective counterterrorism strategies.

Boyd, E.B. TOMORROWLAND: AN ECO-SMART DESIGN COMPETITION TURNS "WHAT IFS" INTO "WHAT IS" (Utne Reader, vol. 149, September/October 2008, pp. 38-41)

The non-profit "Conscious Choice" sponsored a design competitions for forward-thinking ideas in the energy, transportation, commerce, community and "city block" categories. 70% of the

competition entries came from students and included playgrounds which convert “kid power” into electricity for LED lights, a farm park which allows commuters to buy local food as they connect to public transportation, green building, and recyclable housing. The competition's goal is to inspire real-world designers to think about new ways to make city life healthier and more sustainable.

Gasperini, Luca et al. THE TUNGUSKA MYSTERY (Scientific American, June 2008)
Exactly 100 years ago a comet or an asteroid exploded a few kilometers above the Tunguska region of central Siberia, leaving a huge zone of destruction. Despite many searches, no one has found any remnant of the impact body. Such evidence could help scientists gauge the danger posed today by medium-size comets or asteroids. A team of Italian scientists has found evidence of a possible impact crater about 10 kilometers from ground zero. They will soon return to recover what may be a fragment of the cosmic object. Currently available online at <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=the-tunguska-mystery>

Jackson, Nancy Mann STATE OF BLOGGING (State Legislatures, Vol. 34, No. 5, May 2008, pp. 30-32)
Mann discusses state legislators' use of blogs as a method of communication for their constituents. While some representatives get a lot of coverage in traditional media, others who are closer to metropolitan centers have a more difficult time getting exposure. Blogs provide an easy and cheap means of publicity and a new way for constituents to meet their elected officials. Blogs are also helping to create transparency in government; state legislators enjoy the opportunity to engage directly with constituents and let them know what is going on in the state capitol as it is happening. Research has shown that those who are involved in the online community are often civically engaged offline. While this is a relatively new technology, Dr. David Wyld, professor of management at Southeastern Louisiana University and author of “The Blogging Revolution: Government in the Age of Web 2.0,” says that this will be a feature constituents will come to expect from their elected officials in five to ten years. First Amendment activists are concerned, however, about the comments feature on these blogs. Some are worried that filtering inappropriate comments may infringe upon a public forum (state legislators' blogs are often hosted on government Web sites).

Meier, Andrew SCORE ANOTHER ONE FOR PUTIN (New York Times Play Magazine, November 2, 2008, pp. 42-47, 62)
In the former Soviet Union, sports was a major state enterprise, with seemingly unlimited funds for sports facilities and coaches to train talented athletes; Soviet teams regularly won medals at the Olympics and other international competitions. All that changed with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. During the “time of troubles” of the 1990s, sports was one of the first activities to suffer; Russian players defected to professional teams in the U.S., and the Olympics became a “quadrennial debacle” for Russia. High energy prices in recent years have fueled a resurgence of sports; even after this year's precipitous drop in Russia's stock market and the beating that the global financial crisis has administered to its banks and business titans, Russians have enjoyed one of the greatest booms of the new century. Across the country, dozens of sleek stadiums, arenas and rinks are rising as the state and a host of petro-rich companies have invested billions into a new generation of pro clubs and the results have stunned the world. Even the casual observer of tennis knows that Russian has become the second lingua franca on the women's tour; in September 2007, the national basketball team won the European championship for the first time since the Soviet collapse. Currently available online at <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/02/sports/playmagazine/112Russia.html?em>

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Leonard, Jeffrey THE PLUG-IN REVOLUTION (Washington Monthly, vol. 40, no. 6, August/September/October 2008, pp. 26-30)

Leonard, an energy equity firm manager, describes the energy policies of Senator McCain and Obama as well as T. Boone Pickens' "Pickens's Plan." Leonard's criticism is that each plan involves a multiyear, massive-spending government initiative which displaces foreign oil with domestically produced liquid fuel. Leonard argues that this will not add up to a long-term energy plan solution for transportation. With electrification, policymakers won't need to settle on a "favorite fuel"; the free market can determine the mix of generation resources. Leonard believes that electrification is the best and only way to create a clean and secure energy future.

Martenson, Chris EXPONENTIAL MONEY IN A FINITE WORLD (PART I) (Vermont Commons, No. 25, Fall 2008)

The author, a scientist by training and former vice-president of a Fortune 300 company, writes that in the next two decades, "the most profound changes in all of economic history will sweep the globe", and that what the world financial system is experiencing now is just the beginning of a long, difficult period of adjustment. Martenson notes that the fundamental and fatal flaw of our current monetary system is that it must continually expand forever, a textbook example of an exponential system. However, it was designed and implemented at a time when the earth's resources seemed limitless, so "few gave much critical thought to the implications that every single dollar in circulation was to be loaned into existence by a bank with interest." He notes that the U.S. did not create its first trillion dollars in money stock until 1973. The money supply and the amount of credit and debt started to increase dramatically after the abandonment of gold settlement in 1971; the most recent trillion dollars was created in only 4.5 months. What we are approaching now, Martenson says, is the near-vertical phase in the exponential growth of money and debt, which is bumping up against real-world limits of energy, food, fresh water, mineral resources and farmland. "Our monetary system demands that even more follow", says Martenson; "this is clearly an unsustainable arrangement". He concludes: "our choices now are to either evolve a new economic model that is compatible with limited physical resources, or risk a catastrophic failure of our monetary system and with it the basis for civilization as we know it today ... because our economic model and our entire system of money enforce a doctrine of limitless growth, they have become anachronisms incompatible with the well-being of the planet on which we live and depend." Available online at

