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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

REPORTS

WHITE PAPER OF THE INTERAGENCY POLICY GROUP'S REPORT ON U.S. POLICY TOWARD AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

The White House. March 27, 2009 [PDF format, 6 pages]

http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/Afghanistan-Pakistan_White_Paper.pdf

"The United States has a vital national security interest in addressing the current and potential security threats posed by extremists in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In Pakistan, al Qaeda and other groups of jihadist terrorists are planning new terror attacks. Their targets remain the U.S. homeland, Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Europe, Australia, our allies in the Middle East, and other targets of opportunity. The growing size of the space in which they are operating is a direct result of the terrorist/insurgent activities of the Taliban and related organizations. At the same time, this group seeks to reestablish their old sanctuaries in Afghanistan. Therefore, the core goal of the U.S. must be to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al Qaeda and its safe havens in Pakistan, and to prevent their return to Pakistan or Afghanistan. Achieving our core goal is vital to U.S. national security. It requires, first of all, realistic and achievable objectives. These include:

- *Disrupting terrorist networks in Afghanistan and especially Pakistan to degrade any ability they have to plan and launch international terrorist attacks.
- *Promoting a more capable, accountable, and effective government in Afghanistan that serves the Afghan people and can eventually function, especially regarding internal security, with limited international support.
- *Developing increasingly self-reliant Afghan security forces that can lead the counterinsurgency and counterterrorism fight with reduced U.S. assistance.
- *Assisting efforts to enhance civilian control and stable constitutional government in Pakistan and a vibrant economy that provides opportunity for the people of Pakistan.
- *Involving the international community to actively assist in addressing these objectives for Afghanistan and Pakistan, with an important leadership role for the UN."

U.S. STRATEGY IN AFGHANISTAN

Testimony of Seth G. Jones Before the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Middle East and South Asia, United States House of Representatives. April 2, 2009 [PDF format, 15 pages]

<http://foreignaffairs.house.gov/111/jon040209.pdf>

This testimony focuses on the way forward for the United States in Afghanistan given the Obama Administration's outline of a new strategy. It explores ways in which United States strategy in Afghanistan should evolve to most effectively achieve U.S. goals and bring about an end to the insurgency. This testimony dovetails fairly well with the U.S. government's recently-released strategy on Afghanistan and Pakistan, which outlines a new way forward that includes developing an integrated civilian-military counterinsurgency strategy, improving local governance, countering corruption, and developing more self-reliant Afghan security forces. The key challenge, however, will be in implementation. *Seth G. Jones is an Associate Political Scientist at the RAND Corporation and Adjunct Professor of the Security Studies Program at Georgetown University.*

THE FIFTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

The Brookings Institution. April 2009 [PDF format, 42 pages]

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/0413_summit_americas/0413_summit_americas.pdf

In a series of commentary articles focused on the Summit of the Americas' agenda and key challenges, Brookings experts discuss the critical issues facing the leaders attending the summit and propose recommendations for policy action. "Countries in Latin America have experienced remarkable economic and social progress in the recent years. This creates self-confidence, which is an important element of the new dialogue with Washington. A partnership seems desirable and viable in the hemisphere. The fact that countries of the region have extremely different characteristics should not be underestimated. The degree of demographic and economic interdependence with the United States is a key element that should be considered. The extent to which countries have opened their economies in the global market, the advance of democratic governance, the effectiveness of institutions, and the extent to which traditionally excluded populations are incorporated, are critical dimensions that deserve consideration. This fifth summit should initiate the process of building a true partnership for the Americas. Rather than lecturing Latin American leaders on what they should do, the U.S. should put forward innovative proposals."

U.S. POLICY TOWARD A CUBA IN TRANSITION: ROADMAP FOR CRITICAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT

The Brookings Institution. February 26, 2009 [PDF format, 5 pages]

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/02_cuba_roadmap/02_cuba_roadmap.pdf

Under the auspices of the Brookings Institution's project "U.S. Policy toward a Cuba in Transition", nineteen distinguished academics, opinion leaders, and diplomats committed themselves to seeking ways to improve U.S. policy so that it would better serve the interests of the country, the Cuban people, and the Hemisphere. Over the past eighteen months, this group of experts have carried out simulations and discussions on the complex realities of the United States and Cuba. The roadmap we present here is made up of a basket of short, medium and long-term initiatives. "The goal of U.S. policy toward Cuba should be to support the emergence of a Cuban state where the Cuban people determine the political and economic future of their country through democratic means. Our policy should encompass the political, economic and diplomatic tools that are needed to help the Cuban people find the political space that is essential to engage in and direct the politics of their country."

COMBATING MARITIME PIRACY - BACKGROUNDER

Hanson, Stephanie. Council on Foreign Relations. April 13, 2009.

http://www.cfr.org/publication/18376/combating_maritime_piracy.html?breadcrumb=%2F

"Maritime piracy has been on the rise for years, according to the International Maritime Bureau's (IMB) Piracy Reporting Center. But until 2008, when pirates operating off the coast of Somalia hijacked a ship full of Russian tanks and an oil supertanker, the crime drew limited international attention. By early 2009, more than a dozen countries had deployed their navies to the Gulf of Aden to counter piracy, and the United Nations passed four resolutions in 2008 on the issue. In April 2009, stakes grew higher after the U.S. Navy killed three Somali pirates, and took one captive in the rescue operation of a U.S. cargo ship captain taken hostage. There are a range of measures available to combat piracy--from onboard defense systems to naval deployments to preemptive strikes. Yet analysts agree the complexities of international maritime law make it difficult to prosecute pirates once they are caught. Some observers are cautiously optimistic about naval cooperation in the Gulf of Aden, but many experts say they anticipate further increases in piracy--not just off East Africa, but worldwide." *Stepahine Hanson is news editor at www.cfr.org.*

THE RIGHT DIRECTION FOR U.S. POLICY TOWARD RUSSIA

Nixon Center; Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. March 2009 [PDF format, 30 pages]

<http://www.nixoncenter.org/RussiaReport09.pdf>

This is the report released by the bipartisan Commission on U.S. Policy toward Russia, led by Co-Chairs Senator Chuck Hagel and Senator Gary Hart, a joint project of The Nixon Center and the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University. "The goals of the Commission are to offer its best judgments on American national interests and priorities in the U.S.-Russian relationship to the President, the Congress, and the interested public; to explain why constructive management of this critical relationship is difficult given recent history, differing interests, and sometimes competing narratives; and to present broad policy recommendations for a new administration to advance American national interests effectively in relations with Russia. U.S. policy toward Russia cannot succeed without a much clearer definition of American interests and priorities and serious consideration of Russian interests. Even as the United States faces a profound economic crisis, the foreign-policy challenges facing our country are increasingly complicated and difficult -and our interests in dealing with particular situations can be competing or even contradictory. It is for this reason that we must make hard choices in shaping our foreign policy, focusing most on what is truly vital in a strict sense?first and foremost nuclear nonproliferation, arms control, terrorism, and global economic recovery."

THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL: AN ORGANIZATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Best, Richard A. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. February 6, 2009 [PDF format, 38 pages]

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/120585.pdf>

This study reviews the organizational history of the NSC and other related components of the Executive Office and their changing role in the national security policy process. It is intended to provide information on the NSC's development as well as subsequent usage. "The National Security Council (NSC) has been an integral part of U.S. national security policymaking since 1947. Of the various organizations in the Executive Office of the President that have been concerned with national security matters, the NSC is the most important and the only one established by statute. The NSC lies at the heart of the national security apparatus, being the highest coordinative and advisory body within the

Government in this area aside from the President's Cabinet. The organization and influence of the NSC have varied significantly from one Administration to another, from a highly structured and formal system to loose-knit teams of experts. The post-Cold War world has posed new challenges to NSC policymaking. Some argue that the NSC should be broadened to reflect an expanding role of economic, environmental, and demographic issues in national security policymaking." *Richard A. Best is an specialist in National Defense at the Congressional Research Service.*

UNITED NATIONS REFORM: U.S. POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Blanchfield, Luisa. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. January 27, 2009 [PDF format, 37 pages]

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/120597.pdf>

"This report focuses on current U.N. reform efforts and priorities from the perspective of several key actors, including the U.S. government, the U.N. Secretary-General, selected groups of member states, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and a cross-section of groups tasked with addressing U.N. reform. It also examines congressional actions related to U.N. reform, as well as future policy considerations. U.N. reform is an ongoing policy issue for the United States, and may be a point of focus during the 111th Congress. As the single largest financial contributor to the U.N. system, the U.S. government has an interest in ensuring the United Nations operates as efficiently and effectively as possible. Congress has the responsibility to appropriate U.S. funds to the United Nations, and can impose conditions on payments. On several occasions, Congress has sought to link U.S. funding of the United Nations to specific reform benchmarks." *Luisa Blanchfield is an analyst in International Relations at the Congressional Research Service.*

THE G-20 LONDON SUMMIT 2009: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GLOBAL POLICY COORDINATION

The Brookings Institution. March 26, 2009 [PDF format, 36 pages]

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/0326_g20_summit/0326_g20_summit.pdf

In this paper, Brookings experts addressed the critical issues for policy-makers and offered guidelines for more effective global coordination regarding the financial crisis. The main recommendations are: Stimulate, Reform, Coordinate: A Macroeconomic Agenda for the G-20; Tame Protectionism and Revitalize Trade; Speed the Flow of Money to Poor Countries; Mobilize the G-20 to Respond to the Global Economic Crisis; Empower the Regional Development Banks; Aid Africa; Good Governance - Learn from the Missing Countries; Focus on What Asia Wants and Understanding and Addressing Political Instability.

ADJUSTING TO GLOBAL ECONOMIC CHANGE: THE DANGEROUS ROAD AHEAD

Levine, Robert A. Rand Corporation. March 2009 [PDF format, 32 pages]

http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2009/RAND_OP243.pdf

"This occasional paper is intended to suggest to economists and policymakers in the United States and elsewhere that the macroeconomic perils faced by the global economy are deeper and likely to last longer than those presented by the current financial crisis. The following analysis moves back and forth between macroeconomic history and a brief exposition of economic theory that stems from and explains that history. The discussion begins with the Great Depression and the lessons learned for public policy, then places those events in the complementary frameworks of the two seminal economists of the 20th century: John Maynard Keynes and Joseph Alois Schumpeter. It uses these frameworks to

examine five subsequent periods: World War II and the following prosperous quarter-century; the stagflation and recovery of the 1970s and 1980s; the IT boom that lasted through the 1990s; the current crisis; and the future. The final section makes some policy suggestions for escaping the worst effects. The conclusions are not optimistic." *Robert a. Levine is a retired senior economist and current adjunct economist at the RAND Corporation, was deputy director of the U.S. Congressional Budget Office from 1975 through 1979.*

A NEW AGE OF PROTECTIONISM? THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND TRANSATLANTIC TRADE POLICY

Suominen, Kati. German Marshall Fund of the United States. March 11, 2009 [PDF format, 37 pages]

<http://www.gmfus.org//doc/Suominen%20final.pdf>

"U.S. and EU trade policies were already somewhat adrift before the financial crisis swept the global economy. Surveys revealed growing disenchantment with international trade, particularly in the United States, and the Obama campaign pledged a 'pause' on trade agreements and sturdier trade enforcement. Globally, progress toward concluding the Doha Round grounded to a halt in July 2008. While the crisis has had major repercussions for international trade volumes, trade policy measures taken in Brussels, Washington, and around the world have thus far been rather moderate. Protectionist impulses in the U.S. and the EU are real and will continue to mount if jobless claims pile, exports stagnate, and other countries concoct illegal measures to propel their exports. The EU and the United States are key players for other countries to emulate and follow, and thus their domestic and international economic policies will be hugely important for the coming efforts to climb out of global recession. Cooperation and leadership by the U.S. and EU is imperative for getting world trade and the global economy humming again. This means tight cooperation and leadership at the multilateral level, and smart, pro-trade policies domestically. The United States and the EU can also set the example bilaterally, by, for instance, seeking transatlantic liberalization of trade in services and furthering cooperation on standards, customs procedures, and competition rules." *Kati Suominen is a transatlantic fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States and trade economist at the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington.*

GOVERNANCE OF THE BRETTON WOODS SISTERS: MAKING PROGRESS ON THE AGENDA

Truman, Edwin M. Peterson Institute for International Economics. March 4, 2009.

<http://www.iie.com/publications/papers/paper.cfm?ResearchID=1150>

The author discusses the governance challenges at the International Monetary Fund, as well as the World Bank. According to the author, it has been a mistake in the past to have as much parallelism between the Bank's and the Fund's governance. He states it needs to be more governance distance between the sisters. "In the world in which the Fund and the Bank operate, governance issues are complicated by the profound lack of consensus among member countries about what each institution should do and how it should do it. In the case of the Fund, the principal issues are a lack of consensus about the nature of the globalized economy and financial system, the Fund's surveillance role relative to its lending role in this context, and the Fund's role in providing global public goods, such as improved information flows. In the case of the Bank, there is a similar lack of consensus on these issues but also a lack of consensus about how the Bank fits in with other development institutions (and with the Fund) and what its role should be with respect to the big public-good issues such as

climate change, health, and the environment." *Edwin M. Truman is a Senior Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics.*

MAPPING PEACE BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL

Hof, Frederic C. U.S. Institute of Peace. March 2009. [Note: contains copyright material]
[PDF format, 20 pages]

<http://library.usip.org/articles/1012101.1042/1.PDF>

Commissioned in mid-2008 by the United States Institute of Peace's Center for Mediation and Conflict Resolution, this report builds upon two previous groundbreaking works by the author that deal with the obstacles to Syrian-Israeli peace and propose potential ways around them. 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 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. *Frederic C. Hof is the CEO of AALC, Ltd., an Arlington, Virginia, international business consulting firm. He directed the field operations of the Sharm El-Sheikh (Mitchell) Fact-Finding Committee in 2001.*

SAUDI-IRANIAN RELATIONS SINCE THE FALL OF SADDAM: RIVALRY, COOPERATION, AND IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. POLICY

RAND Corporation, March 2009 [PDF format, 158 pages]

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG840.pdf

"The often tense relationship between Saudi Arabia and Iran has been at the center of many of the major political shifts that have occurred in the Middle East since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003. The study documents how relations between the two powers have unfolded in the Persian Gulf, Iraq, Lebanon, and Palestine from 2003 through January 2009. It details the complex and multidimensional relationship between Saudi Arabia and Iran and its implications for regional stability and U.S. interests. The study concludes with U.S. policy recommendations for leveraging the Saudi-Iranian relationship, particularly in the context of a U.S. drawdown in Iraq, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and the Iranian nuclear issue."

