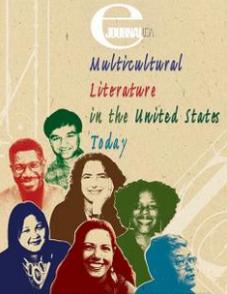




**AMERICAN INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER**  
Ankara, Turkey

**E-Documents**  
February 2009

<b>Electronic Journals – all e-journals</b>	<b>IIP Publications – all publications</b>
	<p><b>Nonviolent Paths to Social Change</b></p> <p>The past 30 years have seen a surge of nonviolent, “people power” movements around the world advancing human rights and toppling repressive rulers. This edition of eJournal USA demonstrates that nonviolent actions can be more powerful than armed insurrections in bringing about social change.</p>
	<p><b>Multicultural Literature in the United States Today</b></p> <p>The United States is enriched culturally by immigrants from many nations. This edition of eJournal USA focuses on distinguished American writers from various ethnic backgrounds who add immeasurably to mutual understanding and appreciation through tales of their native lands and their experiences as Americans.</p>
<p><b>Ask America</b></p> <p>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 <b>Ask America HomePage</b> to see upcoming ones, and read the transcripts of the previous webchats.</p>	<p><b>Podcasts</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.america.gov/multimedia/podcasts.html">http://www.america.gov/multimedia/podcasts.html</a></p> <p>Audio files and transcripts from America.gov</p>
<p><b>Videos</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.america.gov/multimedia/video.html?videoid=1498976413">http://www.america.gov/multimedia/video.html?videoid=1498976413</a></p> <p>Video files on foreign policy, U.S. politics, American life, democracy, science and health.</p>	<p><b>Blogs</b></p> <p><a href="http://blogs.america.gov/">http://blogs.america.gov/</a></p> <p>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

THE NEW WASHINGTON PRESS CORPS: AS MAINSTREAM MEDIA DECLINE, NICHE AND FOREIGN OUTLETS GROW. Project for Excellence in Journalism. Web posted February 11, 2009.

The corps of journalists covering Washington D.C. at the dawn of the Obama Administration is not so much smaller as it is dramatically transformed, says the report. As the mainstream media have shrunk, a new sector of niche media has grown in its place, offering more specialized and detailed information than the general media to smaller, elite audiences, often built around narrowly targeted financial, lobbying and political interests. In addition, the contingent of foreign reporters in Washington has grown to nearly ten times the size it was a generation ago. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://journalism.org/files/The%20New%20Washington%20Press%20Corps%20Report.pdf> [PDF format, 28 pages].

WORLD AGRICULTURAL SUPPLY AND DEMAND ESTIMATES. U.S. Department of Agriculture. February 10, 2009.

The report provides USDA's comprehensive forecasts of supply and demand for major U.S. and global crops and U.S. livestock. The report gathers information from a number of statistical reports published by USDA and other government agencies, and provides a framework for additional USDA reports

<http://www.usda.gov/oce/commodity/wasde/latest.pdf> [PDF format, 40 pages].

WORLD DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS. Economic and Social Council, United Nations. Web posted February 10, 2009.

The report of the Secretary-General on the world demographic trends has been issued. According to the report summary, today's world population stands at 6.8 billion and is projected to reach 9 billion in 2045, if fertility continues to decline in developing countries. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N09/210/52/PDF/N0921052.pdf?OpenElement> [PDF format, 22 pages].

REVITALIZING THE TRANSATLANTIC SECURITY PARTNERSHIP: AN AGENDA FOR ACTION. RAND Corporation. F. Stephen Larrabee and Julian Lindley-French. Web posted February 5, 2009.

During the course of 2008, the RAND Corporation and the Bertelsmann Foundation's Venusberg Group sponsored a series of U.S.-European discussions examining future security challenges confronting the United States and Europe in the context of the election of a new American president. The report refers to those discussions and seeks to define the substance and parameters of a new security partnership between the United States and Europe as well as to outline an agenda for action for the new partnership. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/reprints/2009/RAND\\_RP1382.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/reprints/2009/RAND_RP1382.pdf) [PDF format, 48 pages].

IRAQ: U.S. CASUALTIES. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Susan G. Chesser. Web posted February 2009.

The casualty data was compiled by the Department of Defense (DOD), as tallied from the agency's press releases. Table 1 provides statistics on fatalities during Operation Iraqi Freedom, which began on March 19, 2003, and is ongoing, as well as on the number of fatalities since May 1, 2003, plus statistics on those wounded, but not killed, since March 19, 2003.  
[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS21578\\_20090129.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS21578_20090129.pdf) [PDF format, 2 pages].

OPEC OIL EXPORT REVENUES. Energy Information Administration. February 2009.

The members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) could earn \$402 billion of net oil export revenues in 2009 and \$530 billion in 2010. Last year, OPEC earned \$971 billion in net oil export revenues, a 42 percent increase from 2007. Saudi Arabia earned the largest share of these earnings, \$288 billion, representing 30 percent of total OPEC revenues. On a per-capita basis, OPEC net oil export earning reached \$2,688 in 2008, a 40 percent increase from 2007. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/OPEC\\_Revenues/pdf.pdf](http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/OPEC_Revenues/pdf.pdf) [PDF format, 3 pages].

TAJIKISTAN: ON THE ROAD TO FAILURE. International Crisis Group. February 12, 2009.

The study claims that Tajikistan is looking increasingly like its southern neighbor, Afghanistan, a weak state that is suffering from a failure of leadership. Energy infrastructure is near total breakdown for the second winter running, and it is also likely that the migrant laborer remittances, the driver of the country's economy in recent years, will fall dramatically as a result of the world economic crisis. At worst the government runs the risk of social unrest. To address the situation, the international community, both at the level of international organizations and governments, should ensure any assistance reaches those who truly need it. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/asia/central\\_asia/162\\_tajikistan\\_\\_\\_on\\_the\\_road\\_to\\_failure.pdf](http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/asia/central_asia/162_tajikistan___on_the_road_to_failure.pdf) [PDF format, 31 pages].

BIRDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE: ECOLOGICAL DISRUPTION IN MOTION. National Audubon Society. February 2009.

The northward and inland movement of North American birds, confirmed by thousands of citizen-observations, provides new and powerful evidence that global warming is having a serious impact on natural systems, according to the analyses. The findings signal the need for dramatic policy changes to combat pervasive ecological disruption.

Population shifts among individual species are common, fluctuate, and can have many causes. However, Audubon scientists say the ongoing trend of movement by some 177 species-closely correlated to long-term winter temperature increases-reveals an undeniable link to the changing climate. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.audubon.org/news/pressroom/bacc/pdfs/Birds%20and%20Climate%20Report.pdf> [PDF format, 14 pages].

AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. National Center for Education Statistics. Basmat Parsad and Laurie Lewis. Web posted February 10, 2009.

The study provides a national profile of various types of formal after-school programs physically located at public elementary schools in 2008. These programs included stand-alone programs that focus primarily on a single type of service and broad-based programs that provide a combination of services such as academic enrichment and cultural activities. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009043.pdf> [PDF format, 55 pages].

ASSET DECLINES AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY CHANGES BY FAMILY, INDEPENDENT, AND PUBLIC FOUNDATIONS. [Council on Foundations]. February 2, 2009.

Survey results by the Council on Foundations show that family, independent, and public foundations experienced a 28 percent decline in their asset values over the course of 2008. Many foundations have not made major changes to their investment strategies, but a substantial proportion are making changes in their investment managers, their diversification, and aggressiveness of their investment strategies. [Note: contains copyrighted material] <http://www.cof.org/files/Documents/Conferences/09FamPhilConf/EconSurvey4.pdf> [PDF format, 7 pages].

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER?: EXAMINING THE LATE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES. Center for Public Education. February 11, 2009.

For a persistent and overlooked group of students, late graduates, was it worth the extra effort for them and their schools? The short answer is yes, according to the report. On-time graduation remains the best prospect for students, and districts should make on-time graduation the first priority for all students. But the extra work late graduates and their schools put toward earning a high school diploma pays off, not only in academic outcomes, but in every aspect of life including work, civic, and health. [Note: contains copyrighted material] [http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org/site/c.kjXJ5MPIwE/b.4950685/k.B12B/Better\\_late\\_than\\_never\\_\\_Examining\\_late\\_high\\_school\\_graduates.htm](http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org/site/c.kjXJ5MPIwE/b.4950685/k.B12B/Better_late_than_never__Examining_late_high_school_graduates.htm) [HTML format, various paging with links].

CAUSES OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Mark Jickling. Web posted February 11, 2009.

The current financial crisis began in August 2007, when financial stability replaced inflation as the Federal Reserve's chief concern. The roots of the crisis go back much further, and there are various views on the fundamental causes. It is generally accepted that credit standards in U.S. mortgage lending were relaxed in the early 2000s, and that rising rates of delinquency and foreclosures delivered a sharp shock to a range of U.S. financial institutions. While some may insist that there is a single cause, and thus a simple remedy, the sheer number of causal factors that have been identified tends to suggest that the current financial situation is not yet fully understood in its full complexity. [http://www.taxpayer.net/user\\_uploads/file/Reports/CRS/1-29-09%20CRS%20Causes%20of%20the%20Financial%20Crisis.pdf](http://www.taxpayer.net/user_uploads/file/Reports/CRS/1-29-09%20CRS%20Causes%20of%20the%20Financial%20Crisis.pdf) [PDF format, 10 pages].

EPA CAN IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR AIRBORNE CHEMICAL RELEASES. Office of Inspector General, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. February 10, 2009.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency can improve its program management and oversight to better assure that facilities covered by the Clean Air Act's Risk Management Program submit or re-submit a Risk Management Plan, says the report. <http://www.epa.gov/oigearth/reports/2009/20090210-09-P-0092.pdf> [PDF format, 50 pages].

FORECASTING FARM INCOME: DOCUMENTING USDA'S FORECAST MODEL. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Christopher McGath et al. February 12, 2009.

The Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) develops and publishes estimates and forecasts of three primary measures of income and returns for the U.S. farm economy: net value added, net farm income, and net cash income. The report describes the components and equations in the model, showing how components can be recombined to produce the three main measures of income.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/TB1924/TB1924.pdf> [PDF format, 137 pages].

FY 2008 DATA SHOW DOWNWARD TREND IN FEDERAL R&D FUNDING. InfoBrief, National Science Foundation. Melissa F. Pollak. Web posted February 4, 2009.

The most recent data from the National Science Foundation (NSF) show a \$3.5 billion decline, from \$116.7 billion in FY 2007 to \$113.2 billion in FY 2008, in federal funds obligated for research and development and R&D plant, facilities and fixed equipment. Adjusted for inflation, the data reflect a 4.8% decrease in R&D and R&D plant obligations. The expected FY 2008 total is 7.3% lower, in constant dollars, than that recorded in FY 2005. In contrast, during the 4 preceding years, FY 2001–05, total obligations rose 22.2% in real terms [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/infbrief/nsf09309/nsf09309.pdf> [PDF format, 8 pages].

HUMAN CAPITAL: OPPORTUNITIES EXIST TO BUILD ON RECENT PROGRESS TO STRENGTHEN DOD'S CIVILIAN HUMAN CAPITAL STRATEGIC PLAN. U.S. Government Accountability Office. February 2009.

Having the right number of civilian personnel with the right skills is critical to achieving the Department of Defense's (DOD) mission, according to the report. With more than 50 percent of its civilian workforce, about 700,000 civilians, eligible to retire in the next few years, DOD may be faced with deciding how to fill numerous mission-critical positions, some involving senior leadership. The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 requires DOD to develop a strategic human capital plan, update it annually through 2010, and address all the requirements. GAO reviews DOD's standing.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09235.pdf> [PDF format, 60 pages].

JOINT STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY TIMOTHY F. GEITHNER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM BEN S. BERNANKE, CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION SHEILA BAIR, COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY JOHN C. DUGAN, AND DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF THRIFT SUPERVISION JOHN M. REICH. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. February 12, 2009.

A comprehensive set of measures to restore confidence in the strength of U.S. financial institutions and to restart the critical flow of credit to households and businesses has been announced. The program will help lay the groundwork for restoring the flows of credit necessary to support recovery. The core program elements include new Capital Assistance Program and Public-Private Investment Fund. A new Treasury and Federal Reserve initiative to dramatically expand, up to \$1 trillion, the existing Term Asset-Backed Securities Lending Facility (TALF) in order to reduce credit spreads and restart the securitized credit markets that in recent years supported a substantial portion of lending to households, students, small businesses, and others. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.fdic.gov/news/news/press/2009/pr\\_fsb.html](http://www.fdic.gov/news/news/press/2009/pr_fsb.html) [HTML format, various paging].

OUTSOURCING POVERTY: FEDERAL CONTRACTING PUSHES DOWN WAGES AND BENEFITS. Economic Policy Institute. Kathryn Edwards and Kai Filion. February 11, 2009.

Federal agencies have been under pressure to reduce the size of their workforce and cut costs, creating the incentive to outsource government work through contracts with private businesses for goods and services. The brief examines the wage and benefit standards in government and contracted work. The outsourcing of government work through federal contracts is often done in the name of cost-saving. However, much of this saving does not come from greater efficiency in provision, but from the willingness and ability of private contractors to push down wages and

benefits for employees. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://epi.3cdn.net/10d36747ba0e683ef9\\_hwm6bxwnl.pdf](http://epi.3cdn.net/10d36747ba0e683ef9_hwm6bxwnl.pdf) [PDF format, 7 pages].

POSTADOPTION CONTACT AGREEMENTS BETWEEN BIRTH AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES: SUMMARY OF STATE LAW. Child Welfare Information Gateway. Web posted February 11, 2009.

Post adoption contact agreements, sometimes referred to as cooperative adoption or open adoption agreements, are arrangements that allow some kind of contact between a child's adoptive family and members of the child's birth family after the child's adoption has been finalized. Contact or communication with birth relatives can be a resource to adoptive parents for information about their child's medical, social, and cultural history. In general, State law does not prohibit post adoption contact or communication. Approximately 22 States currently have statutes that allow written and enforceable contact agreements.  
[http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws\\_policies/statutes/cooperativeall.pdf](http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/cooperativeall.pdf) [PDF format, 42 pages].

RESTORATION OF LOW-ELEVATION DRY FORESTS OF THE NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAINS. Wilderness Society. Michele R. Crist et al. Web posted February 11, 2009.

Dry forests of the northern Rocky Mountains can be described as stands of pure ponderosa pine, or pine intermixed with Douglas-fir and western larch that cover the lower slopes of these mountains and provide important habitat for a number of wildlife species. Since the beginning of the 19th century, these forests were greatly affected by logging, grazing, road-building, and fire suppression. Such activities changed the structure of the forests reducing their ecological integrity. As a result, these forests are now the main target for forest restoration and fuel reduction treatments. The study argues that successful forest restoration strategies for the Northern Rockies must take into account the specific ecology of forests in the region, as well as the history of land management activities in a particular place. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://wilderness.org/files/Restoration-Low-Elevation-Dry-Forests-Rocky-Mountains\\_0.pdf](http://wilderness.org/files/Restoration-Low-Elevation-Dry-Forests-Rocky-Mountains_0.pdf) [PDF format, 48 pages].

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: CURRENT SITUATION AND POTENTIAL REFORMS. Urban Institute. Wayne Vroman. February 3, 2009.

The paper summarizes the current situation of state unemployment insurance (UI) programs in the United States. It describes benefit recipient, UI trust fund balances and administrative financing. Policies are recommended to increase solvency of the trust funds, raise recipient rates and to improve the adequacy of administrative funding. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411835\\_unemployment\\_insurance.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411835_unemployment_insurance.pdf) [PDF format, 13 pages].

YOUR LANDS, YOUR WILDLIFE: RESTORING BALANCE TO THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR PUBLIC LANDS. Defenders of Wildlife. Web posted February 12, 2009.

The report provides a practical roadmap for restoring balance to public lands management to ensure healthy wildlife populations. "Safeguarding fish and wildlife is one of the most important uses of our public lands because it leads to so many other benefits," said Peter Nelson, Defenders of Wildlife, director of federal lands program and a lead author of the report. "After eight years of having the scales tipped in favor of development, it's time to restore balance, science and public trust to the management of these lands." [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.yourlandseyourwildlife.org/documents/restoring\\_balance\\_to\\_the\\_management\\_of\\_our\\_public\\_lands.pdf](http://www.yourlandseyourwildlife.org/documents/restoring_balance_to_the_management_of_our_public_lands.pdf) [PDF format, 36 pages].

CONTENT-CENTERED COLLABORATION SPACES IN THE CLOUD. Hewlett-Packard Labs. February 6, 2009.

The report shares a vision for a new approach to content-centered collaboration. Emphasizing communication, collaborative work and community, it envisions a cloud-based platform that inverts the traditional application-content relationship by placing content rather than applications at the center, enabling users to rapidly build customized solutions around their content items.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.hpl.hp.com/techreports/2009/HPL-2009-11.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages].

CONFRONTING THE CRISIS: ITS IMPACT ON THE ICT INDUSTRY. International Telecommunications Union. February 2009.

The report, drawing on analysis from leading industry experts and international institutions, considers how the industry can position itself for recovery in the future.

Firms' ability to weather the economic storm will depend on their ability to invest for the future and explore new opportunities to benefit from the eventual upturn. For an industry founded on innovation, the current turmoil will create openings for nascent ICT companies. ITU Secretary-General Hamadoun Touré, speaking in Barcelona, said that innovation is the key to recovery.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.itu.int/osg/csd/emerging\\_trends/crisis/index.html](http://www.itu.int/osg/csd/emerging_trends/crisis/index.html) [HTML format, various paging].

FOREIGN AID: AN INTRODUCTION TO U.S. PROGRAMS AND POLICY. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Curt Tarnoff and Marian L. Lawson. February 10, 2009.

Foreign assistance is a fundamental component of the international affairs budget and is viewed by many as an essential instrument of U.S. foreign policy. The focus of U.S. foreign aid policy has been transformed since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The report provides an overview of the U.S. foreign aid program. Due largely to the implementation of two new foreign aid initiatives, the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the HIV/AIDS Initiative, bilateral development assistance has become the largest category of U.S. aid. In FY2008, the United States provided some form of foreign assistance to about 154 countries.

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40213\\_20090210.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40213_20090210.pdf) [PDF format, 39 pages].

OIL MARKET REPORT. International Energy Agency. February 11, 2009.

