



## Article Alert

### AMERICAN LIFE

- **Selling History Short in Mississippi**  
Meet Haley Barbour, former chair of the Republican National Committee, present governor of Mississippi and undeclared 2012 presidential hopeful. On the fiftieth anniversary of the Freedom Rides and the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, this is the man who wants to reinvent Mississippi as a [civil rights tourist attraction](#). (*The Nation*)
- **In Foodie Nation, Some Chefs Still Want to Secede**  
Go to the official site of the South Beach Wine and Food Festival ([SOBE](#)) held this past weekend, and you'll see the marks of wild success. Nearly every event is sold out. I was just there, and the crowd was by no means composed of gastronomes. (*Times*)
- **The Still-Vital Center: Moderates, Democrats, and the Renewal of American Politics**  
In 2006, 2008, and 2010, America experienced a series of wave elections that resulted in shifts of [political control](#). At the same time, the country continues to grapple with serious, potentially existential threats: a weak economy, massive structural deficits and growing global competition. (*Brookings Institution*)

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- **Human Rights Last**  
How does a generation of Chinese who opened up their own country to the world square China's ongoing transformations with such ties to some of the most closed societies on Earth? How does a country haunted by awful memories of the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution overlook [suffering in other countries](#)? (*Foreign Policy*)
- **Finish the Job**  
Since 2001, Afghanistan's economy has grown at an impressive rate and major development indicators in the country have improved dramatically. Even security and the rule of law - long neglected -- are now improving. Washington and its allies could still win in Afghanistan if they are given [the time they need](#). (*Foreign Affairs*)
- **Reducing Urban Violence: Lessons from Medellin, Colombia**  
As one walks the [streets of Medellin's](#) comunas, it is striking how much more developed these poor and crime-ridden neighborhoods are compared to the favelas of Rio de Janeiro, the barrios of Ciudad Juarez, or shantytowns of Johannesburg. The hilly streets are wide and paved, and electricity, gas, and water are provided to over 90 percent of the population. (*Brookings Institution*)

### GLOBAL CHALLENGES

- **The Political Power of Social Media**  
Discussion of the political impact of social media has focused on the power of mass protests to topple governments. In fact, [social media's real potential](#) lies in supporting civil society and the public sphere -- which will produce change over years and decades, not weeks or months. (*Foreign Affairs*)
- **International Women's Day Shows How Women Can Help Women Succeed**  
"If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants," the world's great scientific intellectual Isaac Newton wrote in

### ECONOMY

- **12 Industries That Are Actually Growing**  
Economists love to pontificate about which [industries](#) are expected to grow over the next several years. We tend to hear a lot about "green jobs" and health care. While their estimates are often on the right track, it would also be useful to know which sectors have shown actual job growth already. (*Atlantic Monthly*)
- **United States Will Continue Full Effort on Farm Exports**  
U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack says the United States will continue intensive promotion

1676. The accomplishments of [women](#), too, owe much to the “giants” who preceded them — women who bravely endured painful ridicule and overcame huge obstacles to obtain the same opportunities afforded to men. (*America.gov*)

- **The Revolt of the Creative Class**  
The uprisings of 2011 owe much of their impetus to the working class and labor movements as well as young people and students. But a [new generation of techies](#), social media types, and digitally savvy professionals have also played a visibly important role. (*The Atlantic*)

of its [agricultural products](#) around the world. (*America.gov*)

- **The Tyrant Tax**  
The protesters who are transforming the Middle East have a long list of grievances. At the top, of course, is the suppression of democratic aspirations by authoritarian regimes. But also important is the dangerous state of the [region's economies](#). Income growth and business productivity are low. (*New Yorker*)

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