NATIONALITY RIGHTS FOR ALL: A PROGRESS REPORT AND GLOBAL SURVEY ON STATELESSNESS

Refugees International. March 11, 2009 [PDF format, 68 pages]

http://www.refugeesinternational.org/sites/default/files/RI%20Stateless%20Report_FINAL_031109.pdf

"This report provides an updated global survey of statelessness in over 80 countries and assesses progress since 2005 in protecting the human rights of stateless persons and in preventing and reducing statelessness. Important developments are reflected in changes in international law, and in steps taken by governments, international organizations, and non-governmental groups. The report aims to expand understanding of the problem of statelessness, increase recognition of the right to nationality, and promote solutions to end statelessness. Nationality is a fundamental human right and a foundation of identity, dignity, justice, peace, and security. Being stateless means having no legal protection or right to participate in political processes, inadequate access to health care and education, poor employment prospects and poverty, little opportunity to own property, travel

restrictions, social exclusion, vulnerability to trafficking, harassment, and violence. Statelessness has a disproportionate impact on women and children. The world community is no longer silent about statelessness. In recent years, countries such as Bangladesh, Estonia, Mauritania, Nepal, and Sri Lanka have made significant strides to protect the rights of stateless persons. Nonetheless, some 12 million people around the world are still stateless, and progress toward ending the problem is limited and slow."

IMPROVING CAPACITY FOR STABILIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS

Bensahel, Nora et al. RAND Corporation. April 3, 2009 [Note: contains copyright material] [PDF format, 105 pages]

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG852.pdf

"Until recently, governments and militaries have preferred to focus attention and resources on conventional military operations rather than stabilization and reconstruction missions. Thus, skills and capacities for the latter set of missions have remained underdeveloped or have been allowed to atrophy. U.S. experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan have demonstrated, however, that improving U.S. capacity for stabilization and reconstruction operations is critical to national security. To help craft a way ahead, the authors provide an overview of the requirements posed by stabilization and reconstruction operations and recommend ways to improve U.S. capacity to meet these needs. Among other findings, the authors suggest that the United States: emphasize building civilian rather than military capacity; realign and reform existing agencies rather than creating new organizations; fund and implement the Civilian Stabilization Initiative; improve deployable police capacity; develop stronger crisis-management processes; ensure coherent guidance and funding." *Nora Bensahel is Senior Political Scientist at RAND Corporation. She is also Adjunct Professor at the Security Studies Program of the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University.*

FROM COUNTERFORCE TO MINIMAL DETERRENCE: A NEW NUCLEAR POLICY ON THE PATH TOWARD ELIMINATING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Kristensen, Hans M. et al. Federation of American Scientists; The Natural Resources Defense Council [Occasional Paper No. 7] April 2009 [Note: contains copyright material] [PDF format, 35 pages]

http://www.fas.org/pubs/_docs/OccasionalPaper7.pdf

"The global elimination of nuclear weapons has recently regained public attention and is being seriously discussed by policy elites within the political mainstream. Several proposals have been made for immediate initial steps toward this goal. These include ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and negotiating a follow-on to the soon-to-expire START Treaty and the Moscow Treaty strategic arms reduction agreements with Russia. Other early steps include taking nuclear weapons off alert, retirement and verified elimination of non-deployed reserve stockpile weapons, verified declarations of existing stocks of fissile materials, and negotiation of a global agreement barring production of fissile material for weapons. Proposals for unilateral or parallel reciprocal reductions typically cite some round number as a target for reduction. This can appear arbitrary but does, in fact, make sense. Nuclear weapons might have some transitional missions on the way toward zero, but the number needed to fulfill basic nuclear deterrence is not large and excess weapons increase the nuclear danger without contributing to national or the world's security. The report focuses on some essential penultimate steps that must be taken to get to the stage of global elimination, sketching out one possible path. First, we review current U.S. nuclear doctrine, both what it is and how it is developed and implemented. Next, we describe how restricting the missions for nuclear weapons much more severely would enhance the security of the United States, and then show how these new limited missions

would be implemented." *Hans M. Kristensen is director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists. His research focuses on the status of nuclear forces, strategy and operations in the post-Cold War era.*

CRISIS GUIDE: THE KOREAN PENINSULA

Council on Foreign Relations. April 2009.

<http://www.cfr.org/publication/11954/>

One of CFR's publications are interactive explainers on the foreign policy, national security, and international financial issues of the day. The latest interactive guide published by the Council on Foreign Relations has been on the Korean Peninsula. This multimedia product explores the military, economic, and nuclear dimensions of this area of the world, as over half a century since Korean War's end, conflict persists on the peninsula. "The Korean crisis has drawn the region into ongoing multilateral discussions—Six-Party Talks—and tensions over how to handle the Kim Jong-II regime. In 2003, the nations represented here began holding the Six-Party Talks with the goal of controlling North Korea's nuclear ambitions. But abrupt policy shifts by the United States, disagreements among the six countries involved, and most of all North Korea's provocative conduct have made progress toward an agreement difficult to sustain."

ARTICLES

RESHAPING THE WORLD ORDER: HOW WASHINGTON SHOULD REFORM INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Brooks, Stephen G; Wohlforth, William C. *Foreign Affairs*. March/April 2009.

"Creating a league of democracies, revamping the UN Security Council, revitalizing the nuclear nonproliferation regime-proposals for revising international institutions are all the rage these days. It is one thing to agree that change is needed, but quite another to settle on its specifics. As soon as the conversation shifts to brass tacks, competing visions begin to clash. Under the George W Bush administration, consideration of global institutional change fell through the cracks. The administration did not invest much in international institutions and tended to denigrate them for hindering, rather than enabling, the realization of US interests. But with the election of President Barack Obama, the US' reluctance to push for institutional change now appears to have ended. If Washington wants to succeed, it should follow a strategy that highlights the benefits of the institutional revisions, links the proposed order to the current one, and uses the US' power position to persuade other governments to sign on to reform." *Stephen G. Brooks is Associate Professor of Government at Dartmouth College. William C. Wohlforth is Daniel Webster Professor of Government and Chair of the Department of Government at Dartmouth College. This article is adapted from their book World Out of Balance: International Relations and the Challenge of American Primacy (Princeton University Press, 2008).*

THE THREE FACES OF NATO

Betts, Richard K. *The National Interest*. March/April 2009, pp. 31-38.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is one of the most successful alliances of all time, but after the cold war and the successful completion of its mission, NATO suffered an identity crisis. It now has three main functions and self-images that compete with each other. The first persona is the enforcer, the pacifier of conflicts beyond the region's borders; the second is the gentlemen's club for liberal and liberalizing countries of the West; and the third is the residual function of an anti-Russia alliance. Torn between being a club for

democracies and a means for fighting offensive wars, NATO has expanded right up to Russia's front door, becoming ever more threatening to the resurgent power. Without a serious rethink of NATO's fundamental purpose, the alliance could well come apart and create conflict with the former Soviet Union in the process." *Richard K. Betts is the director of the Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. He is also an adjunct senior fellow for national-security studies at the Council on Foreign Relations.*

CENTER STAGE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY: POWER PLAYS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

Kaplan, Robert. *Foreign Affairs*. March/April 2009.

According to Kaplan, the Indian Ocean is central to understanding geopolitics in the 21st century. "It combines the centrality of Islam with global energy politics and the rise of India and China to reveal a multilayered, multipolar world," he says. Already the world's most important passageway for trade of energy and other goods, the Indian Ocean will become even more crucial. As rivalry intensifies between India's and China's economies and between their expanding navies, the U.S. Navy, its power declining, will have to manage the peace in the Indian Ocean. While the United States leans on India's navy in the Indian Ocean and Japan's navy in the Pacific to limit China's expansion, it will at the same time have to lead incorporation of China's navy into international alliances in order to attain global political stability. Lacking the singular threat of the Soviet Union during the Cold War, the U.S. military will need to become more flexible and build shifting alliances to respond to many different types of crises in the "weak governments and tottering infrastructure" lining the Indian Ocean from Somalia to Pakistan to Burma. *Robert D. Kaplan, a National Correspondent for The Atlantic and a Senior Fellow at the Center for a New American Security in Washington, D.C., is writing a book on the Indian Ocean.*

THE SAHARAN CONUNDRUM

Schmidle, Nicholas. *New York Times Magazine*. February 15, 2009, pp. 34-39.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/15/magazine/15Africa-t.html>

"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." *Nicholas Schmidle is a fellow at the New America Foundation.*

STABILIZATION, PEACE-BUILDING, AND SUSTAINABILITY IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

Burgess, Stephen F. *Strategic Studies Quarterly*. Spring 2009, pp. 81-118.