Coinciding with the official suspension on January 1, 2009 of Indonesia's membership of OPEC, the International Energy Agency has made some changes to the way it categorizes and aggregates OPEC and non OPEC oil production data in the report. Henceforward, primary totals for OPEC oil production will comprise only the current 12 members: Algeria, Angola, Ecuador, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Venezuela. It will apply to all historical totals as well as to forecasts of gas liquids and non-conventional oil supplies. At the same time, non-OPEC totals and regional sub-totals will be adjusted to exclude all current OPEC members back through the historical time series as well as for the forecast.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://omrpublic.iea.org/currentissues/full.pdf> [PDF format, 58 pages].

PLAN TO COMBAT EXTENSIVELY DRUG-RESISTANT TUBERCULOSIS  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FEDERAL TUBERCULOSIS TASK FORCE. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Philip LoBue et al. February 3, 2009.

An estimated one third of the world's population is infected with Mycobacterium tuberculosis, and nearly 9 million persons develop disease caused by M. tuberculosis each year. Although tuberculosis (TB) occurs predominantly in resource-limited countries, it also occurs in the United States. Although the first priority of the Federal TB Task Force convened in 2006 was to delineate objectives and action steps to address MDR TB and XDR TB domestically, members recognized

the necessity for TB experts in the U.S. to work with the international community to help strengthen TB control efforts globally.  
[http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5803a1.htm?s\\_cid=rr5803a1\\_x](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5803a1.htm?s_cid=rr5803a1_x) [HTML format, various paging].

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING IN THE LEARNING PROFESSION: A STATUS REPORT ON TEACHER DEVELOPMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AND ABROAD. National Staff Development Council]. Linda Darling-Hammond et al. February 2009.

The report examines what research has revealed about professional learning that improves teachers' practice and student learning. The report describes the availability of such opportunities in the United States and high-achieving nations around the world, which have been making substantial and sustained investments in professional learning for teachers over the last two decades. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.nsd.org/news/NSDCstudy2009.pdf> [PDF format, 36 pages].

DO TEENAGERS RESPOND TO HIV RISK INFORMATION? EVIDENCE FROM A FIELD EXPERIMENT IN KENYA. Working Paper, National Bureau of Economic Research. Pacaline Dupas. February 2009.

A randomized experiment was used to test whether information can change sexual behavior among teenagers in Kenya. Self-reported sexual behavior data suggests substitution away from older and riskier partners and towards protected sex with same-age partners. In contrast, the national abstinence-only HIV education curriculum had no impact on teen pregnancy. These results suggest that teenagers are responsive to risk information but their sexual behavior is more elastic on the intensive than on the extensive margin, reports the study. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.nber.org/papers/w14707.pdf?new\\_window=1](http://www.nber.org/papers/w14707.pdf?new_window=1) [PDF format, 40 pages].

INTRODUCTION TO "CHINA'S GROWING ROLE IN WORLD TRADE." Working Paper, National Bureau of Economic Research. Robert C. Feenstra and Shang-Jin Wei. February 2009.

Over the last three decades, the value of Chinese trade has approximately doubled every four years. The rapid growth has transformed the country from a negligible player in world trade to the world's second largest exporter, as well as a substantial importer of raw materials, intermediate inputs, and other goods. The paper provides an overview of the microstructure of Chinese trade, its macroeconomic implications, trade disputes with other WTO member countries, and the role of foreign firms. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.nber.org/papers/w14716.pdf?new\\_window=1](http://www.nber.org/papers/w14716.pdf?new_window=1) [PDF format, 41 pages].

JAPAN: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY. Wilton Park. Web posted February 13, 2009.

The current financial crisis has highlighted the interconnectivity of the global economy which many believe requires a shared international response, according to the conference report. There is a growing realization that the global financial crisis is increasingly impacting negatively on the Japanese economy. The rapid and concrete response by both the U.S. and European Union (EU) governments to the current credit (crunch) suggests they have already learned from Japan's 1990s credit crunch experience. Japan, with its huge cash reserves, is in a strong position to take advantage of global business opportunities resulting from the current global economic turmoil. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/documents/conferences/WP933/pdfs/WP933.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages].

PUTIN PUTS WRITING ON 'WALLS OF DEATH' IN RUSSIA. World Wildlife Fund. February 17, 2009.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has proposed outlawing fishing with drift nets, otherwise known as “walls of death,” following a lengthy campaign by fishermen and politicians in Kamchatka as well as local organizations including WWF-Russia. Drift nets are used to catch fish migrating in open sea. Each net can be several kilometres long and their use results in a large by-catch of sharks, turtles, seabirds and marine mammals which are usually thrown back dead into the ocean. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.panda.org/?156741/Putin-puts-writing-on-walls-of-death-in-Russia> [HTML format, various paging].

RESETTLING IRAQ’S FOUR MILLION DISPLACED. Brookings Institution. Michael E. O’Hanlon and Raid Juhī Hamādī al Saedī. February 9, 2009.

Iraq has come a very long way in recent times. Provincial elections have been impressive; the civil war has effectively ended; violence rates are down by more than 80 percent; and the political system is beginning to function. However, according to the report, its progress is fragile and several major unresolved issues could threaten the country’s future stability. Nothing is more fundamental than the effort to help more than 4 million individuals displaced by violence to return home safely without sectarian killings and cleansings as they do so. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0209\\_iraq\\_ohanlon.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0209_iraq_ohanlon.aspx) [HTML format, various paging].

THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009. White House. Web posted February 16, 2009.

On Thursday, February 12, 2009, the Conference Committee for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 produced a Conference Report, reconciling the House and Senate versions of the bill. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.whitehouse.gov/the\\_press\\_office/arra\\_public\\_review/#TB\\_inline?height=220&width=370&inlined=tb\\_external](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/arra_public_review/#TB_inline?height=220&width=370&inlined=tb_external) [HTML format with links to U.S. GPO PDF files].

DHS AND IMMIGRATION: TAKING STOCK AND CORRECTING COURSE. Migration Policy Institute. February 2009.

The report assesses the performance of the three immigration agencies within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), offering detailed recommendations for policy and operational changes that could be accomplished by the executive branch without legislation. It offers an assessment of immigration policy direction and coordination almost six years into the life of a young department with a vitally important national security mission. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/DHS\\_Feb09.pdf](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/DHS_Feb09.pdf) [PDF format, 127 pages].

DIRECTOR BLAIR HIGHLIGHTS GLOBAL THREATS TO THE NATION. Office of the Director of National Intelligence. February 12, 2009.

The statement outlines the most significant global security threats facing the nation. Recognizing that global threats comprise a diverse set of issues and factors, Director Blair framed the analysis by identifying key areas of risk, concern and opportunity that could have direct effects on the quality of life and security for Americans. The hearing also marked the first occasion where the Director, the leader of the nation’s Intelligence Community, was the sole witness providing comprehensive analysis from all 16 intelligence agencies.  
[http://www.dni.gov/press\\_releases/20090212\\_release.pdf](http://www.dni.gov/press_releases/20090212_release.pdf) [PDF format, 2 pages].

THE DISAPPEARING DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION AND ITS POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE RETIREMENT INCOMES OF BOOMERS. Urban Institute. Barbara A. Butrica et al. Web posted February 16, 2009.

The paper examines the impact of an accelerated freeze on the retirement income of boomers. Simulations suggest that such a scenario would produce more losers than winners and reduce average retirement incomes. Income changes will be substantial among high-income workers, who have the highest defined benefit coverage and pension incomes. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411831\\_disappearingbenefit.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411831_disappearingbenefit.pdf) [PDF format, 58 pages].

THE ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF U.S. MINING IN 2007. National Mining Association. February 2009.

“With more than 375,000 direct jobs that pay wages one-third higher than the U.S. industrial average and the ability to generate as many as four additional jobs elsewhere in the economy, U.S. mining provides more than vital resources for America—it can help rebuild America,” National Mining Association (NMA) President and CEO Hal Quinn said upon release of the report. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.nma.org/pdf/pubs/mining\\_economic\\_report.pdf](http://www.nma.org/pdf/pubs/mining_economic_report.pdf) [PDF format, 154 pages].

THE SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMY: A REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT. U.S. Small Business Administration. February 2009.

A better market for United States exports was the highlight of the fading economy of 2007, according to the report. Small businesses, like other firms, faced growing challenges, as housing starts fell and energy prices increased. The report showcases new research by economists on the small business role in the economy, including exporting. New research focuses on small businesses in international trade, small business training and development, tax policy, and business creation, including startup activities and the launch of new ventures.

[http://www.sba.gov/advo/research/sb\\_econ2008.pdf](http://www.sba.gov/advo/research/sb_econ2008.pdf) [PDF format, 373 pages].

TRADE-OFF TIME: HOW FOUR STATES CONTINUE TO DELIVER. Pew Center on the States. February 2009.

As governors and policy leaders put together their budgets this year in the face of serious shortfalls, states that use performance data to make decisions about where to cut and what to keep are saving taxpayer dollars. More and more states, spurred by one of the most difficult fiscal environments in years, are making policy decisions based on research measuring the performance of government programs. The report features four states, Indiana, Maryland, Utah and Virginia, that are leaders in measuring the performance of government programs, and are making smarter budget decisions as a result. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Government\\_Performance/GP%20Budget%20Brief\\_final\\_2web\\_0209revised.pdf](http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Government_Performance/GP%20Budget%20Brief_final_2web_0209revised.pdf) [PDF format, 32 pages].

UNITED STATES MINT LAUNCHES FIRST REDESIGNED LINCOLN ONE-CENT COIN IN 50 YEARS AT ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S BIRTHPLACE. U.S. Mint. February 12, 2009.

The United States Mint launches the first redesigned one-cent coin, penny, in 50 years. It features a log cabin on the coin's reverse, tails side, emblematic of Lincoln's humble roots in Kentucky. The log cabin design is the first of four new designs Americans will see on the reverse of the penny this year. The obverse, heads, of the redesigned Lincoln penny will continue to bear sculptor Victor David Brenner's likeness of President Lincoln, introduced in 1909.

[http://www.usmint.gov/pressroom/index.cfm?flash=yes&action=press\\_release&ID=992](http://www.usmint.gov/pressroom/index.cfm?flash=yes&action=press_release&ID=992) [HTML format, various paging].

U.S. EXPORT FACT SHEET. International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. February 11, 2009.

The December 2008 U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services report by the Department of Commerce's U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. exports of goods and services grew by 12.0% in 2008 to \$1.84 trillion, while imports increased 7.4% to \$2.52 trillion. In December 2008, the U.S. goods and services trade deficit (\$39.9 billion) was the lowest monthly deficit since February 2003. This led to a 3.3% improvement in the annual goods and services deficit for 2008. Exports comprised 13.1% of U.S. GDP in 2008. To put in historical terms, exports were 9.5% of U.S. GDP five years earlier (2003), and 5.3% 40 years ago (1968). [http://trade.gov/press/press\\_releases/2009/export-factsheet\\_021109.pdf](http://trade.gov/press/press_releases/2009/export-factsheet_021109.pdf) [PDF format, 1 page].

CROP PROSPECTS AND FOOD SITUATION. Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations. February 2009.

According to the report, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is predicting a reduced global cereal output in 2009 from the 2008 record. It indicates that the report also contains information on sustained high food prices and specific information on countries in crisis. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/ai480e/ai480e00.pdf> [PDF format, 40 pages].

THE ENVIRONMENTAL FOOD CRISIS. Environment Programme, United Nations. Christian Nellemann et al. February 2009.

The report warns "that up to 25% of the world's food production may become lost due to environmental breakdown by 2050." The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) is collaboration between UNEP and WCMC 2000, a UK-based charity. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.grida.no/\\_res/site/file/publications/FoodCrisis\\_lores.pdf](http://www.grida.no/_res/site/file/publications/FoodCrisis_lores.pdf) [PDF format, 104 pages].

THE GLOBAL INTEGRITY REPORT 2008. Center for Public Integrity & Global Integrity. February 2009.

The study suggests that the influence of private money in politics is rampant around the world. That's the finding, which details international governance and corruption trends in 57 countries. The lackadaisical regulation of political financing has ranked as the top problem since Global Integrity began producing its survey three years ago. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://report.globalintegrity.org> [HTML format, various paging].

ISAF 2008 WORLDWIDE SHARK ATTACK SUMMARY. International Shark Attack File, Florida Museum of Natural History. February 19, 2009.

The International Shark Attack File (ISAF) investigated 117 alleged incidents of shark-human interaction occurring worldwide in 2008. Upon review, 59 of these incidents represented confirmed cases of unprovoked shark attack on humans. "Unprovoked attacks" are defined as incidents where an attack on a live human by a shark occurs in its natural habitat without human provocation of the shark. "Provoked attacks" usually occur when a human initiates physical contact with a shark. The 2008 yearly total of 59 unprovoked attacks was lower than the 71 unprovoked attacks 2007 and continues a gradual reduction in the yearly number of attacks since reaching an all-time high of 79 in 2000. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/sharks/statistics/2008attackssummary.htm> [HTML format, various paging].

LICENSING REGULATION AND THE SUPERVISORY STRUCTURE OF PRIVATE PENSIONS: INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND IMPLICATIONS FOR CHINA. Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development. Yu-Wei Hu and Fiona Stewart.

February 19, 2009.

The paper reviews the legal framework of private pension fund regulation and supervision in economies, including Australia, Chile, Hong Kong China, Poland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/48/16/42211425.pdf> [PDF format, 59 pages].

"IT'S AN EVERYDAY BATTLE": CENSORSHIP AND HARASSMENT OF JOURNALISTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN SUDAN. Human Rights Watch. February 18, 2009.

The report documents the Sudan government's efforts to repress those who seek to report on issues it considers sensitive, including human rights, the conflict in Darfur, and the International Criminal Court's (ICC's) investigation. "Today in Khartoum it is unsafe to criticize the Khartoum government or to call for justice for the victims of horrific crimes in Darfur," said Georgette Gagnon, Africa director at Human Rights Watch. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/sudanfrexp0209webwcover.pdf> [PDF format, 26 pages].

THE GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY REVOLUTION CHINA, IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS. Transportation, Space, and Technology, RAND Corporation. Richard Silbergliitt et al. February 2009.

The report looks to identify the most-promising emerging technology applications for Tianjin Binhai New Area (TBNA) and Tianjin Economic-Technological Development Area (TEDA) to analyze the drivers and barriers they would face in each case, and to recommend action plans for each technology application (TA). Seven TAs should form a pivotal part of TBNA's comprehensive strategic plan: cheap solar energy; advanced mobile communications and radio-frequency identification; rapid bioassays; membranes, filters, and catalysts for water purification; molecular-scale drug design, development, and delivery; electric and hybrid vehicles; and green manufacturing. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical\\_reports/2009/RAND\\_TR649.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2009/RAND_TR649.pdf) [PDF format, 251 pages].

PREPARING FOR SUDDEN CHANGE IN NORTH KOREA. Council on Foreign Relations. Paul B. Stares and Joel S. Wit. January 2009.

North Korea poses difficult challenges for U.S. foreign policy. It possesses nuclear weapons and missiles to deliver them, and despite some progress, it is not clear that the ongoing Six-Party Talks will be able to reveal the full extent of the country's nuclear activities, much less persuade Pyongyang to give them up. The report focuses on how to manage one of the central unknowns: the prospect of a change in North Korea's leadership. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/North\\_Korea\\_CSR42.pdf](http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/North_Korea_CSR42.pdf) [PDF format, 70 pages].

EURASIAN ENERGY SECURITY. Council on Foreign Relations. Jeffrey Mankoff. February 2009.

A cutoff of supplies connected in part to a pricing dispute between Russia and Ukraine, the crucial transit country for much of Russia's gas, left millions of Europeans without heat and forced factories to close. The crisis not only underscored the challenges of managing U.S. and European relations with Russia, a country whose geopolitical reach rises and falls to some extent with the price of oil and gas. The report explores the challenges faced by consumer and supplier alike in Europe and Eurasia. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/Eurasia\\_CSR43.pdf](http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/Eurasia_CSR43.pdf) [PDF format, 66 pages].

Raising Education Outcomes in Spain. Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development. Andres Fuentes. Web posted on February 18, 2009.

Impressive progress has been made in raising participation in early childhood education as well as tertiary educational attainment over the past 30 years in Spain. However, the inflow of poorly

educated youth into the labor market is unusually heavy for a high income country. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.oalis.oecd.org/oalis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00000BEE/\\$FILE/JT03259817.PDF](http://www.oalis.oecd.org/oalis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00000BEE/$FILE/JT03259817.PDF) [PDF format, 39 pages].

IRAQ, ITS NEIGHBORS, AND THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION: SYRIAN AND SAUDI PERSPECTIVES. U.S. Institute of Peace and the Stimson Center. February 9, 2009.

According to the report, the top concern for both Riyadh and Damascus remains blowback from Iraq: the ascendance of ethnic and sectarian identity and the spread of Islamic militancy. The need to contain this threat is the dominant force that shapes their relations with Iraq. Both Syria and Saudi Arabia have a vital interest in ensuring that Iraq's emerging political order is inclusive of Sunni Arab Iraqis, who have not yet been fully incorporated into Iraqi institutions. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.usip.org/pubs/working\\_papers/wp8\\_syria\\_saudiarabia.pdf](http://www.usip.org/pubs/working_papers/wp8_syria_saudiarabia.pdf) [PDF format, 21 pages].

SECURING AFGHANISTAN: GETTING ON TRACK. U.S. Institute of Peace. C. Christine Fair and Seth G. Jones. Web posted February 17, 2009.

The comprehensive analysis of international security assistance shows many donors have not met their Afghan commitments. A lack of focus on long-term sustainability, an inability to map the entirety of donor nations' security assistance programs and the subsequent failure on the part of the international community to understand precisely what is needed in Afghanistan are among the leading reasons why international stabilization efforts in the country have not been more successful over the last seven years, says the report. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://library.usip.org/articles/1012068.1022/1.PDF> [PDF format, 42 pages].

NEPAL'S FALTERING PEACE PROCESS. International Crisis Group. February 19, 2009. Despite successful elections and a lasting military ceasefire, Nepal's peace process is facing its most severe tests yet. Major issues remain unresolved: there is no agreement on the future of the two armies, very little of the land seized during the conflict has been returned, and little progress has been made writing a new constitution. The report recommends that Nepal's political leaders must urgently rebuild collaborative spirit and recommit themselves to seeing through the process. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/asia/south\\_asia/163\\_nepal\\_s\\_faltering\\_peace\\_process.pdf](http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/asia/south_asia/163_nepal_s_faltering_peace_process.pdf) [PDF format, 45 pages].

HUGO CHAVEZ: A LAME DUCK NO MORE. Brookings Institution. Kevin Casas-Zamora. February 18, 2009.

Having just celebrated his first decade in power, Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez is here to stay. On February 15, he achieved a famous victory in the referendum that he had called to scrap the term limits that would have forced him to relinquish power in 2012. The length and severity of the current economic downturn, and the ability of the opposition to coalesce around a credible leader, will largely determine whether Chavez will ride on to another victory in 2012. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0218\\_chavez\\_casaszamora.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0218_chavez_casaszamora.aspx) [HTML format, various paging].