<http://www.chrismartenson.com/martensonreport/exponential-money-finite-world>

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

A FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUDGET FOR THE FUTURE: FIXING THE CRISIS IN DIPLOMATIC READINESS (American Academy of Diplomacy and the Henry L. Stimson Center, October 2008, 75 pp.)

This report, a collaborative effort of 48 retired ambassadors and other foreign affairs experts, concludes that the U.S. faces critical foreign challenges with inadequate staff and resources as well as "authority shortfalls" relating to some economic and security assistance programs. The study reviews four categories of activity: core diplomacy, public diplomacy, economic assistance, and reconstruction/stabilization. It devotes 13 pages to public diplomacy activities, which it limits narrowly to exchanges, international information programs, and field operations carried out by the Department of State. For these activities, the report recommends increasing U.S. direct-hire staff by 487, locally employed staff by 369, and overall staff and program funding increases totaling \$610.4 million by Fiscal Year 2014. In an Appendix, the report devotes a page to international broadcasting and two pages to a skeptical look at public diplomacy activities of the Department of

Defense. Available online at
http://www.stimson.org/budgeting/Publications/Long_Final_10_22_08.pdf

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

Barber, Peggy; Wallace, Linda LIBRARIES CONNECT COMMUNITIES (American Libraries, vol. 39, no. 9, October 2008, pp. 52-55)

The authors, cofounders of the Chicago-based consulting firm Library Communication Strategies, produce the Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study, which provides data and insights to help libraries and library staff strengthen their advocacy efforts and market themselves more effectively. Now in its second year, the study documents the proliferation of information technology in libraries and gathers the only data available on technology expenditures. Even before the latest economic downturn, most directors anticipated flat or declining revenues due to growing resistance to taxes and government budget deficits. The authors confirm that many libraries are increasingly turning to grants, fundraising, and gifts to supplement public financing. Not surprisingly, people at libraries with newer computers expressed a high level of satisfaction with their experience -- but so did users at less well-equipped libraries. People in poorer communities focused more on economics ("It's important for people like me who can't afford computers"), while users in more affluent areas talked more about education and research ("Computers are more important than books today") and the library as a quiet, convenient place to go ("Some of us don't want computers at home"). From 1996-2000, the number of libraries offering public-access computing went from 28 to 95 percent.

Bennett, Joy JOYFUL NOISE: WOMEN RUNNING THE BUSINESS OF GOSPEL MUSIC (Ebony, August 2008, pp. 122-130)

Joy Bennett profiles some of the women who are the major players in gospel music, and their efforts to take control of their careers and play a bigger role in the industry. Gospel singer Yolanda Adams sums it up best: "To survive and thrive, you must diversify." Fifteen years ago, Vicki Mack Lataillade set out to change the all-white male CEO culture in gospel music. Today, she is the CEO of Mack Entertainment and Lilly Mack/EMI/CMG Publishing, and has influenced the careers of some of gospel's top names. Gospel singers are also getting in on the business side of the industry. Some, like Yolanda Adams and Mary Mary (biological sisters Erica Campbell and Tina Campbell) are gospel singers who have expanded to clothing lines, television series, and radio shows. CeCe Winans has taken it one step further -- she owns the label PureSprings Gospel and produced brother Marvin Winans's the Grammy-award winning album. Bennett notes that this diversification is timely -- according to Nielsen SoundScan, which maintains industry statistics, record sales are declining, and sales in the gospel-music genre are down 14 percent. In order to remain viable, diversification is as much a financial necessity as it is about empowering women in gospel music.

Chapin, Mac THE MEANING OF COLUMBUS DAY (World Watch, vol. 21, no. 6, November/December 2008, pp. 8-17)

The author, an anthropologist and director of the Washington, D.C.-area Center for the Support of Native Lands, notes that the "discovery" of the Western Hemisphere by Columbus in 1492 was the first step in a process that led to the conquest and European subjugation of the native peoples of this newly-found continent. It determined the direction the Americas were to take from that point on, notes Chapin, and much of what really happened has in the past been ignored or glossed over in the mainstream culture, from Columbus Day celebrations to history textbooks in the school system. The primary effect on the native population after the arrival of Europeans was the drastic population declines as a result of epidemics of diseases for which the natives had no immunity. It is generally accepted that 50-80 million people were living in the Americas in 1492, and that shortly after this time they suffered a demographic collapse, which radiated throughout

the hemisphere, hitting hardest in the tropical lowlands and areas of dense settlement. Few regions escaped its reach, including remote corners where Europeans had never set foot. An estimated 90-95 percent of the native population died during the first century after contact — one of the most catastrophic population disasters in human history. The result of the new information is that virtually every history dealing with the European Conquest and domination of the New World's peoples now includes something about the epidemics and the population decline.