<http://www.au.af.mil/au/ssq/2009/Spring/burgess.pdf>

This article addresses the problems of peace-building, sustainability, and stabilization in the Horn of Africa and the interrelationship of environmental degradation, instability, and conflict. It assesses the extent to which degradation causes instability and focuses on the spiraling effect of natural disaster, degradation, and conflict on famine, destabilization, and conflict. The author introduces a degree of interrelationship among ethnic conflict, weak states, and interstate rivalry, as well as extremism, terrorism, and sustainability challenges. "The Horn of Africa is one of the world's most fragile regions; only West and Central Africa surpass it in terms of state failures and instabilities. This article underlines the importance of a regional focus on the problem of state failure and the danger of conflict spillover. In regard to a sustainability assessment, clearly failed states cannot deal with environmental degradation and disaster. Disasters (e.g., famines) and the lack of sustainability contribute significantly to state failure. State failure means that struggle over resources occurs in a state of anarchy and results in a downward spiral." *Dr. Stephen F. Burgess is associate professor of International Security at the Air War College and associate director of the USAF Counter-proliferation Center at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. His areas of expertise include African regional and cultural studies, peace and stability operations.*

THE HEART OF THE MATTER: THE SECURITY OF WOMEN AND THE SECURITY OF STATES

Hudson, Valerie, et al. *International Security*. Winter 2008/2009, pp. 1-39.
http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/files/IS3303_pp007-045.pdf

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 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.

TOWARD RECONCILIATION IN AFGHANISTAN

O'Hanlon, Michael. *The Washington Quarterly*. April 2009, pp. 139-147.
http://www.twq.com/09april/docs/09apr_OHalon.pdf

The author provides interesting insight into the situation in Afghanistan. Although the security situation is deteriorating, the level of civilian violence is relatively modest compared to Congo, Iraq, Colombia, Russia, South Africa, and Mexico. Kidnappings are frequent, roads are unsafe, and opium production has increased. However, there are also positive signs -- large numbers of refugees have returned, a higher percentage of children are in school (especially girls) and childhood immunizations have reached nearly 70 percent. Telephone access is widespread, inflation is in check and GDP growth has been about 10 percent per year. O'Hanlon believes that success is possible in Afghanistan, but a new approach is needed. Security forces need to be increased to around 600,000, but current plans call for only half that (including some 60,000 Americans). The concept of "clear, hold, and build" should continue, but the overall development strategy needs to be improved, making better use of local communities in programs such as the one used by the World Food Programme, through which local groups provide security and oversee equitable distribution of food delivered by the WFP. Important progress is possible through sustained

attention and resources from the international community in partnership with Afghan patriots and reformers. *Michael O'Hanlon is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.*

TIME FOR SOBER REALISM: RENEGOTIATING RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN

Fair, C. Christine. *The Washington Quarterly*. April 2009, pp. 149-172.

http://www.twq.com/09april/docs/09apr_Fair.pdf

"Since the September 11, 2001 attacks, the United States has sought to help Pakistan transform itself into a stable, prosperous, and democratic state that supports U.S. interests in the region, is capable of undermining Islamist militancy inside and outside its borders, commits to a secure Afghanistan, and actively works to mitigate prospects for further nuclear proliferation. Washington has also hoped that Pakistan, along with India, would continue to sustain the beleaguered peace process to minimize the odds of a future military crisis between them. Between fiscal years 2002 and 2008, the United States has spent more than \$11.2 billion, presumably to further these goals. The United States needs to chart a different relationship with Pakistan, relying on different instruments of influence. It needs to lessen its dependence on Pakistan so it can be bolder in applying negative as well as positive inducements to shape Pakistani behavior. It needs to develop a suite of assistance that strengthens Pakistan's governance capacity and the country's ability to wage counterinsurgency and counterterrorism operations effectively. And it needs to support Pakistani civil society as it debates the kind of country it wants to become." *C. Christine Fair is a senior political scientist with the RAND Corporation and an expert on security relations between India and Pakistan, U.S. strategic interests in South Asia, and Pakistan's internal security.*

UNITED STATES-IRANIAN RELATIONS: THE TERRORISM CHALLENGE

Bahgat, Gawdat. *Parameters*. Winter 2008/09, pp. 95-108.

<http://www.carlisle.army.mil/usawc/parameters/08winter/bahgat.pdf>

The author provides an examination of the United States' relationship with Iran that goes beyond the contentious issues of nuclear proliferation, terrorism, and obstruction of the Arab-Israeli peace process. According to Bahgat, Tehran is destabilizing the region through its support of the Shia militias within Iraq and its confronting policy toward the United States and Israel. The author analyzes the possibility of applying pressure on the Iranian government through support for opposition groups within the region, specifically the Mujahideen e-Khalq (MEK) in Iraq. He provides a detailed analysis of the evolution of the MEK, its ability to pressure Iran, and the lack of consensus in Europe and America on how to deal with the organization. *Gawdat Bahgat is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.*

CRAFTING STRATEGY IN AN AGE OF TRANSITION

Brimley, Shawn. *Parameters*. Winter 2008/09, pp. 27-42.

<http://www.carlisle.army.mil/usawc/parameters/08winter/brimley.pdf>

The author believes the U.S. is in a major transition point in its history. A point where a severely strained military and an economic crisis have combined with the rise of regional powers, energy scarcity, climate change, and failing states to create a strategic environment with greater risk than the United States can prudently accept. The author analyzes U.S. strategic inheritance and the evolving geopolitical context, and recommends a new defense strategy that is capable of protecting America's interests during this time of transition. Brimley highlights three major "turnings" in America's defense history leading to the requirement for a new grand strategy. "By almost any measure, President Barack

Obama faces a daunting national security inheritance. Even before the onset of the current economic crisis, a series of imposing challenges—from wars in Afghanistan and Iraq to an exploding national debt at home—promised to force the new administration to make hard choices among competing priorities. In the context of the most dramatic economic storm since the Great Depression, such choices and tradeoffs are now not only necessary but imperative. The Obama Administration is accepting a troubled inheritance on three dimensions of American power: military, diplomatic, and economic." *Shawn Brimley is a Fellow at the Center for a New American Security in Washington DC.*

HOW TO GET ASIA RIGHT: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

Cossa, Ralph. A. *American Foreign Policy Interests*. January/February 2009, pp.3-11.

This article contains an agenda of issues that the Obama administration should turn its attention to right away. The author presents keen analyses of the status of U.S. relationships with the countries of Asia, as well as with an engaged and knowledgeable Russia, and recommends that "reassurance" be explicit in all of the signals that President Obama sends to Asian leaders. "As President Obama and his foreign policy team turn their attention to the truly daunting challenges that will face them domestically and in the Middle East and other regions of the world, a few well-chosen words and deeds demonstrating America's continued commitment to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region can go a long way toward setting the stage for an effective foreign policy in this vital region in the years to come. In Asia, continuity is needed as much as change and a little reassurance still goes a long way." *Ralph A. Cossa is president of the Pacific Forum, a Honolulu-based nonprofit research institute affiliated with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington DC.*

CHINA'S DEMOCRATIZED FOREIGN POLICY

Roy, Denny. *Survival*. April/May 2009, pp. 25-40.