2009 INDUSTRY OUTLOOK: AUTOMOTIVE: CHALLENGING TIMES, EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES. Deloitte LLP. Web posted on February 18, 2009.

As we enter 2009, the U.S. automotive industry is facing some of the most complex challenges in its history. Pressures from plunging sales, frozen credit markets, global competition, higher raw material costs, until recently, gasoline prices, and growing consumer demand for more fuel-

efficient vehicles are driving a transformation of the industry across its entire value chain. Regardless of the outcome of government assistance, the impacts of the Detroit 3's liquidity crisis cannot be viewed independently, as there is a high level of interdependency among the U.S. supply base, the collapse or bankruptcy filing of any of the Detroit 3 would have a negative impact. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.deloitte.com/dtt/cda/doc/content/us\\_industryoutlook\\_2009OutlookAutomotive\\_January2009.pdf](http://www.deloitte.com/dtt/cda/doc/content/us_industryoutlook_2009OutlookAutomotive_January2009.pdf) [PDF format, 7 pages].

THE ACCOUNTABILITY ILLUSION. Thomas B. Fordham Institute. February 19, 2009.

The study looks at the No Child Left Behind Act as implemented and reveals an enormously uneven and misleading system of school accountability. It examines the No Child Left Behind Act system and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) rules for 28 states. Thirty six real schools, half elementary and half middle, that vary by size, achievement, diversity, etc. are selected and determined which of them would or would not make AYP when evaluated under each state's accountability rules. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.edexcellence.net/index.cfm/news\\_the-accountability-illusion](http://www.edexcellence.net/index.cfm/news_the-accountability-illusion) [HTML format, various paging].

CENSUS BUREAU DATA SHOW CHARACTERISTICS OF THE U.S. FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION. U.S. Census Bureau. February 19, 2009.

According to the analysis of data about the U.S. foreign-born population, a higher percentage of people born in India have a bachelor's degree or higher (74 percent) than people born in any other foreign country. Egypt and Nigeria had rates above 60 percent.

Meanwhile, among the nation's foreign-born, Somalis and Kenyans living in the United States are the most likely to be newcomers, and Somalis are among the youngest and poorest. "These new 'selected population profiles' highlight the diversity among the many different foreign-born groups in the United States," said Elizabeth Grieco, chief of the Census Bureau's Immigration Statistics Staff

[http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/american\\_community\\_survey\\_acs/013308.html](http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/american_community_survey_acs/013308.html) [HTML format, various paging].  
<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2009/pdf/Foreignborncharts.pdf> Charts. [PDF format, 6 pages].

HEALTH, UNITED STATES, 2008 WITH SPECIAL FEATURE ON THE HEALTH OF YOUNG ADULTS. National Center for Health Statistics. Web posted February 18, 2009.

Young adults in the United States aged 18-29 face a number of health challenges, including increases in obesity, high injury rates, and lack of insurance coverage compared to older adults, according to the latest report. It includes a compilation of health data from a number of sources within the federal government and in the private sector. It also features a special section on adults aged 18 to 29, a group making many life choices including decisions about education, marriage, childbearing, and health behaviors such as tobacco and alcohol use, which will affect both their future economic and health status.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/hus08.pdf> Full Report. [PDF format, 604 pages].  
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm> Charts & Tables Only [HTML format with links].

HOMEOWNER AFFORDABILITY AND STABILITY PLAN FACT SHEET. U.S. Department of the Treasury. February 19, 2009.

The Homeowner Affordability and Stability Plan is part of the President Obama's broad, comprehensive strategy to get the economy back on track. The plan will help up to 7 to 9 million

families restructure or refinance their mortgages to avoid foreclosure. In doing so, the plan not only helps responsible homeowners on the verge of defaulting, but prevents neighborhoods and communities from being pulled over the edge too, as defaults and foreclosures contribute to falling home values, failing local businesses, and lost jobs.

<http://www.ustreas.gov/news/index2.html> [HTML format, various paging].

HOW GREEN IS THY STIMULUS? Council on Foreign Relations. Toni Johnson. February 16, 2009.

The idea of creating green jobs drew great attention as the stimulus package made its way through Congress. Defining those jobs is difficult, however, and economists say many may simply displace existing jobs in the old carbon-based economy. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.cfr.org/publication/18536/how\\_green\\_is\\_thy\\_stimulus\\_bill.html?breadcrumb=%2F](http://www.cfr.org/publication/18536/how_green_is_thy_stimulus_bill.html?breadcrumb=%2F)

[HTML format, various paging].

PREVENTING AND ENDING HOMELESSNESS – NEXT STEPS. Urban Institute. Mary K. Cunningham. February 2009.

Across the country, communities are working to end homelessness by investing in Housing First approaches that help families and single adults get back into permanent housing. Until recently, many of these communities were reducing homelessness. Today, the housing crisis and economic recession threatens progress and puts millions of Americans at risk of homelessness. The brief examines the current state of homelessness, how community responses are changing, what is working, and, most important, what policymakers should be doing to move forward, not backward. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411837\\_ending\\_homelessness.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411837_ending_homelessness.pdf) [PDF format, 12 pages].

A RISING SHARE: HISPANICS AND FEDERAL CRIME. Pew Hispanic Center. Mark Hugo Lopez et al. February 18, 2009.

Sharp growth in illegal immigration and increased enforcement of immigration laws have altered the ethnic composition of offenders sentenced in federal courts. Latinos, who are 13% of the U.S. adult population, accounted for 40% of all sentenced federal offenders in 2007—up from 24% in 1991. Immigration offenses now represent about one-quarter of all federal convictions, compared with 7% in 1991. Most Latinos with federal sentences are not U.S. citizens. Hispanics are more likely to receive a prison term but it is generally shorter than prison terms for whites and blacks.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/104.pdf> [PDF format, 27 pages].

STATUS AND TRENDS OF WETLANDS IN THE COASTAL WATERSHED OF THE EASTERN UNITED STATES: 1998 TO 2004. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Fish and Wildlife Service. Susan-Marie Stedman and Thomas E. Dahl. Web posted February 17, 2009.

While the nation as a whole gained freshwater wetlands from 1998 to 2004, the report documents a continuing loss of coastal wetlands in the eastern United States. It shows a loss of 59,000 acres each year in the coastal watersheds of the Great Lakes, Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico from 1998 to 2004. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/habitatprotection/pdf/wetlands/WetlandsReport\\_012909.pdf](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/habitatprotection/pdf/wetlands/WetlandsReport_012909.pdf)

[PDF format, 36 pages].

TROUBLED ASSET RELIEF PROGRAM AND FORECLOSURES. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. N. Eric Weiss et al. February 17, 2009.

Increasing foreclosure rates and problems in financial markets are some of the issues addressed in the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-343), which created the Troubled

Asset Relief Plan (TARP). The law authorized \$700 billion in spending. The report focuses on Title II of the bill, which would require the Treasury to spend a minimum of \$40 billion of the second \$350 billion on foreclosure mitigation. The bill, as passed by the House, would require the Secretary of the Treasury to develop a plan by March 15, 2009. Both H.R. 703 and H.R. 788 have the same safe-harbor provisions.

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40224\\_20090217.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40224_20090217.pdf) [PDF format, 13 pages].

WHITE HOUSE RELEASES STATE BY STATE NUMBERS; AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT TO SAVE OR CREATE 3.5 MILLION JOBS. The White House. February 17, 2009.

The White House releases state-specific details on the local impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is a nationwide effort to create jobs, jumpstart growth and transform our economy to compete in the 21st century. [http://www.whitehouse.gov/the\\_press\\_office/White-House-Releases-State-by-State-Numbers-American-Recovery-and-Reinvestment-Act-to-Save-or-Crete-35-Million-Jobs/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/White-House-Releases-State-by-State-Numbers-American-Recovery-and-Reinvestment-Act-to-Save-or-Crete-35-Million-Jobs/) [HTML format with links to PDF files].

WOMEN, MINORITIES, AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING. National Science Foundation. Web posted February 16, 2009.

The report provides information about the participation of women, minorities, and persons with disabilities in science and engineering education and employment. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/wmpd/pdf/nsf09305.pdf> [PDF format, 295 pages].

FROM CONFLICT TO PEACEBUILDING: THE ROLE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT. United Nations Environment Programme. February 2009.

State failure and civil war in developing countries represent some of the greatest risks to global peace and security, says the report. Since the end of the Cold War, at least eighteen violent conflicts have been driven by the exploitation of natural resources. Based on its analysis, United Nations Environment Programme's report draws key conclusions for future UN peacemaking and peacebuilding operations. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.unep.org/pdf/pcdmb\\_policy\\_01.pdf](http://www.unep.org/pdf/pcdmb_policy_01.pdf) [PDF format, 50 pages].

GLOBAL REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. February 2009.

The report provides new information, based on data gathered from 155 countries. It offers the first global assessment of the scope of human trafficking and what is being done to fight it. The report includes an overview of trafficking patterns, legal steps taken in response, and country-specific information on reported cases. The most common form of human trafficking, 79%, is sexual exploitation. Surprisingly, in 30% of the countries which provided information on the gender of traffickers, women make up the largest proportion of traffickers. The second most common form of human trafficking is forced labor (18%). [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/Global\\_Report\\_on\\_TIP.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/Global_Report_on_TIP.pdf) [PDF format, 292 pages].

THE SKILL COMPOSITION OF MIGRATION AND THE GENEROSITY OF THE WELFARE STATE. National Bureau of Economic Research. Alon Cohen et al. February 2009.

Skilled migrants typically contribute to the welfare state more than they draw in benefits from it. The opposite holds for unskilled migrants. It suggests that a host country is likely to boost, respectively, curtail, its welfare system when absorbing high-skill, respectively, low-skill,

migration. The paper examines this hypothesis in a politico-economic setup. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.nber.org/papers/w14738.pdf> [PDF format, 21 pages].

THIRSTY ENERGY: WATER AND ENERGY IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY. Energy Vision Update 2009, World Economic Forum. February 2009.

The report explores the risks and opportunities inherent in the ancient relationship between energy and water, which has taken on a new urgency as competition for finite freshwater resources rises. According to the report, water is critical to energy production, yet the water/energy nexus is often overlooked. "The importance of bringing water into the energy equation now cannot be underestimated as we are heading for a more water-scarce future," said Christoph Frei, Senior Director and Head of Energy Industry at the World Economic Forum. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.weforum.org/pdf/ip/energy/energyvision2009.pdf> [PDF format, 56 pages].

INFORMAL CROSS-BORDER TRADE AND TRADE FACILITATION REFORM IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Caroline Lesser and Evdokia Moise-Leeman. February 18, 2009.

The informal sector still constitutes an important part of developing country economies. In Africa, it is estimated to represent 43 percent of official gross domestic product (GDP), thus being almost equivalent to the formal sector. The study reports that, while this phenomenon may provide short-term solutions to poor households, in the long term, it can seriously challenge the economic development of African countries. The study explores one particular aspect of the informal economy, namely *informal cross-border trade* in selected Sub-Saharan African countries, and identifies which trade facilitation measures, such as those currently negotiated at the World Trade Organisation, have the potential to encourage traders to switch from informal to formal trade. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/24/6/42222094.pdf> [PDF format, 54 pages].

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT IN AFRICA BRINGS UNCERTAINTY AND OPPORTUNITY. [Population Reference Bureau]. February 2009.

From the recent riots in Greece to increased unemployment in urban China to anxiety over the prospect of more protests by young people throughout Europe, youth unemployment and underemployment is increasingly recognized as a potential trigger for social instability in other world regions. Africa in particular faces demographic challenges as its population of young people ages 15 to 24 increases and access to secure jobs continues to be problematic. In addition, the global financial crisis threatens to further strain labor markets and exacerbate a tenuous situation for Africa's youth. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.prb.org/Articles/2009/youthunemployment.aspx> [HTML format with charts].

COUNTRY ANALYSIS BRIEFS: GREECE. Energy Information Administration. February 2009.

Greece has limited domestic energy resources, but it could develop into an important regional transit hub. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Greece/pdf.pdf> [PDF format, 7 pages].

PROGRESS TOWARD MEASLES ELIMINATION – EUROPEAN REGION, 2005-2008. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. February 20, 2009.

During 2005–2008, measles incidence in Europe declined to its lowest level to date. The decline was attributable to high vaccination coverage achieved through 2-dose MCV routine vaccination schedules and implementation of SIAs. However, since 2007, as the outbreaks in eastern parts of

Europe subsided, measles resurgence occurred in some Western European countries because of persistent suboptimal coverage with MCV and problems with vaccine acceptance. Ongoing transmission in Western Europe has been linked to multiple introductions of measles virus into other regions, including the United States, where indigenous measles has been eliminated. [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5806a3.htm?s\\_cid=mm5806a3\\_x](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5806a3.htm?s_cid=mm5806a3_x) [HTML format, various paging].

**SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES AND THE SURVEILLANCE SOCIETY: A CRITICAL STUDY OF THE USAGE OF STUDIVZ, FACEBOOK, AND MYSPACE BY STUDENTS IN SALZBURG IN THE CONTEXT OF ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE.** University of Salzburg. Christian Fuchs. Web posted February 2009.

Among the 674 students who participated in the study, 88.3% of the respondents use studiVZ, 39.5% Facebook, 15.9% MySpace, 9.0% Xing, 7.4% Lokalisten. Each of 61 other social networking sites (SNS) is used by less than 1%. Fuchs says, "There are indications for a strong economic concentration in the area of social networking sites." Further, she adds, "Students are very aware of the massive collection of personal data on these platforms. They use them nonetheless because of the expected communicative advantages. This does not mean that they are incautious, but that there is a structural lack of alternative platforms. Non-commercial, non-profit SNS do not have to evaluate data for personalized advertisements, therefore the probability of surveillance and data abuse decreases. But such platforms are currently hardly existent or completely unknown." [Note: contains copyrighted material] [http://fuchs.icts.sbg.ac.at/SNS\\_Surveillance\\_Fuchs.pdf](http://fuchs.icts.sbg.ac.at/SNS_Surveillance_Fuchs.pdf) [PDF format, 145 pages].

**HOW SOON IS SAFE?: IRAQI FORCE DEVELOPMENT AND CONDITIONS-BASED U.S. WITHDRAWALS.** Center for Strategic & International Studies. Anthony H. Cordesman and Adam Mausner. February 19, 2009.

The U.S. and Iraq now face a transition period that may well be as challenging as defeating the insurgency, Al Qa'ida in Iraq, and the threat from militias like the Mahdi Army. These challenges are described in the status report on the tensions that divide Iraq, and the continuing threats that Iraq faces internally and from its neighbors. These issues are addressed, detailing the continued development of the Iraqi Security Forces, their strengths and weaknesses, and the problems and prospects of future force development. [Note: contains copyrighted material] [http://www.csis.org/media/isis/pubs/090217\\_isf.no.graph.pdf](http://www.csis.org/media/isis/pubs/090217_isf.no.graph.pdf) [PDF format, 205 pages].

**SECURING, STABILIZING, AND DEVELOPING PAKISTAN'S BORDER AREA WITH AFGHANISTAN.** U.S. Government Accountability Office. Web posted February 23, 2009.

Since 2002, destroying the terrorist threat and closing the terrorist safe haven along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan have been key national security goals. The United States has provided Pakistan, an important ally in the war on terror, with more than \$12.3 billion for a variety of activities, in part to address these goals. As the United States considers how it will go forward with efforts to assist Pakistan in securing, stabilizing, and developing its FATA and Western Frontier bordering Afghanistan, it is vital that efforts to develop a comprehensive plan using all elements of national power be completed and that continued oversight and accountability over funds used for these efforts are in place. <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09263sp.pdf> [PDF format, 61 pages].

**HELPING MEXICO HELP ITSELF.** Council on Foreign Relations. Shannon K. O'Neil. February 24, 2009.

Brazen assassinations, kidnappings, and political intimidation by drug lords conjure up images of Colombia in the early 1990s. Yet today, it is Mexico that is being engulfed by escalating violence, according to the report. The United States and Mexico are now inextricably intertwined through

their economies, their societies, and their security. The United States benefits from Mexico's successes, but also shares its challenges. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.cfr.org/publication/18597/helping\\_mexico\\_help\\_itself.html?breadcrumb=%2F](http://www.cfr.org/publication/18597/helping_mexico_help_itself.html?breadcrumb=%2F) [HTML format, various paging].

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT STATE TABLES FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. U.S. Department of Education. February 19, 2009.

The U.S. Department of Education posted on-line state-by-state estimates of new education revenues included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan vowed to release a significant share of the \$100 billion in funding in time to avert teacher layoffs.  
<http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/09arrastatetables.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages].

THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND THE FISCAL CRISIS: 2009 AND BEYOND. Urban Institute. Alan J. Auerbach and William G. Gale. February 19, 2009.

In 2009, the federal deficit will be larger as a share of the economy than at any time since the 1940s. After 2009, the Institute projects an average deficit of \$1 trillion per year for the next 10 years. The longer-run picture is even bleaker, with a fiscal gap of 7-9 percent of GDP, between \$1 trillion and \$1.3 trillion annually in current dollars. Recent trends in credit default swap markets suggest that although fiscal policy problems are usually described as medium- and long-term issues, these problems may be upon us much sooner than previously expected. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411843\\_economic\\_crisis.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411843_economic_crisis.pdf) [PDF format, 29 pages].

MEASURING UP: THE PROBLEM OF GRADE INFLATION AND WHAT TRUSTEES CAN DO. American Council of Trustees and Alumni. Web posted February 23, 2009.

As study after study continues to find that grade inflation at universities nationwide shows no sign of abating, the short guide helps trustees rein in the A's. The copies are sent to the boards of more than 500 universities that are responsible for the education of nearly six million students. Harvard professor Harvey C. Mansfield, who has for many years protested grade inflation at his university, endorsed the report in a letter to trustees.

The guide concludes that the first step is to initiate a vigorous campus-wide conversation on the subject, as the University of Colorado recently did with success. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<https://www.goacta.org/publications/downloads/MeasuringUp.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages].

MOST FEEL A PERSONAL STAKE IN TRACKING ECONOMIC NEWS. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. Michael Remez. February 19, 2009.

Americans continue to follow news about the economic crisis closely because they feel it is directly relevant to their lives. More than eight-in-ten say even when the economic news is bad they feel better knowing what's going on, while 77% say they need to stay on top of economic news because it matters in the financial decisions they make.

At the same time, close to half (46%) of the public says they often feel they don't have enough background information to follow economic news stories, according to the study. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/494.pdf> [PDF format, 11 pages].

