



Article Alert

AMERICAN LIFE

- **Can the Middle Class Be Saved?**
The Great Recession has accelerated the hollowing-out of the [American middle class](#). And it has illuminated the widening divide between most of America and the super-rich. Both developments herald grave consequences. Here is how we can bridge the gap between us. (*Atlantic Monthly*)
- **Will Obama Be Running Against the Economy?**
If you had to predict today [whether President Obama will be re-elected](#), would you be better off if you knew who his opponent will be in 2012 or what the economy will look like? (*The Washington Quarterly*)
- **Everyone Should Go to College**
About half of all [young Americans](#) now start at two- or four-year colleges. Is this too many? About a third of the population winds up with at least a bachelor's degree. (*The Daily Beast/Newsweek*)
- **When Computers Come Between Doctors and Patients**
Although some hospitals are computerized, most do not have fully functional [electronic medical records](#), as promoted by the health care reform law of 2010. (*NY Times Magazine*)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- **10 Years Later: How We Won**
The war against al-Qaeda is over, but continuing to fight [terrorism](#) will require understanding what we did that worked - and what didn't. (*Atlantic Monthly*)
- **Train Wreck in Turtle Bay**
[Palestinian leaders](#) are headed for a dangerous confrontation at the U.N. that will only leave everyone worse off. Can anyone stop this runaway train? (*Foreign Policy*)
- **Arab Uprisings: The State of the Egyptian Revolution**
Where is the [Egyptian revolution](#) today? Hosni Mubarak, his sons, and top former regime officials are on trial. Parliamentary elections are scheduled for November. Changes have swept the country at all levels. But people nevertheless feel despondent. (*Project on Middle East Political Science*)
- **Haiti's Rise From the Rubble**
After a devastating earthquake struck [Haiti](#) in January 2010, outside organizations flocked to the country to help it recover. Paul Farmer's passionate account of the effort criticizes some of these groups for bypassing the Haitian government. But given how corrupt the government has proved to be, outsiders are right to be wary. (*Foreign Affairs*)

GLOBAL CHALLENGES

- **Economics and Emigration: Trillion-dollar Bills on the Sidewalk?**
Many people born in low-income countries would like to leave those countries, but [barriers prevent their emigration](#). Those barriers, according to economists' best estimates to date, cost the world economy much more than all remaining barriers to the international movement of goods and capital combined. (*Center for Global Development*)

ECONOMY

- **The Gathering Eurozone Storm**
Investors and financial markets are growing convinced that Greece will default on its debt, heightening fears of a [eurozone banking crisis](#) that would have significant ramifications for an already fragile global economy. (*Council on Foreign Relations*)
- **Can We Determine the Optimal Size of Government?**

- **U.S., EU Officials on Pirates' Pillaging of the Oceans' Bounty**

Piracy off the coast of east Africa has grabbed headlines in recent years, but there is another type of piracy that has received far too little attention. [Pirate fishing](#) around the world is costing fishermen their jobs and income, and is inflicting serious harm on the ocean environment. *(IIP Digital)*

- **Gore's Dire Weather Warning**

As a brutal hurricane season bears down, former Vice President [Al Gore](#) says there will be worse disasters ahead if we don't act soon—and when it comes to national security, Mother Nature is as fearsome as terrorists. *(The Daily Beast/Newsweek)*

- **Energy in Food**

Advanced energy technology and its use can play a positive role throughout the food supply chain. When dealing with the [energy-food relationship](#), informed policies based on free markets and competition are important. *(Atlantic Council)*

The massive spending programs and new regulations adopted by many countries in response to the economic crisis of 2008 have drawn renewed attention to the role of [government](#) in the economy. Studies of the relationship between government size and economic growth have come up with a wide range of estimates of the "optimal" or growth-maximizing size of government. (GDP). *(Cato Institute)*

- **What The World Must Do To Boost Growth**

The [world economy](#) is in the midst of the second slowdown of this recovery from the financial crisis of 2008 and 2009. The question is not whether we have the economic or financial capacity to act to strengthen growth, but whether we have the political ability to do the right things. *(IIP Digital)*

- **Standard & Poor's Downgrade of U.S. Government Long-Term Debt**

The [downgrade](#) reflects S&P's judgment that (1) the recent Budget Control Act (P.L. 112-25) falls short of what is needed to stabilize the government's fiscal situation and (2) the capacity of Congress and the Administration to deal with the debt has become less stable, effective, and predictable. *(Congressional Research Service)*

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