"The rise of China generates excitement in some quarters but anxiety in others. A possible mitigating factor against the worst-case scenario of a belligerent, outlaw superpower is the prospect of democratization in China. For many liberal theorists, China's apparently permanent commitment to free-market economics raises the expectation that a loosening of the Chinese political system cannot be far behind... China's emergence as a regional and global great power represents a massive shift in the political, economic and strategic geology of the international system. The challenge for the United States and the other major powers is to employ their limited influence wisely toward the objective of channeling China toward conformity with global norms and practices accepted as lawful and constructive. China's huge population longs not only for security and prosperity, but also for the international prestige they believe China deserves. Statesmen and strategists must account for the pressure that domestic opinion places on Chinese policymakers on issues that evoke strong nationalistic sentiment. This does not mean the international community must accommodate China on every issue over which the Chinese public becomes agitated, regardless of the justice or merits of the Chinese position. Rather, governments bargaining with China must understand that on some issues foreign pressure may be a less compelling force on Chinese leaders than countervailing domestic pressure. *Denny Roy is a Senior Fellow at the East-West Center, Honolulu.*"

NECESSARY REFORM? THE IMF AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE

Cooper, Richard N. *Harvard International Review*. Winter 2009.

<http://hir.harvard.edu/index.php?page=article&id=1845>

"The most salient issue of those concerned with the international financial architecture back in mid-2007 was "governance," in particular governance of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This involved, among other things, the selection of future Managing Directors, representation on the Executive Board, and voting rights, which were based on out-dated formulae. The "legitimacy" of the IMF was said to be in doubt. This concern with governance was against a backdrop of excellent performance of the world economy since 2002, high and widespread growth, and low inflation but rising commodity prices, which helped exporters of primary products. Much has changed since mid-2007. The likelihood of worldwide recession has moved governance reform to the back burner—or, in the views of some, made it more urgent. There is much talk of the need to reform the international financial system substantively and calls for a second Bretton Woods. However, a key unasked question lies behind these calls: if international financial governance had been plausibly different, would it have markedly attenuated the magnitude of international ramifications of the evolving financial and economic crisis?." *Richard N. Cooper is the Maurits C. Boas Professor of International Economics at Harvard University.*

THE G FORCE

Bradford, Colin I. *The World Today*. March 2009, pp.7-10.

http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/Files/rc/articles/2009/03_g20_summit_bradford/03_g20_summit_bradford.pdf

"The second G20 summit in London on April 2 is a critical moment to address the global financial crisis, but it is also a confluence of political, institutional and economic change. For British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, it is an opportunity for his economic experience, expertise and leadership to shine. For United States President Barack Obama this will be his first summit as president, placing him in the global limelight not in the Euro-centric, western setting of the G8 group of leading economies but bringing him together with leaders of major nations from all regions in the G20. The urgency of the global financial crisis and economic recovery, of international institutional reform and of consensus on climate change arrangements, is forcing foundational reform in global governance by transforming the apex summit from a small group of western industrial countries to a larger gathering of major economies from diverse regions, cultures and income levels. The world will have a new focal point for leadership that is more representative, effective and legitimate and can exercise greater influence." *Colin I. Bradford is a Non-resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. A former chief economist at the U.S. Agency for International Development, Bradford focuses on global economic governance, environmental governance and international economics and development.*

BANK SHOTS: HOW THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM CAN ISOLATE ROGUES

Loeffler, Rachel L. *Foreign Affairs*. March/April 2009.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/64822/rachel-l-loeffler/bank-shots>

"Financial sanctions have become a key tool of U.S. foreign policy. Measures taken against Iran and North Korea make clear that this new financial statecraft can be effective, but true success will require persuading global banks to accept a shared sense of risk. According to Loeffler, the U.S. government has effectively used financial sanctions carried out by global banks to apply pressure to North Korea and Iran. "Given the role that banks, rather than governments, now play as agents of international isolation," Loeffler says, "policymakers must develop a more sophisticated and accurate understanding of what this new tool of statecraft can and cannot do." Using financial measures routinely risks losing their effectiveness; the U.S. government needs in each case to show a clear connection between

the financial activities of a rogue state and the global financial system, as it did in revealing deceptive practices by the Central Bank of Iran. It must also deal with resistance from a global bank in a situation when a target country's assets makes up a significant share of that bank's business." *Rachel L. Loeffler, former Deputy Director of Global Affairs at the U.S. Treasury Department, was a 2007-8 Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow at the University of Virginia's Miller Center of Public Affairs.*

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: FROM CORPORATE STRATEGY TO GLOBAL JUSTICE

Ludescher, Jessica. *Harvard International Review*. Winter 2009.

<http://hir.harvard.edu/index.php?page=article&id=1856>

"For all the CSR activities in which corporations have engaged, we have seen major lapses in ethical conduct, resulting in a series of bankruptcies, bank failures, government bailouts, a credit crunch, and widespread threats to the global financial system. The economic security of billions of people across the globe has been placed in jeopardy by the supposedly socially responsible conduct of corporations. In the current climate of fear regarding global economic instability, there is bound to be a certain amount of irrational thinking and carelessness in constructing solutions for existing problems. CSR has been a popular solution to ethical problems in business and justice problems in global society, and reliance upon such a careworn solution is likely. Should we count on CSR to solve these problems? Will CSR turn the tides of the current financial crisis? CSR is a misleading and distracting doctrine that blinds us to the real political issues confronting us in an era of corporate economic globalization. We need to examine the principles of justice we think should be operative in markets generally and ask whether those same principles ought also be applied to corporations seen as a subset of the broader market. So long as corporations are formed through state charters, it is the government's responsibility to ensure that corporations are just institutions. Governments need to decide what sorts of ownership schemes, governance structures, and income distributions are just. Given that shareholders do not bear full responsibility, it is not obvious that they should bear the right to control the corporation and govern the other constituencies." *Jessica Ludescher is an assistant professor of business ethics in the Albers School of Business and Economics at Seattle University. Her research has focused on corporate social responsibility, theory of the firm, and globalization.*

U.S. DOMESTIC POLICY AND TRENDS

REPORTS

THE ANNUAL ENERGY OUTLOOK 2009

Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy. April 2009.

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/aeo/index.html?featureclicked=1&>

This report presents projections and analysis of US energy supply, demand, and prices through 2030. The projections are based on results from the Energy Information Administration's National Energy Modeling System. "The projections in *AEO2009* look beyond current economic and financial woes and focus on factors that drive U.S. energy markets in the longer term. Key issues highlighted in the *AEO2009* include higher but uncertain world oil prices, growing concern about greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and its impacts on energy investment decisions, the increasing use of renewable fuels, the increasing production of unconventional natural gas, the shift in the transportation fleet to more efficient vehicles, and improved efficiency in end-use appliances. *AEO2009* also

includes in-depth discussions on topics of special interest that may affect the energy market outlook, including changes in Federal and State laws and regulations and recent developments in technologies for energy production and consumption."

GREEN JOBS: A PATHWAY TO A STRONG MIDDLE CLASS

Middle Class Task Force, Vice President of the United States, The White House. March 4, 2009 [PDF format, 33 pages]

http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/mctf_one_staff_report.pdf

"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 U.S. 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. This overview paper presents and discusses a few of the most important developments in green jobs over the past few years. Specifically, the report examines the following questions and areas of interest regarding green jobs: What is a green job, and what are the characteristics of those jobs?; Green jobs in the recovery package; Green jobs in action: a review of ongoing activities in this area; Policies to help promote the creation of green jobs; Leveraging private capital investment in green jobs; Making sure green jobs are good jobs, accessible to all." The Task Force is a major initiative targeted at raising the living standards of middle-class, working families in America. It is comprised of top-level administration policy makers, and in addition to regular meetings, it will conduct outreach sessions with representatives of labor, business, and the advocacy communities. The Task Force will be chaired by Vice President Joe Biden. The Vice President and members of the task force will work with a wide array of federal agencies that have responsibility for key issues facing the middle class and expedite administrative reforms, propose Executive orders, and develop legislative and policy proposals that can be of special importance to working families."