Kotkin, Joel LONE STAR RISING (The American, March/April 2008, pp. 1-6)

Founded in the 1830's in a nondescript area of southeastern Texas, Houston is growing rapidly; though it is not near a major river or port, Houston has attracted newcomers because of its reputation as an "opportunity city." Houston's leaders developed the city by attracting business and federal funds to the city. After the destruction of the neighboring port of Galveston in 1900 by a hurricane, Houston's business leaders obtained local and federal funds to build a 50-mile-long ship channel to the Gulf of Mexico; the channel allowed Houston to become the nation's second largest port. The discovery of oil in its vicinity cemented Houston's rise. With the help of then-Senate majority leader Lyndon Johnson and House speaker Sam Rayburn, NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center was located in Houston. By 2006 Houston's population of over two million made it the fourth largest city in the U.S. Houston has always had an international orientation; while it may not be a favorite of urban aesthetes or food critics, the cost of living in Houston is lower than cities such as New York or San Francisco, and has a growing population and job market.

Labi, Aisha OBSESSION WITH RANKINGS GOES GLOBAL (Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 55, No. 8, October 17, 2008, pp. A27-29)

In the late 1990s, Chinese university administrators and the Chinese government wanted to know whether all the money being poured into Chinese higher education was producing any results. To satisfy their need for an objective international frame of reference, Nian Cai Liu, a professor at Shanghai Joao Tong University, created a ranking of the world's top universities. Liu created his rankings by assigning scores on the basis of four factors: quality of education, quality of faculty, research output, and per capita performance. Quality of education, for example, counts the number of alumni who have won Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals. Liu's rankings, posted on a university Web site in 2003, created a storm because for the first time everyone could easily compare the world's universities, and officials and educators in many countries were shocked to see their own systems ranked so low. American universities dominate Liu's list -- 17 of the top 20 in the world are in the U.S., including the top 3 (Harvard, Stanford and the University of California at Berkeley). Liu's rankings play a major role in the choices made by international students and universities looking for partnerships; they also have had a major impact on governments, which in some cases are only financing scholarships for students who attend universities ranked above a certain cut-off point. Liu's rankings have also sparked a rival U.K. list, the Times Higher Education List, on which British institutions fare dramatically better. Critics take issue with the Shanghai list's emphasis on scientific research and the Times Higher Education List's heavy reliance on peer opinion. Liu welcomes criticism and tries each year to improve his methodology. Meanwhile, the lists have become "an integral part of international higher education," says Aisha Labi.

McLoughlin, Tara READY ACCESS: NARA'S FEDERAL RECORDS CENTERS OFFER AGENCIES STORAGE, EASY USE FOR 80 BILLION PAGES OF DOCUMENTS (Prologue, vol. 40, no. 1, Spring 2008, pp. 43-48)

The arrival of a new administration once again raises the challenge of preserving and organizing the records they will create during the next four years, as well as the retirement of the records from the previous administration. The author highlights the role and importance of the federal records centers (FRCs) of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

McLoughlin singles out the nomination by President George W. Bush of Samuel A. Alito, Jr. to the Supreme Court as a high-profile example of the usefulness of the FRCs, which supplied copies of every opinion Alito had written during his tenure at the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. For more than 50 years, agencies have counted on NARA's FRCs to keep these workaday records of the

federal government safe and accessible through its nationwide network of 17 facilities with more than 1,100 federal employees. The federal records they store include tax returns, claims files for military veterans, architectural blueprints, cancelled Social Security checks, bankruptcy court records, inmate files, and maps of national parks. The FRCs have also played a role in disaster planning and recovery; after Hurricane Katrina, they provided copies of identification and personal records to people who had lost everything. To learn more about the Federal Records Centers Program and its services, visit the FRC web site at www.archives.gov/frc. This article is available online at <http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2008/spring/frc.html>

Ringlero, Aleta FRITZ SCHOLDER (American Indian, vol. 9, no. 3, Fall 2008, pp. 18-24)
Fritz Scholder (1937-2005) was considered a principal figure of "The New Indian Art" movement, which personified the individual and painting, rather than tribal identity, ideology or adherence to an accepted style of tribal art. His work is the subject of two concurrent exhibitions, "Indian/Not Indian", in Washington, D.C. and New York City, that display his use of a range of media, including painting, bronze sculpture, and lithography. The show in Washington highlights his ground-breaking and controversial paintings from the 1960s and 1970s that focus on his complex identity as a person of French, German, English, and American Indian ancestry. The first retrospective since his death, the two exhibitions illuminate Scholder's unique contribution to American Indian and American art history. The New York exhibition focuses on the artist's works from the 1980s and 1990s, when he stopped using overt Indian imagery and explored mythical beings, the afterlife, and the unknown.

If you have any questions or want to reach the full text, please contact the American Information Resource Center at 312-4577277.