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION PLAN: PARTNERING TO ENHANCE PROTECTION AND RESILIENCY. U.S. Department of Homeland Security. February 2009.

The plan provides the unifying structure for the integration of a wide range of efforts for the enhanced protection and resiliency of the nation's into a single national program.

The goal of the Plan is to build a safer, more secure, and more resilient America by preventing, deterring, neutralizing, or mitigating the effects of deliberate efforts by terrorists to destroy, incapacitate, or exploit elements of our nation's infrastructure and to strengthen national preparedness, timely response, and rapid recovery of it in the event of an attack, natural disaster, or other emergency.

[http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/NIPP\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/NIPP_Plan.pdf) [PDF format, 188 pages].

REWARDING PERSISTENCE: EFFECTS OF A PERFORMANCE-BASED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR LOW-INCOME PARENTS. [MRDC Research].

Lashawn Richburg-Hayes et al. Web posted February 2009.

An investment in postsecondary education has been repeatedly shown to pay high monetary and non-monetary dividends to students and society at large. Despite such benefits, research shows that close to half of all students who matriculate at a community college drop out before graduating and do not complete a degree at any other college or university within a six-year time frame. The reasons for this are many, ranging from weak academic preparation to difficulties balancing work, family, and school obligations.

The study shows the effect of supplemental financial aid with an incentive component to encourage academic success and persistence. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.mdrdc.org/publications/507/full.pdf> [PDF format, 167 pages].

SMART CHOICE FOR BIOFUELS. Sierra Club and Worldwatch Institute. Jane Earley and Alice McKeown. February 18, 2009.

The report highlights the need for policy reforms at this critical juncture in America's effort to increase the use of biofuels. It outlines the economic and environmental impacts of first-generation biofuels such as corn ethanol, proposes strategies to make the biofuels industry more sustainable, and offers specific policy recommendations. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.worldwatch.org/smartchoicesforbiofuels> [HTML format, with link to a PDF full text file].

WHY UTILITIES ARE NOT WELL-SUITED TO DELIVER RELIEF TO LOW-AND MODERATE-INCOME CONSUMERS IN A CLIMATE BILL. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Chad Stone and Robert Greenstein. February 19, 2009.

Comprehensive climate change legislation is expected to include measures to mitigate the effects of higher energy-related prices on low- and moderate-income family budgets. The most efficient way to protect low- and moderate-income consumers is through a "climate rebate," which would directly compensate families for their purchasing power losses, using revenues from a cap-and-trade system or carbon tax, according to the report. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.cbpp.org/2-19-09climate.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages].

THE 2008 OIL PRICE SHOCK: COMPETING EXPLANATIONS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS. Global Public Policy Institute. Timo Behr. 2009.

Throughout 2008, world oil markets experienced volatility on an unprecedented scale.

While crude oil prices shot up to the dizzying heights of almost \$150 per barrel by the middle of the year, they came plunging down to close to \$40 per barrel by December.

The paper analyzes the debate on the causes behind oil price volatility by disentangling the competing arguments and reviewing the evidence that supports them. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.gppi.net/fileadmin/gppi/GPPiPP1\\_Oil\\_Prices\\_2009.pdf](http://www.gppi.net/fileadmin/gppi/GPPiPP1_Oil_Prices_2009.pdf) [PDF format, 30 pages].

A FRESH LOOK AT GLOBAL GOVERNANCE: EXPLORING OBJECTIVE CRITERIA FOR REPRESENTATION. Center for Global Development. Enrique Rueda-Sabater et al. February 2009.

According to the report, the geopolitical world of the 21st century is very different than that of the post–World War II era. The authors argue that it has to balance representation, which is made credible by the inclusion of key parts of the global community, and effectiveness, which means involving as small a number of actors as possible while having access to the resources to turn decisions/intentions into action/results. They propose simple, fundamental criteria, based on global shares of GDP and population, around which global governance might be organized. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1421065/> [HTML format with link to the PDF file].

MACROECONOMIC IMBALANCES IN THE UNITED STATES AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM. Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. Julia S. Perelstein. Web posted February 2009.

The paper presents that the financial crisis of 2007–08 was made global by the current account deficit in the United States and there is global dependence on the United States trade deficit as a means of maintaining liquidity in financial markets. The outflow of dollars from the United States was invested in U.S. capital markets, causing inflation in asset markets and leading to a bubble and bust in the subprime mortgage sector. Since the U.S. dollar is the international reserve currency, international debt is mostly denominated in dollars. Because there is a high degree of global financial integration, any reduction in the U.S. balance of trade will have negative effects on many countries throughout the world, according to the paper. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.levy.org/pubs/wp\\_554.pdf](http://www.levy.org/pubs/wp_554.pdf) [PDF format, 21 pages].

THE ATLANTIC CENTURY: BENCHMARKING EU & U.S. INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS. European-American Business Council and Information Technology and Innovation Foundation. February 2009.

The study uses 16 indicators to assess the global innovation-based competitiveness of 36 countries and 4 regions. The report finds that while the United States still leads the European Union in innovation-based competitiveness, it ranks sixth overall. Moreover, the U.S. ranks last in progress toward the new knowledge-based innovation economy over the last decade. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.itif.org/files/2009-atlantic-century.pdf> [PDF format, 38 pages].

EMBRACING THE FUTURE: EMBEDDING DIGITAL REPOSITORIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS. RAND Corporation. February 20, 2009.

The briefing paper captures the key findings and recommendations of a study commissioned by the Joint Information Systems Committee on aspects of the strategic commitment of institutions to repository sustainability. The project is aimed at enhancing the functionality, interoperability and extensibility of the SHERPA-LEAP repository service, which currently supports the repositories of

thirteen University of London institutions. The research brief also aims to clarify the different motivations for using and investing in digital repositories, and to highlight potential ways of addressing the challenges of embedding these repositories in institutional strategy and daily operation. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_briefs/2009/RAND\\_RB9411.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/2009/RAND_RB9411.pdf) [PDF format, 5 pages].

**\$740 MILLION GOES TO STATES FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE PROJECTS.** U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. February 23, 2009.

Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announces that more than \$740.9 million will be distributed to the fish and wildlife agencies of the 50 states, commonwealths, the District of Columbia, and territories to fund fish and wildlife conservation, boater access to public waters, and hunter and aquatic education. These Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program funds come from excise taxes and import duties on sporting firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, sport-fishing equipment, electric outboard motors, and fuel taxes attributable to motorboats and small engines. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.fws.gov/news/NewsReleases/showNews.cfm?newsId=A383A17A-A587-E724-62E293452FE6DF6F> [HTML format, various paging].  
<http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/WSFRfinalApportionmentsFY09.pdf> Final Apportionment Certificates [PDF Format, 7 pages].

**2007 UNITED STATES NATIONAL POST-CONSUMER REPORT ON NON-BOTTLE RIGID PLASTICS RECYCLING.** American Chemistry Council. Web posted February 25, 2009.

The report shows the collection and recycling of post-consumer non-bottle rigid plastics across the United States. It finds that in 2007, over 325 million pounds of post-consumer rigid plastics were collected for recycling nationwide. The report also finds that in North American markets, much of the recycled material was used to manufacture new products, such as pallets, crates, composite lumber, and gardening items. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.americanchemistry.com/s\\_plastics/sec\\_content.asp?CID=1593&DID=9167](http://www.americanchemistry.com/s_plastics/sec_content.asp?CID=1593&DID=9167) [PDF format, 6 pages].

**AMERICA'S FAMILIES AND LIVING ARRANGEMENTS: 2008.** U.S. U.S. Census Bureau. February 25, 2009.

With declining fertility rates and the aging of baby boomers, the percentage of families with their own child living at home decreased to 46 percent in 2008, from 52 percent in 1950, according to new data. The findings are based on statistics on family and nonfamily households, characteristics of single-parent families, living arrangements of children and data on married and unmarried couples. "Decreases in the percentage of families with their own child under 18 at home reflect the aging of the population and changing fertility patterns," said Rose Kreider, family demographer at the U.S. Census Bureau. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam/cps2008.html> [HTML format with links to tables].

**BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FISCAL YEAR 2010.** U.S. Office of Management and Budget. February 2009.

This is the full text of the Budget of the U.S. government, A New Era of Responsibility.  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/> [HTML format with link to PDF files].

**DEADLY IN PINK: NEW REPORT WARNS BIG TOBACCO HAS STEPPED UP TARGETING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS.** Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, American Heart Association, and American Lung Association. February 18, 2009.

The tobacco industry has unleashed its most aggressive marketing campaigns aimed at women and girls in over a decade, according to a report issued today by a coalition of public health organizations. The report warns that these new marketing campaigns are putting the health of women and girls at risk and urges Congress to regulate tobacco marketing by passing legislation granting the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authority over tobacco products. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://tobaccofreekids.org/reports/women\\_new/report/deadlyinpink\\_02182009\\_FINAL.pdf](http://tobaccofreekids.org/reports/women_new/report/deadlyinpink_02182009_FINAL.pdf) [PDF format, 36 pages].

**GREEN POWER SUPERHIGHWAYS: BUILDING A PATH TO AMERICA'S CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE.** American Wind Energy Association and Solar Energy Industries Association. February 2009.

The report details current inadequacies of the U.S. electric transmission infrastructure and offering policy solutions to address them. According to the report, inadequate transmission capacity is a significant barrier to renewable energy development in the U.S. The release of the paper comes at a critical time. President Obama and Congress have made strong commitments to renewable energy as a driver for jobs creation and economic growth, but the nation's renewable energy resources can not reach their full potential without renewed investment in our transmission infrastructure. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://seia.org/galleries/pdf/GreenPowerSuperhighways.pdf> [PDF format, 28 pages].

**JOINT SESSION ON CONGRESS PURSUANT TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 41 TO RECEIVE A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.** Congressional Record. February 24, 2009.

This is the full text of the President's address to the joint session of Congress.

[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2009\\_record&docid=cr24fe09-121.pdf](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2009_record&docid=cr24fe09-121.pdf) [PDF format, 5 pages].

**LAND USE EFFECTS OF U.S. CORN-BASED ETHANOL.** Air Improvements Resource, Inc. Thomas L. Darlington. February 24, 2009.

The study assesses land use changes and related greenhouse gas (GHG) emission impacts due to expansion of corn-based ethanol production in the United States. The land use change estimates discussed in the paper were developed for a scenario where U.S. corn-based ethanol production expands from approximately 2 billion gallons per year in 2000/2001 to 15 billion gallons per year (bgy) in 2015/16. The overall conclusion of the report is that 15 bgy of corn ethanol production in 2015/16 should not result in new forest or grassland conversion in the U.S. or abroad. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.ethanolrfa.org/objects/documents/2192/land\\_use\\_effects\\_of\\_us\\_corn-based\\_ethanol.pdf](http://www.ethanolrfa.org/objects/documents/2192/land_use_effects_of_us_corn-based_ethanol.pdf) [PDF format, 56 pages].

[http://www.ethanolrfa.org/objects/documents/2187/2008\\_ethanol\\_economic\\_contribution.pdf](http://www.ethanolrfa.org/objects/documents/2187/2008_ethanol_economic_contribution.pdf) Contribution of the Ethanol Industry to the Economy of the U.S. [PDF format, 13 pages].

**RISING U.S. TEEN FERTILITY.** Population Reference Bureau. Rogelio Saenz and Eugenia Conde. February 2009.

The United States has higher fertility rates among teenage girls compared with other developed countries of the world. For example, girls ages 15 to 19 have fertility rates more than five times higher than their counterparts in developed countries such as France, Italy, Japan, Slovenia, and Switzerland. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://www.prb.org/Articles/2009/teenagefertilityrate.aspx> [HTML format with charts].

SEVENTH REPORT TO CONGRESS ON PROGRESS MADE IN LICENSING AND CONSTRUCTING THE ALASKA NATURAL GAS PIPELINE. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. February 20, 2009.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission today submitted to Congress its “Seventh Report to Congress on the Progress Made in Licensing and Constructing the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline,” as required by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. It outlines the major developments that have occurred since the August 2008 report.

<http://www.ferc.gov/legal/staff-reports/angta-seventh.pdf> [PDF format, 7 pages].

TWITTER AND STATUS UPDATE. Pew Internet and American Life Project. Amanda Lenhart. February 12, 2009.

The author notes that in the past three years, developments in social networking and internet applications have begun providing internet users with more opportunities for sharing short updates about themselves, their lives, and their whereabouts online. Users may post messages about anything in their lives on social networks and blogging sites, or on send short messages to networks of friends like Twitter, Yammer and others. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

<http://pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP%20Twitter%20Memo%20FINAL.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages].

2008 COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES. U.S. Department of State. February 25, 2009.

The reports themselves are based on information received from governments, multilateral institutions, from national and international nongovernmental groups, and from academics, jurists, religious groups and the media. They have gone through a lengthy process of checking and cross-checking.

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/index.htm> [HTML format, various paging].

2009 INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL STRATEGY REPORT. U.S. Department of State. February 27, 2009.

The report is prepared for U.S. Congress in accordance with the Foreign Assistance Act. It describes the efforts of key countries to attack all aspects of the international drug trade in Calendar Year 2008. Volume I covers drug and chemical control activities. Volume II covers money laundering and financial crimes.

<http://www.state.gov/p/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2009/index.htm> [HTML format with links to PDF files].

<http://www.state.gov/p/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2009/vol1/index.htm> Vol. I: Drug and Chemical Control.

<http://www.state.gov/p/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2009/vol2/index.htm> Vol. II: Money Laundering and Financial Crimes.

FILM PIRACY, ORGANIZED CRIME, AND TERRORISM. RAND Corporation. Gregory F. Terverton et al. March 2009.

The report presents the findings of research into the involvement of organized crime and terrorist groups in counterfeiting products ranging from watches to automobile parts, from pharmaceuticals to computer software. It presents detailed case studies from around the globe in one area of counterfeiting, film piracy, to illustrate the broader problem of criminal, and perhaps terrorist, groups finding a new and not-much-discussed way of funding their activities. Piracy is high in payoff and low in risk, often taking place under the radar of law enforcement. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND\\_MG742.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG742.pdf) [PDF format, 182 pages].

FINANCIAL STIMULUS PLANS: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SELECTED COUNTRIES. Law Library of Congress. February 2009.

Since the onslaught of the global financial and economic crisis last year, many countries have unveiled various stimulus packages to bolster their weakening economies and fight the effects of a global slowdown. In November 2008, China and Germany proposed economic stimulus plans of US\$586 billion and \$40 billion, respectively; Canada proposed a plan worth about US\$24 billion in January 2009; France unveiled a \$34 billion plan in February 2009; and Singapore, a \$15 billion plan, in January 2009.

Although the primary focus of these various stimulus packages in different nations is to keep their own economies on track, it is difficult to insulate any economy from a global downturn. The nations are ever more dependent on each other in regard to export and investment growth, securities and property markets, and even consumer confidence, among many other areas. [http://www.loc.gov/law/help/financial\\_stimulus\\_plan.php](http://www.loc.gov/law/help/financial_stimulus_plan.php) [HTML format with links to PDF files].

STABILIZATION EFFECTS OF SOCIAL SPENDING: EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE FROM A PANEL OF OECD COUNTRIES. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Davide Furceri. Web posted February 27, 2009.

The aim of the paper is to assess the ability of social spending to smooth output shocks and to provide stabilization. The results show that overall social spending is able to smooth about 16 percent of a shock to GDP. Among its subcategories; social spending devoted to Old Age and Unemployment are those that contribute more to provide smoothing. Moreover; the stabilization effects of social spending are significantly larger in those countries where the size of social spending is higher, according to the paper. [Note: contains copyrighted material] [http://www.oalis.oecd.org/oalis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00000CF2/\\$FILE/JT03260211.PDF](http://www.oalis.oecd.org/oalis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00000CF2/$FILE/JT03260211.PDF) [PDF format, 28 pages].

STANDARD BEARERS: HORTICULTURAL EXPORTS AND PRIVATE STANDARDS IN AFRICA. International Institute for Environment and Development]. February 2009.

Private standards are set by the food producing industry and retailers, mainly to assure food safety and good agricultural practice. However their proliferation is a major concern in developing countries where these standards are regarded as too expensive for smallholders to comply with. So what really are the benefits and costs of private standards for small-scale producers? The publication presents research and analysis to explore the issues surrounding smallholders, private standards, and exports from Africa. [Note: contains copyrighted material] <http://www.iied.org/pubs/pdfs/16021IIED.pdf> [PDF format, 177 pages].

TRADE PROFILES 2008. World Trade Organization. Web posted on February 27, 2009.

The Profiles gives quick references on national and trade statistics of World Trade Organization (WTO) members and countries which are in the process of negotiating WTO membership. It combines information on trade flows and trade policy measures of members, WTO observers and other selected economies. [Note: contains copyrighted material] [http://www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/booksp\\_e/anrep\\_e/trade\\_profiles08\\_e.pdf](http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/anrep_e/trade_profiles08_e.pdf) [PDF format, 196 pages].

WE DON'T NEED NO EDUCATION? WHY THE UNITED STATES SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN EDUCATION. Center for Global Development. Desmond Bermingham. March 2, 2009.

The author, the former head of the Education for All–Fast Track Initiative (FTI), argues that the United States has a tremendous opportunity to lead the international effort to provide a decent

education to all young people. While the FTI has laid down a good mechanism for global coordination in the education sector, it still faces many hurdles. A U.S.-led Global Fund for Education could take advantage of the FTI where it works and fill in the gaps where it does not. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1421215/> [HTML format with a link to PDF file].

REFORMING THE TAX SYSTEM IN KOREA TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND COPE WITH RAPID POPULATION AGEING. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Randall S. Jones. Web posted February 24, 2009.

Korea has one of the lowest tax burdens in the OECD area, reflecting its small public sector. However, rapid population ageing will put upward pressure on government spending. The challenge is to meet the long-run need for greater expenditures and tax revenue while sustaining strong economic growth. A pro growth tax reform implies relying primarily on consumption taxes for additional revenue. There is also scope for raising personal income tax revenue from its current low level by broadening the base by reducing the exemptions for personal income. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.oalis.oecd.org/olis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00000C96/\\$FILE/JT03259986.PDF](http://www.oalis.oecd.org/olis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00000C96/$FILE/JT03259986.PDF) [PDF format, 44 pages].

OPTIONS FOR DEPLOYING MISSILE DEFENSES IN EUROPE. Congressional Budget Office. February 2009.

As part of ongoing efforts to protect the United States and its allies from attack by ballistic missiles, the U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA) is working to deploy a missile defense system in Europe to “defend allies and deployed forces in Europe from limited Iranian long-range threats and expand protection of [the] U.S. homeland.” As proposed, the system would be in the field by 2013 and would include interceptor missiles in silos to be built in Poland, a tracking radar in the Czech Republic, and another radar at an unspecified location near Iran.  
<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/100xx/doc10013/02-27-MissileDefense.pdf> [PDF format, 84 pages].