RECOVERY ACT (ARRA): COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER GRANTS BY STATE

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. March 5, 2009 [HTML format, various paging]

<http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/hrsa/napawards.html>

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." Many state websites now have their own recovery web pages that help explain how they are spending funds allocated by the Recovery Act -

<http://www.recovery.gov/?q=content/state-recovery-page->

THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND FISCAL CRISIS: 2009 AND BEYOND

Auerbach, Alan J.; Gale, William G. Urban Institute-Brookings Institution Tax Policy Center. February 19, 2009 [PDF format, 29 pages]

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411843_economic_crisis.pdf

"This paper discusses the impact of recent tumultuous economic events and policy interventions on the Federal fiscal picture for the immediate future and for the longer run. In 2009, the federal deficit will be larger as a share of the economy than at any time since World War II. The current deficit is due in part to economic weakness and the stimulus, and in part to policy choices made in the past. What is more troubling is that, under what we view as optimistic assumptions, the deficit is projected to average at least \$1 trillion per year for the 10 years after 2009, even if the economy returns to full employment and the stimulus package is allowed to expire in two years. With the economy mired in the deepest recession in decades ? a drop in economic activity that has been compounded by continuing mortgage defaults, a historic decline in housing prices, falling equity values, illiquid credit markets, declining consumer confidence, and enormous and rapid job losses ? attention has shifted away from problems of fiscal balance. However, the most recent Congressional Budget Office baseline projection (2009a) reports a fiscal year 2009 deficit of \$1,186 billion, or 8.3 percent of GDP, under the assumption that no new tax or spending policies are implemented." *Alan J. Auerbach is Robert D. Burch Professor of Economics and Law and Director of the Burch Center for Tax Policy and Public Finance at the University of California, Berkeley. William G. Gale is the Arjay and Frances Fearing Miller Chair in Federal Economic Policy at the Brookings Institution.*

GETTING CURRENT: RECENT DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN METROPOLITAN AMERICA

Frey, William H., et. al. Metropolitan Policy Program, The Brookings Institution. March 2009 [PDF format, 28 pages]

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/03_metro_demographic_trends/03_metro_demographic_trends.pdf

"The new administration taking shape in Washington inherits not only an economic crisis, but also a mammoth apparatus of agencies and programs, many of which were developed a generation or more ago. In view of that, a president and Congress striving to "build a smarter government" should develop new policies or retool old programs with the latest population trends in mind, especially those shaping and re-shaping metropolitan areas—our nation's engines of economic growth and opportunity. Even as the nation enters an extended period of economic uncertainty, the continued demographic dynamism of our metropolitan areas raises key policy and program issues for the new government in Washington. Steps to implement the recovery package wisely, pursue immigrant integration alongside immigration reform, close educational achievement and attainment gaps, combine the planning of transportation and housing, and provide needed support to low-income workers and families should take account of our constantly evolving and changing metropolitan populations." *William H. Frey is Senior Fellow at the Metropolitan Policy Program of the Brookings Institution. Frey specializes in issues involving urban populations, migration, immigration, race, aging and political demographics. He is also a research professor in population studies at the University of Michigan.*

THE INTERNET'S ROLE IN CAMPAIGN 2008

Smith, Aaron. Pew Internet & American Life Project. April 15, 2009 [HTML format, various paging]

<http://www.pewinternet.org/Reports/2009/6--The-Internets-Role-in-Campaign-2008.aspx?r=1>

"Some 74% of internet users, representing 55% of the entire adult population, went online in 2008 to get involved in the political process or to get news and information about the election. This marks the first time that a Pew Internet & American Life Project survey has found that more than half of the voting-age population used the internet to get involved in

the political process during an election year. The relative importance of the internet also continued to grow within the overall political media ecosystem. Among the entire population (internet users and non-users alike) the internet is now equal to newspapers and roughly twice as important as radio as a source of election news and information. Among internet users and young adults, these differences are even more magnified. Additionally, online political news consumers are delving deeply into the long tail of online political content--nearly half of online political news consumers visited five or more distinct types of online news sites this election cycle. However, this deeper involvement may change the way voters view online news content. Voters are increasingly moving away from news sites with no point of view, and towards sites that match their own political viewpoints--and this is especially true of those who delve deepest into the world of online political content." *Aaron Smith is a Research Specialist at the Pew Internet & American Life Project. He is the lead author on several reports examining the role of the internet in the 2008 elections.*

CHARACTERISTICS OF MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS, 2008

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. March 11, 2009 [HTML format, Various paging]

<http://www.bls.gov/cps/minwage2008.htm>

According to Current Population Survey estimates for 2008, 75.3 million American workers age 16 and over were paid at hourly rates, representing 58.2 percent of all wage and salary workers. On July 24, 2008, the Federal minimum wage increased to \$6.55 per hour from \$5.85 per hour. Data in the report reflect the average number of workers earning the prevailing Federal minimum wage or less for the year (those who earned \$5.85 or less from January 2008 through July 2008 and those who earned \$6.55 or less from August 2008 through the end of the year).

FOREIGN-BORN WORKERS: LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS IN 2008

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. March 26, 2009.

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/forbrn.pdf> [PDF format, 14 pages]

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/forbrn.nr0.htm> [HTML format with links to tables]

This news release compares the labor force characteristics of the foreign born with those of their native-born counterparts. In 2008, 24.1 million persons, or 15.6 percent of the U.S. civilian labor force age 16 and over, were foreign born, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The unemployment rate for the foreign born was 5.8 percent in 2008, up from 4.3 percent in 2007. The jobless rate of the native born also increased to 5.8 percent in 2008; it was 4.7 percent in the prior year.

ESTIMATES OF THE UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANT POPULATION RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES: JANUARY 2008

U.S. Department of Homeland Security. February 2009 [PDF format, 7 pages]

http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/ois_ill_pe_2008.pdf

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. "In summary, the number of unauthorized immigrants living in the United States declined from 11.8 million in January 2007 to 11.6 million in January 2008. The 2008 estimate marks the first time since 2005 when DHS began producing annual estimates that there was not a year-to-year increase in unauthorized residents. During the 2000-2008 period, the unauthorized immigrant population increased by 37 percent."

A PORTRAIT OF UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANTS IN THE UNITED STATES

Passel, Jeffrey S.; Cohn. D'Vera Pew Research Center. April 14, 2009 [HTML format, various paging]

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1190/portrait-unauthorized-immigrants-states>

According to this new analysis, Unauthorized immigrants living in the United States are more geographically dispersed than in the past and are more likely than either U.S.-born residents or legal immigrants to live in a household with a spouse and children. In addition, a growing share of the children of unauthorized immigrant parents, 73%, were born in the U.S. and are U.S. citizens. The Pew Hispanic Center estimates that the rapid growth of unauthorized immigrant workers also has halted. Based on March 2008 data collected by the Census Bureau, the Pew Hispanic Center estimates that unauthorized immigrants are 4% of the nation's population and 5.4% of its workforce. Their children, both those who are unauthorized immigrants themselves and those who are U.S. citizens, make up 6.8% of the students enrolled in the nation's elementary and secondary schools. *Jeffrey S. Passel is a Senior Demographer at the Pew Hispanic Center. D'Vera Cohn is a Senior Writer at the Pew Research Center.*

INNOVATION IN SMALL BUSINESSES: DRIVERS OF CHANGE AND VALUE USE

Office of Advocacy, Small Business Administration. March 2009 [PDF format, 39 pages]

<http://www.sba.gov/advo/research/rs342tot.pdf>

This paper investigates various drivers of innovation within small businesses, as well as the role that innovation plays in creating value in small businesses. The analysis suggests that additions in employee headcount increase innovation while growth in sales does not increase innovation. The analysis also finds that increases in research and development (R&D) expenditures enhance small business value in certain industries, but not uniformly and not in all the industries investigated. Finally, the paper finds that the number of patents owned by a small business is not a good indicator of a firm's value.

