



Article Alert

AMERICAN LIFE

- **#Occupy: The Tech at the Heart of the Movement**
A set of [mobile technologies](#) that didn't exist ten years ago offered protesters new human capabilities that they used to record and disseminate information, as well as organize -- or maybe more properly, design -- the protests. (*Atlantic Monthly*)
- **Is Obama Toast? Handicapping the 2012 Election**
Americans are usually forgiving when they vote a man into the White House and he wants a [second term](#). Of the last eight elected presidents, all but two — George H. W. Bush and Jimmy Carter — got their four more years. The conventional wisdom has long held that Barack Obama would most likely weather his midpresidency slump to win another term. (*NY Times Magazine*)
- **Preguntas frecuentes sobre las elecciones en Estados Unidos**
Hay dos tipos básicos de elecciones: primarias y generales. Además de las elecciones primarias y las [elecciones generales](#) que se realizan en años pares y que incluyen las contiendas políticas para el Congreso de Estados Unidos, algunos estados y jurisdicciones locales también realizan elecciones (primarias y generales) en años impares para elegir funcionarios cuyos puestos sean por elección. (*IIP Digital*)
- **The American-Western European Values Gap**
As has long been the case, [American values](#) differ from those of Western Europeans in many important ways. Most notably, a new survey by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project finds that Americans are more individualistic and are less supportive of a strong safety net than are the publics of Spain, Britain, France and Germany. (*Pew Global Attitudes Project*)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- **Women in War, Women in Peace**
As wars become less about states and more about societies, [women](#) can play a greater role in shaping or ending conflicts. So why do we still think of war as inherently male? (*Atlantic Monthly*)
- **Global Development Under Pressure**
Over the past decade, many developing countries have experienced unprecedented economic growth. Several of these countries are now simultaneously both recipients and providers of [international development aid](#). But the reverse also holds for those developing countries that remain gripped in fragile and conflict situations, where none of the Millennium Development Goals have been achieved. (*Brookings Institution*)
- **Rethinking the Arab "Spring"**
No one can ignore the short-term problems the political upheavals in Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia create for each country. New leaders must be chosen and security systems must be changed. The problems involved can kill political, economic and demographic reforms before they even begin. There is a serious danger, however, in focusing on short term needs and failing to focus on the [depth of the problems](#) that Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, and virtually every other Middle Eastern and North African state now face, says the report. (*Center for Strategic & International Studies*)
- **Iran Nuclear Threat: What's Next?**
A new report released Tuesday by the International Atomic Energy Agency makes clear that Tehran has carried out extensive research into making a [nuclear weapon](#). But it does not explain what the United States and the rest of the world should do. (*Atlantic Council*)

GLOBAL CHALLENGES

ECONOMY

- **Energy Innovators to Discuss Solutions at Space Center**

Ten organizations with [innovative](#) ideas or products to meet energy challenges have been invited to participate in a forum at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, where they will discuss their ideas with experts. (*IIP Digital*)

- **How Mainstream Media Outlets Use Twitter**

Mainstream news organizations have made the social media tool Twitter a daily part of how they communicate with audiences. But how do those organizations [actually use the technology](#): How often do they tweet? What kind of news do they distribute? To what extent is Twitter used as a new reporting tool or as a mechanism for gathering insights from followers? (*Pew Research Center*)

- **The Global Gender Gap Report**

Over the last six years, while 85% of countries are improving their [gender equality](#) ratios, for the rest of the world the situation is declining, most notably in several African and South American countries. The sixth annual World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report 2011 shows a slight decline over the last year in gender equality rankings for New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom this year, while gains are made in Brazil, Ethiopia, Qatar, Tanzania and Turkey. (*World Economic Forum*)

- **The Kyoto Accords — and Hope — Are Expiring**

There's one absolutely foolproof way to cut [carbon emissions](#): economic collapse. After the fall of communism in the early 1990s led to economic depression in much of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, carbon output in those countries fell like a stone. In fact, greenhouse-gas emissions in Russia didn't return to 1990 levels until well into the 21st century. (*Times Magazine*)

- **The Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Rise of China**

The [United States](#) is preparing for an Asian century, and its trade policy is following suit. Officials hope that the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a free trade agreement soon to include Japan, will help solidify their economic role in Asia. (*Foreign Affairs*)

- **What the Greek Debt Crisis Means for You**

The problems in Europe will negatively [affect the U.S.](#) but also create a few opportunities. (*Times Magazine*)

- **Will Obama Be Running Against the Economy?**

When the conversation turns to the 2012 presidential race, it usually doesn't take too long before someone suggests that Republicans have little chance of winning next year. Some argue that Republicans don't have a bluechip candidate who can beat [President Obama](#); others that too many prominent contenders concluded that the incumbent is unbeatable, and as a result, they opted not to run, thinking they might have a better chance of getting elected in 2016. (*The Washington Quarterly*)

- **Slowly, But Surely, Trade Erodes Global Poverty**

Small, everyday purchases can have [far-reaching effects on poverty](#) in distant lands, especially those on the least-developed country list from the United Nations, those with per-capita incomes averaging less than \$3 a day. Only a few years ago, the outlook for this group with ineffective governments and stagnant economies was bleak. However, the first decade of the millennium shows marked improvements for the poorest nations, including improved growth and school enrollments along with declining rates of malnutrition and communicable diseases. Trade reforms, aid, infrastructure investment and strengthened international relations have led to better policies in the poorest nations - so much so that the UN speculates that 22 of the 49 LDCs could graduate from the UN list by 2020. (*YaleGlobal*)

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