ASEAN: THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS. Backgrounder, Council of Foreign Relations. Julie Ginsberg. February 25, 2009.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations ([ASEAN](#)) is an alliance promoting economic and political cooperation by fostering dialogue among its ten members: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The experts say the group may pursue a bigger role in the region to help its members cope with the global financial crisis. As the downturn shifts the geopolitics of the region, potentially increasing China's sway as a source of capital, ASEAN and the United States may look to tighten their economic and security ties to prevent the rise of a hegemon in Southeast Asia. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
[http://www.cfr.org/publication/18616/asean.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby\\_type%2Fbackgrounder](http://www.cfr.org/publication/18616/asean.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fbackgrounder) [HTML format, various paging].

HAITI 2009: STABILITY AT RISK. International Crisis Group. March 3, 2009.

A series of crises in 2008 have increased the potential for serious trouble in Haiti this year. The politically motivated, violent April riots against high living costs caused widespread disruption and suffering, toppled the government of Prime Minister Jacques-Édouard Alexis and forced postponement of a donor conference. In August and September, four tropical storms and hurricanes killed 800, affected nearly one million, exacerbated food shortages and pushed yet more Haitians into poverty. Extensive damage was caused to infrastructure and agriculture. The global financial crisis is making it difficult for donors to meet commitments.

[http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/latin\\_america/b19\\_haiti\\_2009\\_\\_\\_stability\\_at\\_risk.pdf](http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/latin_america/b19_haiti_2009___stability_at_risk.pdf)  
[PDF format, 16 pages].

ACCESS TO ARTS EDUCATION. U.S. Government Accountability Office. February 2009.

According to data from Education's national survey, most elementary school teachers, about 90 percent, reported that instruction time for arts education stayed the same between school years 2004-2005 and 2006-2007. While basic state requirements for arts education in schools have remained unchanged in most states, state funding levels for arts education increased in some states and decreased in others, according to GAO's survey of state arts officials. Overall, research on the effect of arts education on student outcomes is inconclusive. Some studies that examined the effect of arts education on students' reading and math achievement found a small positive effect, but others found none.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09286.pdf> [PDF format, 48 pages].

BANK NATIONALIZATION: WHAT IS IT? SHOULD WE DO IT? Brookings Institution. Douglas J. Elliott. February 25, 2009.

Bank nationalization is the topic "du jour" in Washington and on Wall Street. Nationalization can be a confusing topic because it means different things to different people and there are a variety of reasons given by advocates for supporting such a move. The paper explains the various meanings and purposes of "nationalization," lays out a framework for evaluating the necessity and usefulness of bank nationalization, reviews the most critical implementation issues that would arise, and provides some recommendations [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/0225\\_bank\\_nationalization\\_elliott/0225\\_bank\\_nationalization\\_elliott.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/0225_bank_nationalization_elliott/0225_bank_nationalization_elliott.pdf) [PDF format, 15 pages].

BEYOND THE BUBBLE: TECHNOLOGY AND THE FUTURE OF STUDENT ASSESSMENT. Education Sector. Bill Tucker. February 2009.

Students today are growing up in a world overflowing with a variety of high-tech tools, from computers and video games to increasingly sophisticated mobile devices. But there's one day a year when laptops power down and students' mobile computing devices fall silent, a testing day. Since the IBM Type 805 Test Scoring Machine first hit the market in 1938, fill-in-the-bubble test score sheets and scanners have remained the dominant technologies used in local, state, and national assessments. They rely heavily on multiple-choice question types and measure only a portion of the skills and knowledge outlined in state educational standards. They do not align well with what we know about how students learn. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.educationsector.org/usr\\_doc/Beyond\\_the\\_Bubble.pdf](http://www.educationsector.org/usr_doc/Beyond_the_Bubble.pdf) [PDF format, 19 pages].

THE CLIMATE CHANGE LOBBY EXPLOSION. Center for Public Integrity. February 24, 2009.

The number of lobbyists seeking to influence federal policy on climate change has grown more than 300 percent in five years, with a slew of new interests from Main Street to Wall Street adding to the challenge of addressing global warming, according to the report. The report provides a first-of-its-kind look at the universe of special interests shaping debate in the United States and how it has sharply expanded between 2003, when Congress previously voted on climate change, and 2008. [Note: contains copyrighted material]

[http://www.publicintegrity.org/investigations/climate\\_change/articles/entry/1171/](http://www.publicintegrity.org/investigations/climate_change/articles/entry/1171/) [HTML format, various paging].

THE DEATH PENALTY AND PLEA BARGAINING TO LIFE SENTENCES. Criminal Justice Legal Foundation. Kent S. Scheidegger. February 2009.

Legislatures expecting a large savings in trial costs from repealing the death penalty may be in for a disappointment, according to the study. The most widely cited estimates ignore or minimize an important cost-saving effect of having the death penalty available. In states where the death penalty is the maximum punishment, a larger number of murder defendants are willing to plead guilty and receive a life sentence. The greater cost of trials where the prosecution does seek the death penalty is offset, at least in part, by the savings from avoiding trial altogether in cases where the defendant pleads guilty. Although this effect is well known to people working in the field, there appears to be no prior study to determine the actual size of this effect. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.cjlf.org/papers/wpaper09-01.pdf> [PDF format, 18 pages].

DOES THE DOCTOR NEED A BOSS? Cato Institute. Arnold Kling and Michael F. Cannon. Web posted February 2009.

The traditional model of medical delivery, in which the doctor is trained, respected, and compensated as an independent craftsman, is anachronistic, according to the report. Patients with multiple diagnoses require someone who can organize the efforts of multiple medical professionals. At least two forces stand in the way of robust competition from corporate health care providers. First is the regime of third-party fee-for-service payment, which is heavily entrenched by Medicare, Medicaid, and the regulatory and tax distortions that tilt private health insurance in the same direction. Second, state licensing regulations make it difficult for corporations to design optimal work flows for health care delivery. [Note: contains copyrighted material]  
<http://www.cato.org/pubs/bp/bp111.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages].

ESTIMATES OF THE UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANT POPULATION RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES: JANUARY 2008. U.S. Department of Homeland Security. February 2009.

The report provides estimates of the unauthorized immigrant population residing in the United States as of January 2008 for periods of entry and leading countries of birth and states of residence.  
[http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/ois\\_ill\\_pe\\_2008.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/ois_ill_pe_2008.pdf) [PDF format, 7 pages].

THE TRANSFORMATION OF U.S. LIVESTOCK AGRICULTURE: SCALE, EFFICIENCY, AND RISKS. U.S. Department of Agriculture. James M. MacDonald and William D. McBride. Web posted March 1, 2009.

U.S. livestock production has shifted to much larger and more specialized farms, and the various stages of input provision, farm production, and processing are now much more tightly coordinated through formal contracts and shared ownership of assets. Important financial advantages have driven these structural changes, which in turn have boosted productivity growth in the livestock sector. But structural changes can also generate environmental and health risks for society, as industrialization concentrates animals and animal wastes in localized areas.  
<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB43/EIB43.pdf> [PDF format, 46 pages].

HEROES AND VILLAINS: TEACHERS IN THE EDUCATION RESPONSE TO HIV. United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. David J. Clarke. February 25, 2009.

Teachers have been cast as both heroes and villains in HIV education and related contexts. According to the report, it is clear that they are not being adequately trained, resourced or supported to perform effectively in teaching about HIV and related issues. Too often, HIV education is not included in national education sector plans and policy frameworks. The education sector needs to contribute effectively in preparing children to face the various

challenges of HIV, including prevention, treatment, stigmatization and impact mitigation, now and in their adult lives. [Note: contains copyright material].

[http://www.iiep.unesco.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Info\\_Services\\_Publications/pdf/2009/HIV\\_CLA\\_RKE.pdf](http://www.iiep.unesco.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Info_Services_Publications/pdf/2009/HIV_CLA_RKE.pdf) [PDF format, 266 pages].

HUNGRY OCEANS: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE PREY IS GONE? Oceana. Margot L. Stiles et al. Web posted March 5, 2009.

Scientists are finding evidence of widespread malnutrition in commercial and recreational fish, marine mammals, and seabirds because of the global depletion of the small fish they need to survive, according to the report. These “prey fish” underpin marine food webs and are being steadily exhausted by heavy fishing, increasing demand for aquaculture feed, and climate change. Changing ocean temperatures and currents caused by climate change also make prey fish populations more vulnerable. [Note: contains copyright material].

[http://oceana.org/fileadmin/oceana/uploads/Hungry\\_oceans/hungry\\_oceans\\_OCEANA\\_01.pdf](http://oceana.org/fileadmin/oceana/uploads/Hungry_oceans/hungry_oceans_OCEANA_01.pdf) [PDF format, 40 pages].

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS OF MANUFACTURING PRODUCTIVITY AND UNIT LABOR COST TRENDS 2007, REVISED. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. March 3, 2009.

Manufacturing labor productivity increased in 2007 in 14 of the 17 economies compared by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Republic of Korea and Taiwan had the largest productivity increases of 8.7 percent each. The United States productivity increase of 4.7 percent was the fourth largest. Singapore, included for the first time in these comparisons, had the steepest decline of the three economies where productivity declined. Over the 2000-2007 period, of the 17 economies studied, only Korea, Taiwan, and Sweden had greater productivity growth in manufacturing than the United States.

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/prod4.nr0.htm> [HTML format, various paging].

THE STATE OF WORLD FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE 2008. Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations]. March 2009.

The fishing industry and national fisheries authorities must do more to understand and prepare for the impacts that climate change will have on world fisheries, says the report. According to the report, existing responsible fishing practices need to be more widely implemented and current management plans should be expanded to include strategies for coping with climate change. “Best practices that are already on the books but not always implemented offer clear, established tools towards making fisheries more resilient to climate change,” said Kevern Cochrane, one of the authors. [Note: contains copyright material].

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/i0250e/i0250e.pdf> [PDF format, 196 pages].

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/011/i0250e/i0250e00.htm> [HTML format with PDF files]

TOWARDS HARMONISED BILATERAL TRADE DATA FOR INTER-COUNTRY INPUT-OUTPUT ANALYSES: STATISTICAL ISSUES. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. Web posted March 2, 2009.

The paper discusses the challenges faced when attempting to construct appropriate bilateral trade matrices using annual data collected by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and United Nations, as well as national sources. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/2/48/42264754.pdf> [PDF format, 36 pages].

ACCELERATING CATCH-UP: TERTIARY EDUCATION FOR GROWTH IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. World Bank and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Shahid Yusuf et al. March 2009.

Tertiary-level education comprises all post-secondary forms of education, including universities, technical institutes, teaching colleges, open universities, and other programs that lead to the award of academic diplomas or degrees. It calls for a new outlook, one that is more strategic and nationally integrated, on the nature of the contribution that education can make to industrialization, to exports, to the building of a more resilient economy, and to confronting the twenty-first century challenges posed by climate change, AIDS, food security, energy supply, and more. [Note: contains copyright material].

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTAFRREGTOPEDUCATION/Resources/e-book\\_ACU.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTAFRREGTOPEDUCATION/Resources/e-book_ACU.pdf) [PDF format, 214 pages].

THE NORTH KOREAN PARADOX AND THE SUBVERSIVE TRUTH. American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. Andrei Lankov. March 3, 2009.

Lankov says North Korea must be transformed from within. Neither sanctions nor direct engagement will work. What is needed is an effort to increase contacts between North Korea and the outside world through cultural and educational exchanges and through economic cooperation that exposes North Koreans to South Koreans and their vastly better way of life. Further, the author believes increased radio and video penetration combined with support for defectors who can aid the transformation when the Kim Jong Il regime ends will also be necessary. [Note: contains copyright material].

[http://www.aei.org/docLib/20090303\\_0123913AOLankov\\_g.pdf](http://www.aei.org/docLib/20090303_0123913AOLankov_g.pdf) [PDF format, 5 pages].

EASTERN EUROPE: A CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE IN CAPITALISM? Pew Global Attitudes Project. March 5, 2009.

According to the report, many in Europe think that the financial meltdown poses a serious challenge to European solidarity, and in particular, many observers are worried about the social and political stability of Eastern European nations, several of which have been hit especially hard by the crisis. For instance, Nouriel Roubini, widely lauded as one of the few people who saw the worldwide financial collapse coming, warns that the economic downturn may "even call into question the economic and political model Eastern European countries have followed since the 1990s." Survey research shows that in recent years support for the free-market system has been on the rise in Eastern Europe. However, compared with their Western European counterparts, Eastern Europeans embrace free markets somewhat tepidly. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1142/eastern-europe-crisis-capitalism-poll> [HTML format, various paging].

MAPPING PEACE BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL. U.S. Institute of Peace. Frederic C. Hof. March 2009.

The report provides ideas on facilitating a Syrian-Israeli Peace. It comes out at a critical time in the Arab-Israeli peace process as a new U.S. administration is looking for ways to move the process forward despite the recent violence in Gaza. In the report, Fred Hof, lays out a roadmap for how to resolve the thorny issues separating Syria and Israel over the Golan Heights plateau and small tracts in the Jordan River Valley. Hof's study focuses on creative ways and means to reconcile Syria's boundary demand with legitimate Israeli concerns. A key element is elaboration on the concept of a Jordan Valley-Golan Heights Environmental Preserve, which attracted attention during earlier peace talks. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://library.usip.org/articles/1012101.1042/1.PDF> [PDF format, 20 pages].

COUNTRY ANALYSIS BRIEFS: INDIA. Energy Information Administration. March 2009.

With high rates of economic growth and over 15 percent of the world's population, India has become a significant consumer of energy resources. In 2006, India was the sixth largest oil consumer in the world. The global financial crisis and credit crunch have slowed India's significant economic growth particularly in the manufacturing sector, and GDP growth rates have declined from 9.3 percent in 2007 to 5.3 percent in the fourth quarter of 2008. Despite a recent slowing economy, India's energy demand continues to increase. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/India/pdf.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages].

25 CITIES WITH THE MOST ENERGY STAR QUALIFIED BUILDINGS IN 2008. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Web posted March 5, 2009.

The report presents a list of U.S. metropolitan areas with the largest number of energy efficient buildings in 2008 that have earned EPA's Energy Star. The list is headed by Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, Washington, D.C., Dallas-Fort Worth, Chicago, Denver, Minneapolis-St Paul, Atlanta and Seattle.

[http://www.energystar.gov/ia/business/downloads/2008\\_Top\\_25\\_cities\\_chart.pdf](http://www.energystar.gov/ia/business/downloads/2008_Top_25_cities_chart.pdf) [PDF format, 1 page].

ARTISTS IN A YEAR OF RECESSION: IMPACT ON JOBS IN 2008. National Endowment for the Arts. March 2009.

Unemployment rates are up among working artists and the artist workforce has contracted, according to the research. It examines how the economic slowdown has affected the nation's working artists. The study looks at artist employment patterns during two spikes in the current recession, the fourth quarters of 2007 and 2008. This downturn reflects larger economic declines: a Commerce Department report last week noted a 6.2 percent decrease in the gross domestic product in the last quarter of 2008. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://arts.endow.gov/research/Notes/97.pdf> [PDF format, 10 pages].

THE CONSUMER AND BUSINESS LENDING INITIATIVE. U.S. Department of Treasury. March 3, 2009.

The Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility (TALF), a component of the Consumer and Business Lending Initiative (CBLI) is launched. The TALF has the potential to generate up to \$1 trillion of lending for businesses and households. The TALF is designed to catalyze the securitization markets by providing financing to investors to support their purchases of certain AAA-rated asset-backed securities (ABS). The TALF will assist lenders in meeting the borrowing needs of consumers and small businesses, helping to stimulate the broader economy.

[http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/reports/talf\\_white\\_paper.pdf](http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/reports/talf_white_paper.pdf) [PDF format, 5 pages].

GREEN JOBS: A PATHWAY TO A STRONG MIDDLE CLASS. Middle Class Task Force, Vice President of the United States. March 4, 2009.

The White House Task Force on the Middle Class has a simple mandate: to find, highlight, and implement solutions to the economic challenges facing the American middle class. The Obama Administration is committed to reforming how we create and consume energy in America, and project of reform is the work of many different officials and agencies within the government. One part of that agenda is to promote the creation of green jobs. [Note: contains copyright material].

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/mctf\\_one\\_staff\\_report.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/mctf_one_staff_report.pdf) [PDF format, 33 pages].

HISPANICS BECOME MORE PREVALENT ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES. U.S. Bureau of Census. Web posted March 4, 2009.

Hispanic students comprised 12 percent of full-time college students, both undergraduate and graduate students, in 2007, up from 10 percent in 2006, according to U.S. Census Bureau tables. Hispanics comprise 15 percent of the nation's total population.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/education/013391.html> [HTML format, various paging].

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/school.html> School Enrollment in the United States: 2007 [HTML format with links to PDF files]

MINI-DIGEST OF EDUCATION STATISTICS 2008. National Center for Education Statistics. March 2009.

The publication is a pocket-sized compilation of statistical information covering the broad field of American education from kindergarten through graduate school. The statistical highlights are excerpts from the Digest of Education of Statistics, 2008. [Note: contains copyright material]. <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009021.pdf> [PDF format, 77 pages].

ONE IN 31: THE LONG REACH OF AMERICAN CORRECTIONS. Pew Center on the States. March 2009.

Explosive growth in the number of people on probation or parole has propelled the population of the American corrections system to more than 7.3 million, or 1 in every 31 U.S. adults, according to the report. The vast majority of these offenders live in the community, yet new data in the report finds that nearly 90 percent of state corrections dollars are spent on prisons. The report examines the scale and cost of prison, jail, probation and parole in each of the 50 states, and provides a blueprint for states to cut both crime and spending by reallocating prison expenses to fund stronger supervision of the large number of offenders in the community. [Note: contains copyrighted material]. [http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/sentencing\\_and\\_corrections/SPP\\_1in31\\_report\\_FINAL\\_WEB\\_2-27-09.pdf](http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/sentencing_and_corrections/SPP_1in31_report_FINAL_WEB_2-27-09.pdf) [PDF format, 48 pages].

PUTTING U.S. CARS ON THE HIGH ROAD TO RECOVERY. Brookings Institution. Susan Helper. March 4, 2009.

The author, Helper, says putting the U.S. auto industry on the high road to recovery will require more than a quick financial fix. It will require sustained cooperation between government and the industry around fundamental issues: what kinds of cars are made and how they are made. [Note: contains copyright material]. [http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0304\\_auto\\_industry\\_wial.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0304_auto_industry_wial.aspx) [HTML format, various paging].