BANK NATIONALIZATION: WHAT IS IT? SHOULD WE DO IT?

Elliott, Douglas J. The Brookings Institution. February 25, 2009 [PDF format, 15 pages]

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/0225_bank_nationalization_elliott/0225_bank_nationalization_elliott.pdf

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.

The following questions are also addressed in this report:

- *The background: Why might widespread nationalization be necessary?
- *What does it mean to nationalize the banks??
- *What would be the purposes of nationalization?
- *What are the arguments against nationalization?
- *How has nationalization worked previously in the U.S. and internationally?
- *How could nationalization be implemented most effectively?
- *What should we do now?

Douglas J. Elliott is a Fellow in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution.

ENGLISH LITERACY OF FOREIGN-BORN ADULTS IN THE UNITED STATES: 2003

National Center for Education Statistics. Web posted March 17, 2009 [PDF format, 4 pages]

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009034.pdf>

This paper draws on data from the 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL) to explore the English literacy of foreign-born adults living in households in the United States. It presents the English literacy scores of foreign-born adults age 16 and older by race/ethnicity, age of arrival in the United States, years spent in the United States, highest level of educational attainment, and language spoken before starting school. Scores are reported on three literacy scales: prose, document, and quantitative. Findings indicate that English literacy scores of foreign-born adults varied across a variety of background characteristics.

MINI-DIGEST OF EDUCATION STATISTICS 2008

National Center for Education Statistics. March 2009 [PDF format, 77 pages]

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2009/2009021.pdf>

This 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. In the fall of 2008, about 83.9 million people in the United States were either enrolled or employed in public and private schools and colleges. Included in this total were 74.1 million students enrolled in American schools and colleges. About 4.6 million people were employed as elementary and secondary school teachers or as college faculty and teaching assistants. Other professional, administrative, and support staff of educational institutions totaled 5.2 million. In a nation with a population of about 304 million in 2008, more than 1 out of every 4 people participated in formal education.

THE CLIMATE CHANGE LOBBY EXPLOSION

Lavelle, Marianne. Center for Public Integrity. February 24, 2009. [HTML format, various paging]

http://www.publicintegrity.org/investigations/climate_change/articles/entry/1171/

"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." *Marianne Lavelle is a staff writer at the Center for Public Integrity in Washington, D.C.*

CLIMATE LITERACY: THE ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES OF CLIMATE SCIENCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). March 2009 [PDF format, 17 pages]

<http://climate.noaa.gov/education/pdfs/ClimateLiteracyPoster-8.5x11-March09FinalLR.pdf>

The objective of this guide is to help individuals of all ages understand how climate influences them and how they influence climate. The document presents information that is deemed important for individuals and communities to know and understand about Earth's climate, impacts of climate change, and approaches to adaptation or mitigation. The guide aims to promote greater climate science literacy by providing this educational framework of principles and concepts. The guide can also serve educators who teach climate science as a way to meet content standards in their science curricula. Developers of the guide intend to integrate the framework into national and state education standards, and to support teacher workshops to ensure that educators are proficient in teaching the concepts of climate science. This product was compiled by an interagency group, led by NOAA.

THE STATE OF THE NEWS MEDIA 2009

Pew Project for Excellence in Journalism. March 2009 [HTML format with PDF links]
<http://www.stateofthenewsmedia.org/2009/index.htm>

This is the sixth edition of the annual report on the health and status of U.S. journalism. According to the authors, the goals of the report "are to take stock of the revolution occurring in how Americans get information and provide a resource for citizens, journalists and researchers to make their own assessments. To do so we gather in one place as much data as possible about all the major sectors of journalism, identify trends, mark key indicators, note areas for further inquiry." The study provides both aggregated and original research on the eight major sectors of media-newspapers, online, network; cable, local and network TV; magazines; radio and ethnic. It also includes special reports on the Year in the News, lessons from the 2008 election, an analysis of citizen media sites and more.

ARTICLES

BARACK'S TOO-LONG WISH LIST: HOW THE PRESIDENT SHOULD FOCUS HIS AGENDA

Galston, William A. *The New Republic*. March 10, 2009.

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0310_obama_galston.aspx?emc=lm&m=223288&l=8&v=25151

"Will Obama turn out to be as successful in pushing his agenda as Reagan, or as unsuccessful as Carter? The key question is not early economic performance. The GDP, which the Reagan administration predicted would rise by 4.2 percent in 1982, instead shrank by 1.8 percent, and unemployment peaked around the day of the midterms, at 10.8 percent. Still, the Republicans held their ground in the Senate and suffered smaller than expected losses in the House, and the Reagan administration evaded a knockout blow. The core issue is the clarity and self-discipline needed to maintain control of the agenda." *William Galston is Senior Fellow of Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution. A former policy advisor to President Clinton and presidential candidates, Bill Galston is an expert on domestic policy, political campaigns, and elections.*

DIVERGING COALITIONS: THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE AMERICAN ELECTORATE

Abramowitz, Alan. *Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball*. April 9, 2009.

<http://www.centerforpolitics.org/crystalball/article.php?id=AIA2009040901>

"The election of America's first black president has been widely hailed as an historic event. However, much less attention has been paid to the demographic trends which made that event possible and which will continue to affect elections and politics in the United States far into the future. Barack Obama's victory in the 2008 presidential election was made possible by long-term changes in the composition of the American electorate, especially the growing voting power of African-Americans, Hispanics, and other nonwhites. As a result of these demographic changes, the Democratic Party enjoys a large advantage over the Republican Party in the size of its electoral base--an advantage that is almost certain to continue growing for the foreseeable future." Larry J. Sabato's Crystal Ball web site, run by the University of Virginia's Center for Politics, features analyses of presidential elections, Senate, House and gubernatorial races. *Dr. Alan Abramowitz is the Alben W. Barkley Professor of Political Science at Emory University.*

THE FUTURE OF THE GOP: CAN REPUBLICANS STAGE A COMEBACK?

Greenblatt, Alan. *CQ Researcher*. March 20, 2009, pp. 251-271.

Last November's sweeping election of Barack Obama and further losses in Congress presented Republicans with their worst defeat in more than a decade. Republicans recognize that they are at a low ebb but believe they still have a firm foundation for success. Congressional Republicans have decided to oppose Obama's spending proposals, rather than trying to collaborate in a bipartisan fashion. They believe a clear statement of core party principles — lower taxes and limited government — will still be popular. Others aren't convinced, arguing that the party must adapt to challenges it faces among minorities, the young and voters outside the South. Other parties have snapped back quickly from similar losses, but some predict that Republicans face a long period in the political wilderness. Meanwhile, it's not clear who speaks for the party — the congressional leadership, potential presidential aspirants such as Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, or even radio talk-show host Rush Limbaugh. *Alan Greenblatt is a staff writer for Congressional Quarterly's Governing magazine.*

HILL TUNES IN TO NEW MEDIA

Casey, Winter. *National Journal*. March 7, 2009.

http://www.nationaljournal.com/njmagazine/cg_20090307_6994.php

"Lawmakers' growing awareness of the Internet's importance to campaigns and of their constituents' increasing desire to connect and gather information on the Web has led to a growing use of social media in Congress. Members are hiring new-media experts to extend their reach on the Web, Facebook, MySpace, Twitter and YouTube. Some new-media staffers like Matt Lira, who works for Representative Eric Cantor of Virginia, attends senior staff meetings so that integration with new media is considered on a daily basis. New-media staffers hope members of Congress will continue to expand their use of these tools as they come to see it as essential for promoting their agendas."