RECOVERY ACT (ARRA): COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER GRANTS BY STATE. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. March 5, 2009.

President Obama has announced the release of \$155 million authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that will support 126 new health centers. These health centers will help people in need, many with no health insurance, obtain access to comprehensive primary and preventive health care services. "We have acted quickly to put Recovery Act dollars to good use in communities across America," said President Obama. "The construction and expansion of health centers will create thousands of new jobs, help provide health care to an estimated 750,000 Americans across the country who wouldn't have access to care without these centers, and take another step toward an affordable, accessible health care system." [Note: contains copyright material]. <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/hrsa/napawards.html> [HTML format, various paging].

RESEARCH PRIORITIES FOR FOSSIL FUELS. Testimonies, RAND Corporation. James T. Bartis. March 5, 2009.

This is the full text of testimony presented before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The author states that the U.S. energy policy needs to focus on developing greenhouse gas reduction technology. [Note: contains copyright material]. [http://www.rand.org/pubs/testimonies/2009/RAND\\_CT319.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/testimonies/2009/RAND_CT319.pdf) [PDF format, 13 pages].

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND REPORTS OF THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL. Human Rights Council, United Nations. Web posted March 5, 2009.

The annual report outlines the efforts made by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to implement its mandate over the past year. In the report, the High Commissioner describes her Office's support to the work of the Council and the effective functioning of its mechanisms, in particular the newly established universal periodic review process designed to examine the human rights records of all UN member states. [Note: contains copyright material].

[http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Press/HC\\_Annual\\_report.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Press/HC_Annual_report.pdf) [PDF format, 19 pages].

BIOCHAR: EXAMINATION OF AN EMERGING CONCEPT TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Kelsi S. Bracmort. February 3, 2009.

Biochar is a charcoal produced under high temperatures using crop residues, animal manure, or any type of organic waste material. The combined production and use of biochar is considered a carbon-negative process, meaning that carbon is removed from the atmosphere and will not be released into the atmosphere at a later time. Biochar has multiple potential environmental benefits, foremost the potential to sequester carbon in the soil for hundreds to thousands of years at an estimate. Studies suggest that crop yields can increase as a result of applying biochar as a fertilizer to the soil. The report describes biochar, its potential advantages and disadvantages, legislative support, and research and development activities underway in the United States and abroad.

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40186\\_20090203.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40186_20090203.pdf) [PDF format, 11 pages].

DEVELOPING A PROCESS TO BUILD PARTNER CAPACITY FOR COMBATING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION. RAND Corporation. Web posted March 10, 2009.

The report summarizes a project that examines how the United States can better coordinate its approach to enhance partners' border security, detection, and interdiction capacity to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. [Note: contains copyright material].

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_briefs/2009/RAND\\_RB9382.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/2009/RAND_RB9382.pdf) [PDF format, 3 pages].

GLOBAL SECURITY ENGAGEMENT: A NEW MODEL FOR COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION. National Research Council. March 2009.

The report urges White House to lead the reformulation of U.S. Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) programs to focus on combating international terrorism and other current threats. The government's first CTR programs were created in 1991 to eliminate the former Soviet Union's nuclear, chemical, and other weapons and prevent their proliferation. Originally designed to deal with immediate post-Cold War challenges, the programs must be expanded to other regions and fundamentally redesigned as an active tool of foreign policy that can address contemporary threats from groups that are that are agile, networked, and adaptable. [Note: contains copyright material].

[http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12583](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12583) [HTML format with links to PDF files].

INTERNATIONAL STATUS AND PROSPECTS OF NUCLEAR POWER. International Atomic Energy Agency. February 27, 2009.

The report describes the growing interest in nuclear power around the world, current projections about its future, new technological developments and the challenges faced in different countries. In 2008, nuclear power supplied about 14% of the world's electricity. At the end of the year, 438

reactors in 30 countries were in operation and another 44 reactors were under construction. Projections ranged from a 27% increase in nuclear power by 2030 to a 100% increase. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Booklets/NuclearPower/np08.pdf> [PDF format, 54 pages].

PROTECTING WHAT MATTERS: THE 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GLOBAL SECURITY SURVEY. Deloitte. Web posted March 10, 2009.

As in previous surveys, respondents recognize that people are both an organization's greatest asset as well as its weakest link. But security vigilance is even more important in hard economic times, when the increased stress levels can lead people to behave in atypical ways. The top three information security priorities of financial institutions are: security regulatory compliance, followed by data protection and information leakage, and access and identity management. [Note: contains copyright material].

[http://www.deloitte.com/dtt/cda/doc/content/dtt\\_fsi\\_GlobalSecuritySurvey\\_0901.pdf](http://www.deloitte.com/dtt/cda/doc/content/dtt_fsi_GlobalSecuritySurvey_0901.pdf) [PDF format, 60 pages].

A RISING TIDE OF OCEAN DEBRIS. Ocean Conservancy. March 10, 2009.

The report features the Marine Debris Index the world's only country-by-country, state-by-state analysis of trash in our ocean and waterways. The trash was collected and the data recorded by the nearly 400,000 volunteers around the world who combed their local beaches and waterways during the 23rd International Coastal Cleanup the largest volunteer effort of its kind. Volunteers removed nearly seven million (6.8 million) pounds of debris, from 6,485 sites in 104 countries and 42 U.S. states and the District of Columbia with a common mission of improving the health of the ocean. [Note: contains copyright material].

[http://www.oceanconservancy.org/pdf/A\\_Rising\\_Tide\\_full\\_lowres.pdf](http://www.oceanconservancy.org/pdf/A_Rising_Tide_full_lowres.pdf) [PDF format, 64 pages].

NORTH KOREAN BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT TO THE UNITED STATES. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Steven A. Hildreth. February 24, 2009.

The report briefly reviews North Korea's ballistic missile program. In summer 2007, North Korea tested modern, short-range missiles. In February 2009, South Korea reported the DPRK had deployed a new intermediate-range missile.

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS21473\\_20090224.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS21473_20090224.pdf) [PDF format, 9 pages].

SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD: ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, 2008. Social Security Administration. March 2009.

The study provides a cross-national comparison of the social security systems in 48 countries in Asia and the Pacific. It summarizes the five main social insurance programs in those countries: old-age, disability, and survivors; sickness and maternity; work injury; unemployment; and family allowances.

<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/progdesc/ssptw/2008-2009/asia/ssptw08asia.pdf> [PDF format, 231 pages].

LONDON CHEAPER THAN NEW YORK FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 2002. Economic Intelligence Unit. March 9, 2009.

The latest cost of living survey highlights the way in which shifts in exchange rates in recent months have altered the relative cost of living in cities around the world. By comparing the ranking of cities in September 2008, (when the price survey was conducted, to the ranking in February 2009 (adjusting for recent exchange-rate movements), it is possible to see which locations have been winners or losers as a result of the currency dislocation. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.eiuresources.com/mediadir/default.asp?PR=2009030906> [HTML format, various paging].

LIFE AFTER THE OIL BUST. Knowledge@Wharton, Wharton University of Pennsylvania. March 11, 2009.

Time was when oil was being sold at \$140 a barrel, and while consumers cringed at the high prices, the oil-rich nations of the Middle East prospered. The result was an economic boom that spanned industries ranging from financial services and real estate to tourism. Stock prices soared. Sovereign wealth funds snapped up choice assets around the globe. In late 2008, the oil bubble burst, the financial crisis began to roll across the world and boom turned to bust. The report explores how businesses in the region are coping with today's brutal reality. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/papers/download/20090311middleeast-english.pdf> [PDF format, 17 pages].

OPEC OIL EXPORT REVENUES. Energy Information Administration. March 2009.

Based on projections from the report, members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) could earn \$383 billion of net oil export revenues in 2009 and \$503 billion in 2010. Last year, OPEC earned \$970 billion in net oil export revenues, a 42 percent increase from 2007. Saudi Arabia earned the largest share of these earnings, \$287 billion, representing 30 percent of total OPEC revenues. On a per-capita basis, OPEC net oil export earnings reached \$2,686 in 2008, a 40 percent increase from 2007. [Note: contains copyright 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].

PROGRESS TOWARD POLIOMYELITIS ERADICATION: AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN, 2008. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. March 6, 2009.

During 2008, despite continued intensive polio eradication activities in Afghanistan and Pakistan, WPV1 and WPV3 continued to circulate in the two shared transmission zones of both countries. In addition, WPV1 was reintroduced into previously polio-free areas of northern Punjab Province, Pakistan. However, most of Afghanistan continues to be free of endemic WPV transmission. In addition to continued support from the international polio eradication partnership, interruption of WPV transmission in Afghanistan and Pakistan will require overcoming one of the most important remaining challenges in polio eradication globally: the barriers to access and vaccination of children in large, remote, and security-compromised areas.

[http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5808a4.htm?s\\_cid=mm5808a4\\_x](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5808a4.htm?s_cid=mm5808a4_x) [HTML format, various paging].

RECONSTRUCTING GAZA – LESSONS FROM LEBANON. U.S. Institute of Peace. Alistair Harris. March 2009.

As the international community continues to debate humanitarian assistance to Gaza, the author Harris argues that donors should avoid the temptation to adopt a mechanistic, one size fits all solution. "In the rush to rebuild what was destroyed, it should be remembered," writes Harris, "that the major catalysts for this conflict were political and economic. As such, the reconstruction effort must ensure that viable employment initiatives form part of the post-conflict stabilization plan. This was very much a man-made humanitarian disaster," concludes the report. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://library.usip.org/articles/1012112.1065/1.PDF> [PDF format, 9 pages].

LONG-TERM FINANCIAL INCENTIVES AND INVESTMENT IN DAUGHTERS: EVIDENCE FROM CONDITIONAL CASH TRANSFERS IN NORTH INDIA. World Bank. Web posted March 9, 2009.

Since the early 1990s, several states in India have introduced financial incentive programs to discourage son preference among parents and encourage investment in daughters' education and health. The study evaluates one such program in the state of Haryana, Apni Beti Apna Dhan (Our Daughter, Our Wealth). The results imply that Apni Beti Apna Dhan had a positive effect on the sex ratio of living children, but inconclusive effects on mothers' preferences for having female children as well as total desired fertility. [Note: contains copyright material].

[http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2009/03/09/000158349\\_20090309091453/Rendered/PDF/WPS4860.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2009/03/09/000158349_20090309091453/Rendered/PDF/WPS4860.pdf) [PDF format, 39 pages].

10.7 BILLION TRIPS TAKEN ON U.S. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN 2008. American Public Transportation Association. Virginia Miller. March 9, 2009.

Despite falling gas prices and an economic recession, increasing numbers of Americans took 10.7 billion trips on public transportation in 2008, the highest level of ridership in 52 years and a modern ridership record, according to a report released today by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). This represents a 4.0 percent increase over the number of trips taken in 2007 on public transportation, while at the same time, vehicle miles traveled (VMTs) on our nation's roads declined by 3.6 percent in 2008, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. [Note: contains copyright material].

[http://www.apta.com/media/releases/documents/090309\\_ridership.pdf](http://www.apta.com/media/releases/documents/090309_ridership.pdf) [PDF format, 2 pages].

2008 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY DIRECTORS SURVEY. Center for Best Practices, National Governors Association. March 6, 2009.

The survey provides an overview of the homeland security landscape at the state level, both in terms of how states have structured themselves for their homeland security missions and in the issues and challenges that dominate their agendas, and offers a clear assessment of the DHS-state relationship. More than 75 percent of respondents expressed satisfaction with their communication with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), a significant increase compared to the 42 percent satisfaction rate reported in 2007. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0903HSASURVEY.PDF> [PDF format, 10 pages].

AMERICAN RELIGIOUS IDENTIFICATION SURVEY 2008. Program on Public Values, Trinity College. Barry A. Kosmin and Ariela Keysar. Web posted March 9, 2009.

The Catholic population of the United States has shifted away from the Northeast and towards the Southwest, while secularity continues to grow in strength in all regions of the country, according to the study. "The decline of Catholicism in the Northeast is nothing short of stunning," said the author, Barry Kosmin. "Thanks to immigration and natural increase among Latinos, California now has a higher proportion of Catholics than New England." Northern New England has now taken over from the Pacific Northwest as the least religious section of the country, with Vermont, at 34 percent "Nones," leading all other states by a full 9 points. The 'Nones' are the only group to have grown in every state of the Union." [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.docuticker.com/?paged=2> [PDF format, 26 pages].

AMERICA'S YOUNGEST OUTCASTS: STATE REPORT CARD ON CHILD HOMELESSNESS. National Center of Family Homelessness. March 2009.

Without a voice, more than 1.5 million of our nation's children go to sleep without a home each year. These children also endure a lack of safety, comfort, privacy, reassuring routines, adequate health care, uninterrupted schooling, sustaining relationships, and a sense of community. These factors combine to create a life-altering experience that inflicts profound and lasting scars. The report describes the status of homeless children in four areas: extent of child homelessness, child well-being, structural risk factors, and state-by-state policy and planning efforts. [Note: contains copyright material].

[http://www.homelessschildrenamerica.org/pdf/rc\\_full\\_report.pdf](http://www.homelessschildrenamerica.org/pdf/rc_full_report.pdf) [PDF format, 220 pages].

CLEAN COAL. U.S. Government Accountability Office. Web posted March 11, 2009.

Coal-fired power plants generate about one-half of the nation's electricity and about one-third of its carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, which contribute to climate change. In 2003, the Department of Energy (DOE) initiated FutureGen, a commercial-scale, coal-fired power plant to incorporate integrated gasification combined cycle (IGCC), an advanced generating technology, with carbon capture and storage (CCS). U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommends that DOE re-examine its restructuring decision, based on the comparative costs, benefits, and risks of the original and restructured programs.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09248.pdf> [PDF format, 53 pages].

END-OF-LIFE CARE: SERVICES, COSTS, ETHICS, AND QUALITY OF CARE. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Kirsten J. Colello et al. February 23, 2009.

End-of-life care can be defined as health care provided to persons who are very ill, have a prognosis that is likely to worsen, and most likely will die in the near term from their illness. The report provides information on various aspects of end-of-life care. The report is divided into six sections that address (1) demographic and historical changes affecting death and dying in the United States; (2) the definitions of end-of-life, palliative, and hospice care; (3) costs associated with end-of-life care; (4) end-of-life care laws and ethics; (5) quality of care at the end of life; and (6) policy issues that would modify or expand the federal government's role in addressing end-of-life care.

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40235\\_20090223.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40235_20090223.pdf) [PDF format, 30 pages].

FORECLOSURE CRISIS: WORKING TOWARD A SOLUTION. Congressional Oversight Panel, U.S. Senate. March 6, 2009.

Foreclosures have skyrocketed to three times their historic rates. Since the late 1990s, mortgage lending has morphed into an assembly-line business that looked nothing like mortgages of the past. To help individual families and to stabilize the economy, Congress has pressed Treasury to devise a plan to deal with foreclosures. The Panel hopes that by identifying the current impediments to sensible modifications that can move toward effective mechanisms to halt wealth-destroying foreclosures and put the American family and the American economy back on a sound footing.

<http://cop.senate.gov/documents/cop-030609-report.pdf> [PDF format, 198 pages].

MAJORITY/NEAR-MAJORITY OF FIRST GRADERS IN TOP TEN U.S. CITIES ARE LATINO. Tomas Rivera Policy Institute, University of Southern California. March 5, 2009.

Latino children now constitute a majority or near majority of first graders in nine of the nation's largest cities, according to the report. In cities such as Los Angeles and Dallas, the percentage of Hispanic first graders is even higher, three out of four first graders in these school districts are Latino. In 2020, this demographic wave of Latino first graders will graduate from high school and enter collegiate education or the labor market. [Note: contains copyright material].

<http://www.trpi.org/Press%20releases/PRESS%20RELEASE%20The%20Coming%20Latino%20Demographic%203%205%2009.pdf> [PDF format, 5 pages].

PERPETUAL OTHER-RACE TRAINING REDUCES IMPLICIT RACIAL BIAS. PLoS One. 2009.

The report contends that implicit racial bias denotes socio-cognitive attitudes towards other-race groups that are exempt from conscious awareness. In parallel, other-race faces are more difficult to differentiate relative to own-race faces, the “Other-Race Effect.” To examine the relationship between these two biases, The authors trained Caucasian subjects to better individuate other-race faces and measured implicit racial bias for those faces both before and after training. The results establish a causal link between the Other-Race Effect and implicit racial bias. The report also demonstrates that training that ameliorates the perceptual Other-Race Effect also reduces socio-cognitive implicit racial bias. [Note: contains copyright material].  
<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0004215> [HTML format, various paging].

REMOVING BARRIERS TO RESPONSIBLE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN STEM CELLS. Executive Order, The White House. March 9, 2009.

The purpose of the order is to remove limitations on scientific inquiry, to expand National Institute of Health support for the exploration of human stem cell research, and in so doing to enhance the contribution of America’s scientists to important new discoveries and new therapies for the benefit of humankind. [Note: contains copyright material].  
[http://www.whitehouse.gov/the\\_press\\_office/Removing-Barriers-to-Responsible-Scientific-Research-Involving-Human-Stem-Cells/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Removing-Barriers-to-Responsible-Scientific-Research-Involving-Human-Stem-Cells/) [HTML format].

REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION: SCHOOL YEAR 2006-2007 (FISCAL YEAR 2007). U.S. Department of Education. Lei Zhou and Frank Johnson. February 2009.

The document contains basic revenue and expenditure data, by state, for public elementary and secondary education for school year 2006-07. It contains state-level data on revenues by source and expenditures by function, including expenditures per pupil.  
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009337.pdf> [PDF format, 31 pages].

SUPER TUESDAY TORNADO OUTBREAK OF FEBRUARY 5-6, 2008. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. March 2009.

The report analyzes forecasting performance and public response during the second deadliest tornado outbreak in U.S. history. The report also addresses a key area of concern: why some people take cover while others ride out severe weather. 82 tornadoes raked nine states throughout the South, killing 57 people, injuring 350 others and causing \$400 million in property damage. In reviewing the public response, the team found that two-thirds of the victims were in mobile homes, and 60 percent did not have access to safe shelter. Several of those interviewed said they spent time seeking confirmation and went to a safe location only after they saw a tornado. Many people minimized the threat of personal risk through “optimism bias,” the belief that such bad things only happen to other people. [Note: contains copyright material].  
[http://www.weather.gov/os/assessments/pdfs/super\\_tuesday.pdf](http://www.weather.gov/os/assessments/pdfs/super_tuesday.pdf) [PDF format, 48 pages].