WAITING GAMES: THE POLITICS OF US IMMIGRATION REFORM

Martin, Susan F. *Current History*. March 2009, pp. 160-166.

"Repeated efforts to achieve a new bi-national approach to immigration between the United States and Mexico have all ended in failure. So have recurring attempts to enact comprehensive US immigration reform that would include new temporary worker programs and legalization of unauthorized migrants, along with enhanced enforcement of immigration laws and border security. It is too soon to tell how immigration reform will fare in the young administration of Barack Obama, or with a more dominantly Democratic US Congress. But swift passage of new legislation does not seem a likely prospect. Several factors would appear to argue against quick enactment of comprehensive legislation. First and foremost, the financial crisis and a deepening recession bode ill for passage of any measures not directly related to economic recovery. Indeed, until the short- and medium-term impact of the recession on migration patterns becomes more apparent, it would be foolhardy to enact legislation that might keep out workers whom the United States needs in the short to medium term, or that might bring in workers whom the economy cannot quickly absorb."
Susan F. Martin is an associate professor at Georgetown University and director of the Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. This article is adapted from a chapter she contributed to a book she co-edited with Augustin Escobar Latapí, Mexico-US Migration Management: A Binational Approach (Lexington, 2008).

SCHOLARS MULL THE 'PARADOX' OF IMMIGRANTS

Zehr, Mary Ann. *Education Week*. March 18, 2009, pp. 1-12.

http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2009/03/18/25immigrant_ep.h28.html?tkn=SMVFj10rC SR5NtV0YyIOYaYV96Gtf18yZ2ZN

"Since it was first documented in the early 1980s, the troubling and apparently paradoxical pattern of immigrants to the U.S.A. has been one of the greatest and longest-running scandals in the social sciences. First-generation immigrants to the United States do better than expected and better than their immigrant counterparts typically do in other countries. But whereas in almost all other countries (New Zealand and Australia are the other exceptions) the academic success of immigrants improves measurably from the first to the third generation, in the U.S.A. the academic success of immigrants declines. Moreover, the tendency to stay out of trouble and the physical health of immigrants to the United States also tends to decline significantly, just as if becoming an American were a developmental risk. The immigrant paradox holds among many different ethnic groups, but that the causes of the decline from one generation to the next remain obscure except for the obvious increase in such risky behavior as alcohol and drug abuse and teenage sex. For example, one researcher examined the educational success of 45,000 first-generation immigrant and native-born New York City students, comparing them within their racial and ethnic groups. "It's a story of foreign-born advantage. The foreign-born test higher and graduate from high school at higher rates than the native-born," said researcher Dylan Conger. Chinese and Korean immigrants offer one variation on the paradox: a bifurcation between high and low achievers emerges over time. To prevent the decline, individual researchers suggested taking such measures as preschool education, bilingual education, after-school programs and strengthening relationships between K-12 and higher education." *Mary Ann Zehr is an assistant editor for Education Week. She specializes in English-language learners, bilingual education, immigrants and migrants, and American Indian education.*

THE FUTURE OF THE DOLLAR: CURRENCY CHALLENGES IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

Steil, Benn. *Harvard International Review*. Winter 2009, pp. 40-44.

<http://hir.harvard.edu/index.php?page=article&id=1843>

The author argues that the world has no attractive alternatives to the current dollar-based international monetary system. The Fed must demonstrate to the world anew that the dollar is a reliable long-term store of value. The period of the 1990s through the early years of the new millennium was a golden age for the fiat US dollar. Following on the heels of the Volcker Fed's defeat of inflation expectations in the 1980s, investors around the globe bought up dollar-denominated assets and central banks sold off their gold reserves, believing they were no longer necessary or desirable. This allowed not only the United States, but the world, to enjoy the fruits of a sustained period of low interest rates and low inflation. The soaring commodities prices which accompanied the Bernanke Fed's slashing of interest rates in late 2007 and early 2008 reflected rising concerns of a collapsing fiat currency bubble. People were looking, as they have for the better part of human history, to hard assets as a store of wealth. Monetary psychology was reverting to its historic norm. Once the transatlantic banking and credit crisis eases, this shift, if not short-circuited by a sustained period of Fed monetary tightening, will become entrenched and globally traumatic. A further soaring euro cannot fill the breach without provoking a major European protectionist backlash that will undermine the euro's political sustainability. And emerging private monetary alternatives—like digital gold banks, which use shares in gold bars as currency, and which grew rapidly in tandem with the dollar's decline against gold—will clash head on with ever more intrusive state efforts to criminalize them. *Benn Steil is senior fellow and director of international economics at the Council on Foreign Relations.*

WHAT WE DIDN'T KNOW HAS HURT US

Hendler, Clint. *Columbia Journalism Review*. January/February 2009.
http://www.cjr.org/feature/what_we_didnt_know_has_hurt_us.php

The author contends that some of the measures to maintain the extreme secrecy of the executive branch enacted by the Bush presidency may be easy to unpick by an executive order of the Obama administration. Others, resulting from court rulings or entrenched bureaucratic traditions, will be more difficult to reverse. President Obama promised in his campaign and since his election he would restore transparency and improve information sharing. The author details some of the battles fought over freedom of information during the Bush administration, including the Sunshine in Government Initiative formed by the Associated Press.

GET OFF THE BUS: THE FUTURE OF PRO-AM JOURNALISM

Michel, Amanda. *Columbia Journalism Review*. March/April 2009.
http://www.cjr.org/feature/get_off_the_bus.php

Off the Bus was a collaborative network of amateur and professional journalists, hosted and posted by the Huffington Post, formed to cover the 2008 presidential campaign from the grassroots level. Author Amanda Michel was the project director. She describes how this successful "pro-am" model for the democratization of news worked. Off the Bus recruited 12,000 volunteers to do the reporting and, most important, the mentoring, editing and fact-checking required for a credible news source. It was low-budget and the sheer number of reporters in key places enabled production of high-quality stories which they sometimes broke before mainstream media did. Although new media can build a network quickly, "they must take much more seriously the professional side of the equation -- the reporting and editing and verification," she writes. *Amanda Michel directed OffTheBus, and is now the editor of distributed reporting for ProPublica, the nonprofit investigative journalism outlet based in New York.*

U.S. COLLEGES GET SERIOUS WITH PARTNERS OVERSEAS

Fischer, Karin. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. February 27, 2009.

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.

THE NEXT CATASTROPHE: READY OR NOT?

Wormuth, Christine. *The Washington Quarterly*. January 2009, pp. 93-106.

http://www.twq.com/09winter/docs/09jan_Wormuth.pdf

According to the author, "The United States is not ready for the next catastrophe." Although improvements have been made, more than seven years after 9/11 and three years after Katrina, the country still lacks detailed, government-wide plans to respond to a catastrophe, and there is confusion about who will be in charge during a disaster. The various laws affecting homeland security are inconsistent and unclear in assigning responsibilities, and the situation is made worse by turf wars among the Department of Justice, the FBI, and DHS. According to the author, four reforms would greatly improve the readiness of the country: merge the National Security Council (NSC) and the Homeland Security Council (HSC) into a single entity with a single staff; establish a clear chain of command within DHS, including the clarification of the role of FEMA; establish a robust interagency organization responsible for developing detailed plans for dealing with disasters; and complete and expand the creation of homeland security regional hubs that leverage the resources of the FEMA regional offices. These are but critical first steps toward building an effective mechanism for managing catastrophic national disasters. *Christine Wormuth is a senior fellow in the International Security Program at the Council for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and principal author of Managing the Next Domestic Catastrophe: Ready or Not? (2008).*

Information provided by the Information Resource Center
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