## ARTICLES

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### DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

SILENT SERVANTS (Asia-Pacific Defense Forum, vol. 33, no. 3, Third Quarter 2008, pp. 44-51)

Trafficking in people is the modern-day form of slavery, the world's third most profitable organized crime which principally targets women and children, and one of the fastest-growing criminal activities. Trafficking victims are typically defrauded or coerced into the sex services industries or into situations where their labor is exploited. Traffickers often rely on the confiscation of travel documents to exercise control over a victim. Between 600,000-800,000 people annually are transported across borders worldwide, including 14,500-17,500 persons into the United States alone. The U.S. is committed to putting an end to human trafficking; the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (G/TIP) provides the tools to combat trafficking in persons and assists in the coordination of anti-trafficking efforts, and its annual Trafficking in Persons Report serves as the primary diplomatic tool through which the U.S. Government encourages partnership and increased determination in the fight against human trafficking. Another effort is the U.N. Convention against Transnational Crime, adopted by the UN General Assembly during its Millennium Meeting in November 2000 and considered the first serious attempt by the international community to answer the global challenge of transnational organized crime with a global response in the form of international law. Currently available online at [http://forum.apan-info.net/2008-3rd\\_quarter/APDF-Threat-Final.pdf](http://forum.apan-info.net/2008-3rd_quarter/APDF-Threat-Final.pdf)

Bartels, Larry THE IRRATIONAL ELECTORATE (Wilson Quarterly, vol. 32, no. 4, Autumn 2008, pp. 44-50)

The author, director of the Center for the Study of Democratic Politics in Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, notes that one of the best-selling political books of the 2008 election season was JUST HOW STUPID ARE WE? by popular historian Rick Shenkman, presenting results from opinion surveys documenting Americans' lack of knowledge about politics, government, and American history. When social scientists started using detailed opinion surveys to study the attitudes and behavior of ordinary voters in the early 1950s, they found that voters consistently misperceived where candidates stood on the important issues of the day, seeing their favorite candidates' positions as closer to their own and those of opposing candidates' stands as more dissimilar than they actually were. The ideal of rational voting behavior is further undermined by accumulating evidence that voters can be powerfully swayed by television advertising in the days just before an election. Analysis of a major study of the 2000 presidential election that tracked prospective voters' responses to changes in the volume and content of campaign ads and news coverage suggested that George W. Bush's razor-thin victory hinged crucially on the fact that he had more money to spend on television ads in battleground states in the final weeks of the campaign. Currently available online at [http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=wq.essay&essay\\_id=478918](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=wq.essay&essay_id=478918)

Fiala, Nathan HOW MEAT CONTRIBUTES TO GLOBAL WARMING (Scientific American, February 2009)

Producing beef creates prodigious amounts of heat-trapping greenhouse gases, notes the author; pound for pound, beef production generates 13 times as much greenhouse gas emissions than producing chicken. For potatoes, the multiplier is 57. Beef consumption is rising rapidly, due to global population growth and people eating more meat. Producing the annual beef diet of the average American emits as much greenhouse gas as a car driven more than 1,800 miles. The

author notes that improving waste management and farming practices can help reduce the “carbon footprint” of beef, however dietary changes and eating less beef would be more effective. Currently available online at <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=the-greenhouse-hamburger>

Frumkin, Howard; Hess, Jeremy; Vindigni, Stephen ENERGY AND PUBLIC HEALTH: THE CHALLENGE OF PEAK PETROLEUM (Public Health Reports, vol. 124, January-February 2009, pp. 5-19)

The authors, with the Centers for Disease Control and/or the Emory Medical School in Atlanta, note that “dramatic improvements in human health during the last 150 years have coincided with unprecedented economic growth and prosperity.” Many of the advances in public health have been made possible by intensive energy use, largely from fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas; they note that the modern health-care sector is heavily dependent on petroleum and natural gas for pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and equipment, the energy requirements of hospitals, transportation and food production. They highlight the growing consensus that the global production of petroleum is expected to peak and go into terminal decline in the next few decades; this will have a profound effect on health care. While the health-care sector has dealt with short-term energy shortages in the 1970s, a long-term and terminal decline in energy supply over decades has little precedent, and will require collaboration with those in the energy, transportation, urban planning and other fields. Modern medicine and health care will need to completely rethink its approach to public health, such as the types of products and procedures it employs, how it obtains energy, how food is produced, and how low-income households obtain access to health care. Currently available online at <http://www.injurycontrol.com/Hank/reprints/EnergyFrumkin.pdf>

Hammer, Joshua GETTING PAST THE TROUBLES (Smithsonian, Vo. 39, No. 12, March 2009 pp. 64-73)

Ten years have passed since Catholics and Protestants of Northern Ireland reached the Good Friday Agreement to end decades of strife. Even while former political opponents work together in government, “The Troubles” still seem fresh in some Belfast neighborhoods where ironically-named “peace fences” separate neighborhoods of the two factions as a deterrent to spontaneous violence. Still, politicians from Israel, Palestine, Sri Lanka, and Iraq are all studying how the Irish have adhered to their 10-year-old agreement, and some parts of Northern Ireland, notably Londonderry, Hammer reports, are finding greater rapport growing between the factions. At the same time, criminal tribunals examine atrocities that occurred during the 40 years of violence, and the nation has formed an inquiry to explore ways of illuminating the truth behind the thousands of deaths that occurred. Currently available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/people-places/Getting-Past-the-Troubles.html>

Homer-Dixon, Thomas OUR PANARCHIC FUTURE (World Watch, vol. 22, no. 2, March-April 2009)

The author profiles the work of Buzz Holling, one of the world’s preeminent ecologists, whose study of forest ecosystems has expanded into the examination of all complex systems, natural and manmade, and how they adapt to sudden change, or fail to. Holling and his colleagues call their ideas “panarchy” theory — how complexity and collapse is part of a long-term process of change and adaptation. Homer-Dixon and Holling note that humanity is experiencing a volatile and unstable period of history, and that a period of instability such as today has only occurred a few times – the transitions to agriculture, industrialization and modern information technology. Our modern era is locked into a path of perpetual growth, they write, and this inertia, combined with entrenched economic interests that benefit from the status quo, prevent us from seeing alternative futures. They fear that modern society is headed toward a major breakdown, and that a profound change, “both frightening and creative”, is coming. This article is adapted from Homer-Dixon’s book THE UPSIDE OF DOWN: CATASTROPHE, CREATIVITY, AND THE RENEWAL OF CIVILIZATION. Currently available online at <http://www.worldwatch.org/node/6008>

Hudson, Valerie, et al. THE HEART OF THE MATTER: THE SECURITY OF WOMEN AND THE SECURITY OF STATES (International Security, vol. 33, no. 3, Winter 2008/2009, pp. 1-39)

The authors argue that the treatment of females within a society is a major and underappreciated factor in matters of high politics, such as national security and conflict. They believe that not only is the physical security and well-being of women is directly linked to the security of the state, but it explains more of the variance in state peacefulness than do conventional measures such as democracy, wealth, and tradition of civilization. Drawing from disparate fields such as evolutionary biology and psychology, the authors make the case that societies that tolerate violence against women and girls have male-dominated power structures that are more prone to internal and external conflict; those societies that have depersonalized political power and have improved the status of women are less likely to engage in violent conflict. They argue that policymakers should analyze the security of women when considering the linkage between state security and peacefulness. Currently available online at [http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/files/IS3303\\_pp007-045.pdf](http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/files/IS3303_pp007-045.pdf)

Kucera, Joshua THE BIG THAW (Wilson Quarterly, vol. 32, no. 4, Autumn 2008, pp. 36-42)

A warming climate is melting Greenland's ice sheet, which contains 10 percent of the world's fresh water, and which is disappearing at a rate of 57 cubic miles a year. In 2007, the Northwest Passage, which runs south of Greenland and along Canada's northern coast, was free of ice for the first time since scientists began monitoring it. The Greenland ice sheet melt is unlocking mineral and petroleum resources, offering the prospect of considerable wealth to Greenland's citizens, who are seeking independence from Denmark. The seas off northeastern Greenland were among the most promising, with an estimated 8.9 billion barrels of oil and 86.2 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. A key U.S. interest in Greenland is the Thule Air Base, built immediately after World War II. The author chronicles how climate change is altering the Greenlanders' way of life, and the how the newly-accessible mineral resources are changing political relations. Currently available online at [http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=wq.essay&essay\\_id=500524](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=wq.essay&essay_id=500524)

MacShane, Denis AN ADMIRABLE FOLLY (Wilson Quarterly, vol. 32, no. 4, Autumn 2008, pp. 51-55)

The author, a Labor Party member of the U.K. Parliament and minister for Europe during the Blair administration, believes that the gap between the policy of detente of George H.W. Bush and the confrontationist foreign policy of George W. Bush represents a far bigger distance between two approaches to international affairs than anything seen in Europe during the same period. While Europe and America share many economic and cultural traditions, the American electoral system (one vote for one person to head the nation) contrasts with the European practice of one vote for one person, who then with other parliamentarians decides who will run the country. Unlike America, paid political advertising is banned from European television, removing much of the heated rhetoric from campaigns and keeping the focus on policy differences. MacShane writes that American democracy, with the spectacle of its quadrennial presidential bouts, even with its numerous flaws, remains an example for the world; although he believes that Europe has improved on the democratic road that America exemplified, the U.S. is still needed to inspire others to follow. Full text is currently available online at [http://denismacshane-international.blogspot.com/2008\\_10\\_19\\_archive.html](http://denismacshane-international.blogspot.com/2008_10_19_archive.html)

Morton, John AN INTRIGUING EXPERIMENT (American Journalism Review, February-March 2009)

Staff cuts have been widespread among newspapers, given the dire fiscal threats they now face. But Detroit's joint operating agency which publishes the Detroit Free Press and the Detroit News has launched "a startling new approach to cost-cutting," writes Morton, a former newspaper reporter turned media consultant. Instead of cutting its newsroom staff to reduce costs, the

agency will reduce home deliveries to just three days per week. Daily newspapers will still be available, however, at newsstands. By reducing home delivery, the agency expects to save an estimated \$8 million a year. It remains to be seen if this tactic will be the salvation of the newspapers. Nonetheless, “the new approach by the Detroit newspapers may offer an answer to how to cut costs without trashing journalism,” Morton writes. Currently available online at <http://www.ajr.org/Article.asp?id=4703>

Shubin, Neil THE EVOLUTIONARY ORIGINS OF HICCUPS AND HERNIAS (Scientific American, December 2008)

Some biological hand-me-downs inherited from fish and tadpoles have evolved into human maladies. Routing of nerves and fluid pathways in the human body resembles the tangle of wiring and pipes in an aging house, a heritage from fish and amphibian ancestors. The tube through which sperm passes forms a roundabout loop that can lead to hernias, a result of major anatomical changes that occurred as we evolved from fish. Nerves that are inherited from fish and travel from the brain to the diaphragm can become irritated and trigger hiccups, a closing of the entryway to the windpipe, an action that itself is a hand-me-down from amphibians that breathe with both lungs and gills. Currently available online at <http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=this-old-body>

Starr, Paul GOODBYE TO THE AGE OF NEWSPAPERS (HELLO TO A NEW ERA OF CORRUPTION) (New Republic, March 4, 2009)

Corruption in government, business and journalism may rise with the demise of newspapers, says Starr, a Stuart professor of communications and public affairs at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. “Despite all the development of other media, the fact is that newspapers in recent years have continued to field the majority of reporters and to produce most of the original news stories in cities across the country,” he writes. “Online there is certainly a great profusion of opinion, but there is little reporting, and still less of it subject to any rigorous fact-checking or editorial scrutiny.” With the reduction of solid investigative reporting and the weakening of the “watchdog” role of the press, corruption in government and in business will rise, Starr says. With fewer professional journalists and more “citizen journalists” — some, no doubt, paid by special interests -- there is the danger of corruption taking hold in journalism itself. All of this, he says, bodes badly for the future of democracy. Starr predicts the emerging electronic news media seem likely to become more fragmented by interest and partisanship. Those with the skills to take advantage of the new world of news will be pleased with the broader range of publications; those without will learn less about the world. Currently available online at <http://www.tnr.com/politics/story.html?id=a4e2aafc-cc92-4e79-90d1-db3946a6d119>

## **ECONOMIC SECURITY**

SAFE SEAS ARE BIG BUSINESS (Asia Pacific Defense Forum, 4th Quarter 2008, pp. 28-33)

The growth of seaborne trade has raised the importance of maritime security in recent years. The threats to maritime security include piracy, terrorism, drug trafficking, gun-running, human smuggling, pollution, accidents and interstate conflicts. A recent study noted several factors affecting maritime security -- more traffic, congested “choke points,” the difficulty of sea surveillance, poor coastal and portside security, corrupt officials, and the availability of small arms. The mere threat of piracy deters trade, and piracy and other maritime crimes increase shipping costs by raising insurance rates and forcing shippers to hire armed guards. Another threat to maritime security is the lack of standardized global regulations which permit activities such as open registries with lax regulations that allow ship owners to conceal their true identities. Ports are also a weak link, as officials even in major ports are able to inspect less than 10 percent

of shipments. Among the international initiatives to promote maritime security are the piracy reporting centers in Southeast Asia that cover the Indian Ocean region, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. Available online at [http://forum.apan-info.net/2008-4th\\_quarter/APDF\\_V33N4\\_Final.pdf](http://forum.apan-info.net/2008-4th_quarter/APDF_V33N4_Final.pdf)

Katz, Richard THE JAPAN FALLACY: TODAY'S U.S. FINANCIAL CRISIS IS NOT LIKE TOKYO'S "LOST DECADE" (Foreign Affairs, vol. 88, no. 2, March-April 2009)

According to Katz, editor-in-chief of The Oriental Economist Alert, comparing the U.S. financial crisis to Japan's decade-long slump is a mistake. "The cause of the current crisis is fundamentally different, its scope is far smaller, and the response of policymakers has been quicker and more effective," Katz says. Japan's economy, its producers and consumers protected from competition by government policy, was dysfunctional through and through, leading eventually to a banking crisis. The U.S. banking crisis, on the other hand, resulted from government failure to regulate subprime mortgages, corporate executive compensation, and the derivatives market. The financial status of U.S. nonfinancial companies is much healthier than their Japanese counterparts were. The U.S. government acted quickly to reverse the crisis; the Japanese reaction was characterized by "denial, dithering, and delay." Japan needed to overhaul its political and economic institutions; the United States needs only to correct its regulatory mistakes. Currently available online at <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20090301facomment88202/richard-katz/the-japan-fallacy.html>

Leonhardt, David THE BIG FIX (New York Times Magazine, February 1, 2009, pp. 22-29, 48//51)

The author, an economics columnist for The New York Times, discusses the biggest challenge for the Obama administration in bringing the economy back to life. The economy will recover, but it is likely to get significantly worse over the course of 2009, no matter what President Obama and the Congress do. Washington will not merely be given the task of pulling the economy out of the crisis, but in putting it on a more sustainable path. Leonhardt notes that private-sector investment in research and infrastructure hasn't changed much since the 1950s, and investment by government has even dropped. Effective stimulus, the center of the present debate in Congress now, means simply spending money quickly. The author notes that "pork", favored projects by legislators for their home districts, will not transform the economy; what will accomplish that is education, which helps a society multiply every other investment it makes, be it in medicine, transportation or alternative energy. Leonhardt notes that the U.S. has significant capacity to expand and sell Treasury debt; without that, the economy would be in even more dire straits. He notes that the norms of the last two decades -- consume before investing, worry about the short term more than the long term -- have been detrimental to our economic standing. Currently available online at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/01/magazine/01Economy-t.html>

Mauldin, John WHERE WILL THE GROWTH COME FROM? (Investors Insight, posted February 9, 2009)

In a guest posting, financial-services executive Louis-Vincent Gave notes that multinational companies following a new business model should emerge with great success from the current economic turmoil. These companies have retained knowledge-intensive design and distribution tasks in-house while outsourcing low value-added manufacturing tasks to developing countries, have worked to create new products and new markets, and have piled up cash. This preparation should allow them to take advantage of the current dislocations in the global economy to increase their efficiencies even further. "Globalization is far from dead," Gave says, "and the companies that are positioning themselves today to reap its rewards will be the winners of tomorrow." Currently available online at [http://www.investorsinsight.com/blogs/john\\_mauldins\\_outside\\_the\\_box/archive/2009/02/09/where-will-the-growth-come-from.aspx](http://www.investorsinsight.com/blogs/john_mauldins_outside_the_box/archive/2009/02/09/where-will-the-growth-come-from.aspx)

Secor, Laura THE RATIONALIST: LETTER FROM TEHRAN (The New Yorker, February 2, 2009)

Many Iranians are angered by the troubled state of their nation's economy -- by high unemployment, income inequality, and by pervasive corruption and cronyism, according to the author, who recently visited Iran's foremost free-market economist, Mohammad Tabibian. Three decades of populism won the loyalty of Iran's rural underclass, but at the cost of an effective educated middle class. Many middle-class Iranians live off unsustainable and unproductive sources of income: remittances sent by relatives working abroad, brokered deals between third parties and sales of family property. During the past three decades, the ruling regime has continually swept economic experts out of government. Yet, the ideas of western-trained economics experts like Tabibian are harder to dislodge, Secor writes. Tabibian believes liberalization of Iran's economy is a precondition for political freedom. Secor says that Iran's most recent development plan includes privatization that permits entrepreneurs to start new businesses and in the long run, could help transform the country's economy. To raise revenue in the future, the government will have to rely on taxes paid by people with skills and capital to produce goods, instead of depending on the oil sector, where prices have collapsed. Iran's administration has recently proposed to eliminate energy subsidies, a step that could lead to eliminating other subsidies.

## INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

WORDS OF WAR (Asia Pacific Defense Forum, vol. 33, no. 3, Third Quarter 2008, pp. 8-13)

The latest development in the efforts by terrorist groups to gain publicity and influence has been to turn to publishing companies; a prime example is the Indonesian radical group Jemaah Islamiyah, which has infiltrated the Islamic publishing industry in Indonesia. The article notes that it may be tempting to crack down on the publishing industry, however it may be wiser to leave it alone. The publishers may be disseminating a radical message, but they could also play a positive role by channeling the group's energies through the printed word rather than acts of violence. Other publishers run a booming business by producing lighter material more appealing to the general population. Material from the books is freely photocopied, as the publishers care more about getting the message out than about their intellectual property rights. Currently available online at [http://forum.apan-info.net/2008-3rd\\_quarter/APDF-Threat-Final.pdf](http://forum.apan-info.net/2008-3rd_quarter/APDF-Threat-Final.pdf)

Cronin, Patrick IRREGULAR WARFARE: NEW CHALLENGES FOR CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS (Strategic Forum, No. 234, October 2008, pp. 1-12)

Cronin, Director of the Institute for National Strategic Studies at the National Defense University, notes that success in the highly political and ambiguous conflicts likely to dominate the global security environment in the coming decades will require a framework that balances the relationships between civilian and military leaders and makes the most effective use of their different strengths. These challenges are expected to require better integrated, whole-of-government approaches, the cooperation of host governments and allies, and strategic patience. A third significant challenge is how to forge integrated strategies and approaches. Professional relationships, not organizational fixes, are vital to succeeding in irregular war. In this sense, the push for new doctrine for the military and civilian leadership is a step in the right direction to clarifying the conflated lanes of authority. Currently available online at <http://www.ndu.edu/inss/Strforum/SF234/SF234.pdf>

Gates, Robert M. A BALANCED STRATEGY: REPROGRAMMING THE PENTAGON FOR A NEW AGE (Foreign Affairs, vol. 88, no. 1, January/February 2009, pp. 28-40)

Defense Secretary Gates writes that U.S. credibility would be dealt a disastrous blow if we were to fail, or be perceived to fail, in Iraq or Afghanistan. As an active participant in U.S. national security decisions for 42 years, the author writes that the U.S. is unlikely to pursue another "forced regime change followed by nation-building under fire anytime soon." In the future, he says the U.S. should take an indirect approach, whenever possible, by building up the capacity of partner governments and security forces "to prevent festering problems from turning into crises that require costly and controversial direct military intervention." Whenever possible, he also says, military operations should be subordinated to efforts designed to promote better governance, economic development, and programs to address grievances of the discontented -- a ready pool from which terrorists recruit. He laments the wholesale downsizing of the U.S. Agency for International Development and the folding of the U.S. Information Agency "into a corner of the State Department." Gates says the military and civilian elements of national security are out of balance, and that the cultural, political, psychological and human dimensions of warfare must not be neglected. While the military's global reach is an indispensable contributor to ensuring peace, the secretary also concludes that "not every act of aggression or crisis can or should elicit a U.S. military response." Available online at <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20090101faessay88103/robert-m-gates/a-balanced-strategy.html>

Glasser, Susan THE GENERAL'S NEXT WAR (Foreign Policy, no. 170, January-February 2009, pp. 48-50)

Foreign Policy executive editor Susan Glasser interviewed General David Petraeus shortly after he assumed control of the U.S. Central Command. He told her that the challenges of Afghanistan cannot be addressed adequately without also addressing Pakistan's requirements. Nations that want to help Afghanistan, the general said, should look well beyond the region to include India, Iran, China and Russia. Speaking as a military strategist, Petraeus said the tactics and procedures that were used in Iraq successfully cannot be imported wholesale to Afghanistan. For one thing, Afghans are not able to watch television like the Iraqis and Afghanistan doesn't have the literacy rate of Iraq. He advocates communicating with the Afghans via local radio broadcasts, tribal elders and shura councils. He also emphasized the importance of creating a climate to promote reconciliation in Afghanistan, although it will likely be a different process than that which was employed in Iraq. Currently available online at [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story\\_id=4587&page=3](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=4587&page=3)

Kramer, Steven Philip THE ABSENCE OF EUROPE: IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY? (Strategic Forum, No. 235, October 2008, pp. 1-6)

Kramer, Professor of National Security Studies at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University, notes that we are facing a worsening economic situation and a war in Iraq that will be difficult to end. He predicts that the next U.S. administration will seek to return to a more multilateral foreign policy and attempt to work closely with Europe. But Europe may not be willing or able to meet American expectations to play a larger role in international security. In short, Europe's ability to work with (and influence) the U.S. is limited by its self-imposed weakness in international security, which is the consequence of the EU's political structure and worldview. America may have no choice but to turn to Asia for support if it wishes to remain an international arbiter. Perhaps a different kind of relationship with a more activist China and India will be needed to manage global instability; if so, the Euro-American age will have come to a close. Currently available online at <http://www.ndu.edu/inss/Strforum/SF235/SF235.pdf>

Pearlman, Wendy SPOILING INSIDE AND OUT: INTERNAL POLITICAL CONTESTATION AND THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS (International Security, vol. 33, no. 3, Winter 2008/2009, pp. 79-109)

Pearlman, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Northwestern University, writes that parties to a conflict turn to negotiating or spoiling as a means of contesting not only what a proposed

peace settlement entails but also who has the power to decide the terms. Conflicts are more likely to witness negotiating and spoiling to the extent that one or both of the warring parties lack a system of legitimate representation. Whether internal contestation leads a group to act as a peace maker or peace breaker is conditioned by its position in the internal balance of power. Two eras in the Palestinian national movement -- the Palestine Liberation Organization's bid to join the Geneva peace conference in 1973-74 and its engagement in the Oslo peace process from 1993 to 2000 — are illustrative. Just as with heads of state, leaders of national movements and rebel groups are also influenced by domestic politics. As such, sponsors of peace processes should expect spoiler problems unless a movement heals rifts within its ranks. Currently available online at [http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/files/IS3303\\_pp079-109.pdf](http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/files/IS3303_pp079-109.pdf)

Schlesinger, Stephen BUSH'S STEALTH UNITED NATIONS POLICY (World Policy Journal, vol. 25, no. 2, Summer 2008, pp. 1-9)

Schlesinger, adjunct fellow at the Century Foundation, reviews relations between the United States and the United Nations during the Bush administration. Bush established an official and ongoing relationship with the U.N. and delivered a speech at the opening session of each U.N. General Assembly. As the most important organ of the U.N., the Security Council determines what the U.N. will do on all peace and war issues. During the Bush era, the U.S. has been an active player on almost every Security Council proceeding and it has become a much-utilized tool in America's diplomatic kit during the Bush administration. In the future, U.S. participation in the U.N. is likely to continue on the course that has been set by the Bush administration: American participation in the Security Council, continued U.S. funding of the U.N. and its agencies, and a strong American presence in the U.N. system. Currently available online at <http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1162/wopj.2008.25.2.1>

Schmidle, Nicholas THE SAHARAN CONUNDRUM (New York Times Magazine, February 15, 2009, pp. 34-39)

The national-security strategy that dominated President George W. Bush's tenure after Sept. 11 was two-pronged; first, to identify and eliminate existing terrorist networks, and second, was to prevent new networks from flourishing by promoting open, democratic societies that, the thinking went, would be less susceptible to Al Qaeda's message. In 2002, the State Department started the Pan-Sahel Initiative, a counterterrorism program that involved working with local militaries in Mali, Niger, Chad and Mauritania. In 2005, the program, in partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Pentagon, expanded under a new name to Nigeria, Senegal, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. U.S. military advisors remain in some of these countries to train local forces and to prevent bin Laden and his allies from expanding into the region. Meanwhile, the Obama administration is continuing the recalibration of counterterrorism; the war against al-Qaeda will undoubtedly continue, but a more nuanced analysis of al-Qaeda has led to alternative approaches to combating terrorism and a reconsideration of how the strategy that guided the war on terror in its early years should be put into effect. Currently available online at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/15/magazine/15Africa-t.html>

Sheehan, James NOT LIKE US: THE PARADOXICAL U.S.-EUROPEAN RELATIONSHIP (Commonweal, vol. 135, no. 2, July 18, 2008, pp. 12-13)

James Sheehan, of Stanford University, focuses upon historical developments that have created the unique relationship that exists today between Europe and the United States. He notes that Europe will most likely remain dependent upon America for its security needs in the future. The U.S. should not underestimate Europe's political and economic importance and emphasize diplomacy when dealing with our European allies. We must work to rebuild a firm foundation of cooperation and trust within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as we prepare to celebrate the 60th birthday of this alliance. Currently available online at [http://www.commonwealmagazine.org/article.php3?id\\_article=2271](http://www.commonwealmagazine.org/article.php3?id_article=2271)

Simon, Jeffrey NATO'S UNCERTAIN FUTURE: IS DEMOGRAPHY DESTINY? (Strategic Forum, No. 236, October 2008, pp. 1-6)

The author, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University, notes that NATO is increasingly constrained by demographic shifts within its membership that will hamper its ability to deploy operational forces and further strain the transatlantic relationship in the years ahead. NATO has shifted from large conscript forces, which were useful during the Cold War, toward smaller, all-volunteer military establishments to carry out expeditionary operations. This shift has had different political consequences in Europe and the U.S., and has resulted in diverging views of the role of the military. Demographically, the gap between U.S. and European NATO members' military-age cohorts is widening, with the U.S. numbers rising while those of Europe shrink. At the same time, immigration patterns and internal demographics could erode the common historic identity of the U.S. and Europe. A relatively young and growing U.S. population will contribute to its slightly enhanced global economic profile in 2050, while Europe's aging and shrinking productive population will be a factor in its diminishing presence. Finally, the world's population and the center of its economic growth will continue to reflect the inexorable shift away from the Eurocentric world that existed when NATO was created in 1949, leading to Europe's rapid demographic marginalization and relative economic decline by 2050. Currently available online at <http://www.ndu.edu/inss/Strforum/SF236/SF236.pdf>

Wuthnow, Joel THE CONCEPT OF SOFT POWER IN CHINA'S STRATEGIC DISCOURSE (Issues & Studies, Vol. 44, No. 2, June 2008, pp. 1-25)

Chinese strategists have concluded that "soft power," such as transmitting values, culture, innovation and other factors, is critical for the country to achieve an external environment that is conducive its long term objective to advance from being a regional to a global power. China wants to mitigate perceptions that it is a threat and promote an image as a country in peaceful development. To help promote a more sympathetic rising foreign elite, China is promoting Chinese studies through "Confucius Institutes" around the world and providing government scholarships for foreign university students similar to the U.S. Fulbright program. In the developing world, China is seeking to build influence not only to obtain natural resources but also diplomatic support at the United Nations. It is also employing "economic diplomacy" in the developing world through donations of foreign aid, low interest loans, restraints on exports and technical assistance. The author notes China's efforts but argues it faces image challenges because of contradictory messages, such as marketing its ancient past while accepting Western values and modernization, and portraying itself as a responsible state but is closely associated with rogue regimes.

Yaphe, Judith CHALLENGES TO PERSIAN GULF SECURITY: HOW SHOULD THE UNITED STATES RESPOND? (Strategic Forum, No. 237, November 2008, pp. 1-8)

Yaphe, Distinguished Research Fellow at the Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University, asserts that Persian Gulf security challenges will increasingly pose difficult choices for the next administration. Iran's quest for regional preeminence, driven by deeply ingrained impulses of exceptionalism and self-sufficiency, will not slacken any time soon. Seeing such preeminence as its historic prerogative, Tehran still seeks a military posture, including nuclear capability, that matches that vision. The U.S. faces three challenges in the Gulf; the toughest challenge by far is whether to engage Iran and, if so, how. The risks of doing so are not trivial, but there is also common ground to be claimed, especially on achieving a stable Iraq. The second is what posture to take on reform within the Gulf states. Internal pressures for reform are growing, yet a heavy-handed approach can trigger local cynicism of U.S. motives and charges of double standards. The third challenge is how to build cooperation between the Gulf states and Iraq. Strengthening borders and redeveloping economic and security linkages can be a positive start for better relations, but lingering suspicions will be hard to overcome. Currently available online at <http://www.ndu.edu/inss/Strforum/SF237/SF237.pdf>

## U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

Adams, James Ring 1609: THE YEAR EVERYTHING CHANGED (American Indian, Spring 2009)

When explorers Henry Hudson and Samuel de Champlain entered North America in 1609, life changed for the Indian tribes that inhabited the region. The Algonquin-speaking Mohicans and the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy encountered Europeans and their guns for the first time. Both Hudson and Champlain, generally, were hospitably received, and trade was established -- trade that included firearms, lead and gunpowder. "Within a generation, trade, consumption and diplomatic patterns had all been irrevocably altered," the author writes.

Adams, James Ring CALIBAN MEETS THE HALF MOON: TRIBAL TRADITIONS AND SHAKESPEARE'S TEMPEST (American Indian, Spring 2009)

The author discusses a widespread belief that Shakespeare's play THE TEMPEST was inspired by the account of William Strachey, survivor of a shipwreck; all aboard survived and reached an island near Bermuda, where they lived for nearly a year. But there are other parts of the play that may be inspired by Henry Hudson's voyages, the author maintains, particularly the central drama which revolves around the initial contact between Caliban, "a character with American Indian overtones," and "European rascals." It resembles indigenous American oral history of Hudson's arrival, and a garbled version supplied by a Moravian missionary.

Deresiewicz, William THE END OF SOLITUDE (Chronicle of Higher Education, vol. 55, no. 21, January 30, 2009)

The author notes that where "the camera has created a culture of celebrity, the computer is creating a culture of connectivity." As the two technologies merge, they are feeding a common urge to become recognized and visible. Deresiewicz writes that it is becoming increasingly difficult to be alone; in fact, the proliferation of social-networking web sites such as Facebook and Twitter are ways that modern humans stave off loneliness. He notes that solitude was not always stigmatized; in earlier times, the ability to be alone was recognized as a necessary part of the religious experience, or to be able to appreciate nature. The modern age has cast solitude in a harsher light, and the spread of suburbia, which has put more distance between people, coincided with the spread of telephone and television, technologies that enabled connectedness. Deresiewicz worries that we are losing the ability for introspection -- "no real excellence, personal or social, artistic, philosophical, scientific or moral, can arise without solitude." Currently available online at <http://chronicle.com/free/v55/i21/21b00601.htm>

Eisner, Peter BINGHAM'S LIST (Smithsonian, Vol. 39, No. 12, March 2009 pp. 50-57)

A dusty closet in an old Connecticut farmhouse has revealed another story about a courageous individual who risked his career to help Jews flee the Nazis during World War II. Hiram Bingham IV, a U.S. Foreign Service officer, defied his own superiors within the State Department who wanted to block the admission of Jewish refugees to the United States. From his position in the consulate in Marseilles under the Vichy government until his transfer to Buenos Aires in 1941, Bingham issued visas to over 2500 Jews and others on Nazi death lists. Prior to the discovery of documents revealing his wartime activities, Bingham's children had no idea of the extent of what he had done -- their father had never told them. They redeemed his reputation at the State Department in 2002 when the American Foreign Service Association designated him a "courageous diplomat." Bingham has also been honored by the Yad Vashem Memorial in Jerusalem. Available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/Binghams-List.html> under a different title.

Fischer, Karin U.S. COLLEGES GET SERIOUS WITH PARTNERS OVERSEAS (Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 55, No. 25, February 27, 2009, pp. A1, A28-A29)

Some U.S. universities are focusing more on the depth of their relationships with institutions in other countries than on the numbers. Fischer's prime example is Washington University in St. Louis, which has sought to build a network of outstanding institutions united by a common research agenda. Washington University's Chancellor, Mark Wrighton, says his university and its partners are looking for significant topics on which they share outstanding faculty expertise and can have both a global and a local impact. Significant money is being invested in the network, with a \$100 million endowment the goal. For its "clean coal" collaboration, for example, Washington University faculty are competing for \$1.25 million in research grants each of which must involve a colleague at an overseas partner. The network partners also plan to exchange course content and develop curricula that can be taught jointly. Last year, for example, Washington University students joined counterparts from Peking and Tsinghua Universities in studying air quality during the Olympics. While other university leaders acknowledge the need to get away from "handshake-and-paper agreements" that have no institutional impact, they raise the issue of whether the kind of sophisticated, substantive relationships being developed by Washington University are realistic for institutions with fewer resources.

Lindow, Megan AFRICA'S NEW CRISIS: A DEARTH OF PROFESSORS (Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 55, No. 24, February 20, 2009, pp. A27-A29)

African universities have expanded rapidly during the past decade at a time when donors and governments have concentrated scarce resources on primary and secondary schools and many young African scholars have been choosing jobs in business, government or overseas. As a result, between 25-50 percent of staff positions at African universities are vacant. Francophone Africa alone needs 58,000 new lecturers, the World Bank says. A consortium of seven American foundations has created the Partnership for Higher Education in Africa and American land-grant universities have formed the Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative, but the realities are daunting. One program estimates that it takes \$100,000 to educate a single doctoral student. USAID is writing twenty \$50,000 planning grants for U.S.-African university partnerships but has not yet indicated whether any money will be available for the partnerships themselves. Senators Richard Lugar and Robert Casey are introducing legislation that would provide money for U.S.-African university collaborations in agriculture and research, but "in an era of recession, some worry that African interests will be swept aside," Lindow writes. The article also discusses four collaborative Ph.D. training programs in Africa: USAID's Collaborative Research Support Programs; the Carnegie Corporation's African Economic Research Consortium; the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture, which is financed by the Gates Foundation, the Center for Agriculture Research and Innovation, the EU and the Rockefeller Foundation; and the University of South Africa in Ethiopia.

Schumann, Matt; Schweizer, Karl THE REVITALIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC HISTORY: RENEWED REFLECTIONS (Diplomacy and Statecraft, vol. 19, no. 2, June 2008, pp. 149-186)

Schumann and Schweizer, from Eastern Michigan University and Cambridge University respectively, write that those who refer to themselves as "diplomatic historians" in the U.S. have advocated more study of the history of foreign relations, a term that they understand to be broad, which includes, but which is not restricted to, diplomacy. They recommend that historians view diplomatic negotiation as a wider field, not limited to state-level representatives in a formal setting, and rethink it as "any social activity oriented towards the attainment of an individual's particular goals" where "the subjects of social history become the subjects of diplomatic history, and the traditional tools of diplomatic history can be adapted as easily to people representing their own interests as to people representing the interests of nations." Such an expanded definition would include groups who often consider themselves marginalized by diplomatic historians. Currently available online at [http://pdfserve.informaworld.com/364734\\_731211589\\_794079638.pdf](http://pdfserve.informaworld.com/364734_731211589_794079638.pdf)

Twomey, Steve TO CATCH A THIEF (Smithsonian, April 2008, pp. 88-99)

In 2006, a Civil War buff searching on eBay discovered documents for sale that turned out to be stolen from the National Archives. The thief was a rare book dealer who had interned at the Archives. He confessed and sought clemency, but the judge sentenced him to 15 months in jail, saying that original documents have “an absolute uniqueness” and people “must be deterred from even thinking about” stealing them. Unfortunately, there is a big market for stolen historical materials; books can be damaged when pages and maps are torn out, and moreover, the thefts create gaps in our knowledge about the past. “A recent string of high-value crimes has led not only to greater vigilance but also to greater frankness about the threat,” says author Steve Twomey. The thinking is that publicity may make it more difficult to sell stolen items, and warnings about the penalties (fines and jail) may discourage potential thieves. But rare books, maps and documents are hard to protect, and often the thieves are employees or other trusted individuals. “Perfect security for a special collection or an archive will never exist, and their contents will never lose allure,” says Twomey. Currently available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/to-catch-a-thief.html>

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