

NEWSLETTER FOR ENGLISH TEACHERS

June 2009

The Newsletter for English Teachers is a monthly publication by the American Reference Center in Vienna. It focuses on American Studies topics of relevance to our academic audiences.

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THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM – GLOBAL ECONOMY IN CRISIS

"No doubt, economic historians will argue for years to come about the causes of the global financial crisis. The primary causal factor was macroeconomic, but appropriate regulation might have averted or ameliorated the crisis.

Joel P. Trachtman is professor of international law at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. His publications include The Economic Structure of International Law and International Law and Politics.

[...] In order to address the current crisis and to prevent future crises — if, indeed, that is possible — it is necessary to understand what caused this crisis.

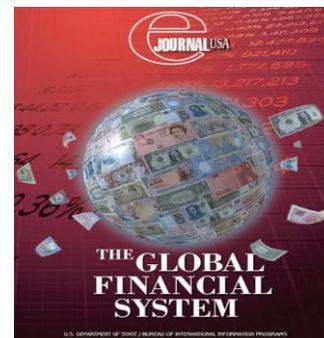
Diagnosis is not easy because this crisis was caused by a complex interaction of macroeconomic mismanagement, incomplete financial regulation, and defective corporate governance. For the same reason, prevention of future crises is not a simple matter.

The financial crisis began in the United States with a housing price bubble and risky mortgages. Mortgages seemed like solid investments while housing prices rose, but looked much less attractive as housing prices declined. And this decline fed on itself, as reduced willingness to lend and foreclosures on mortgages caused further reductions in home prices. Many of the original mortgages were securitized, and banks and other financial institutions, as well as investors, eagerly purchased and traded the resulting securities in their never-ending search for high-yielding investments. But the holders of these securities found that their value declined sharply. For financial institutions, the losses on these securities impaired their capital and their ability to do business. This reduced their ability to finance businesses, resulting in a substantial depressing effect on the real economy. The credit freeze is only now showing signs of thawing. While the crisis began in the United States, it is now global. [...]"

[Global Financial Trouble: Causes, Cures, Responses.](#)

America.gov, May 1, 2009

[The opinions expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. government.]



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[The Global Financial System: Six Experts Look at the Crisis](#)

(eJournal)-- Experts describe the mechanics of the global financial system presenting their views concerning the cyclical nature of markets, the interdependence of global trade relationships, and the role of regulation. *(eJournal, America.gov, May 2009, pdf)*



[Capitalism Compared – U.S.A. and Europe](#)

The global economic crisis brings into relief differences among nations as they tackle financial regulation. A look at principles behind U.S. and European systems. *(America.gov)*

VIDEOS

★ [Academic Earth - Understanding the Financial Crisis](#)

Expert perspectives on the Financial Crisis and how to manage it

LINKS

- ★ **The White House** - [Economy](#)
 - ★ **The White House** - [Remarks by the President on 21st Century Financial Regulatory Reform](#), June 17, 2009
 - ★ **America.gov** - [Business & Trade](#)
 - ★ **America.gov** - [Two Prominent Economists Debate Pros and Cons of Regulation](#), May 15, 2009
 - ★ **U.S. Embassy Vienna** - [Economy & Trade](#)
 - ★ **Federal Reserve Board** - [About the Fed](#)
- Website provides background information about the Federal Reserve System, which serves as the U.S. central bank.
- ★ **Council on Foreign Relations** - [Global Economy in Crisis Group of Twenty \(G20\)](#)
- Provides background and frequently asked questions about the G20; publications from summits, and other activities. Includes links to member countries.
- ★ **International Monetary Fund** - [Financial Crisis](#)
 - ★ **World Bank** - [Financial Crisis](#)
 - ★ **The New York Times** - [Credit Crisis – The Essentials](#)
 - ★ **Financial Times** - [The Future of Capitalism](#)
 - ★ **CNN** - [Road to Rescue](#)

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY – June 5



World Environment Day, commemorated each year on 5 June, is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action.

The World Environment Day slogan for 2009 is **"Your Planet Needs You-UNite to Combat Climate Change"**. Recognizing that climate change is becoming the defining issue of our era, United National Environment Programms (UNEP) is asking countries, companies and communities to focus on greenhouse gas emissions and how to reduce them. The World Environment Day highlights resources and initiatives that promote low carbon economies and life-styles, such as improved energy efficiency, alternative energy sources, forest conservation and eco-friendly consumption.

Links

- ★ **The White House** – [Energy & Environment](#)
 - ★ **The White House** – [White House Council on Environmental Quality Statement in Celebration of World Environment Day](#), June 5, 2009
 - ★ **U.S. Department of State** - [World Environment Day, press release](#), June 5, 2009
 - ★ **U.S. Department of State/Bureau of Oceans and Environmental and Scientific Affairs** – [Environment & Conservation](#)
 - ★ **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**
 - ★ **U.S. Embassy Vienna** – [Climate Change & Environment America.gov](#)
 - ★ [Adapting to a Changing Climate](#)
 - ★ [Energy & Environment](#)
 - ★ **U.S. Global Change Research Program** - [Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States](#), June 2009
 - ★ **U.S. Census Bureau** – [Statistical Abstract: Geography & Environment](#)
- America.gov**
- ★ **UN Environment Programme** - [World Environment Day 2009](#)
 - ★ [Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking](#)

- ★ **Frontline** - [Inside the Meltdown](#)

An account of how the U.S. ended up in the worst financial crisis since 1929.

- ★ **PBS** - [The Ascent of Money](#)

Niall Ferguson, a professor of history at Harvard University, traces the evolution of money and demonstrates that financial history is the essential back-story behind all history. Ferguson illuminates fundamental economic concepts and speaks with leading experts in the financial world.

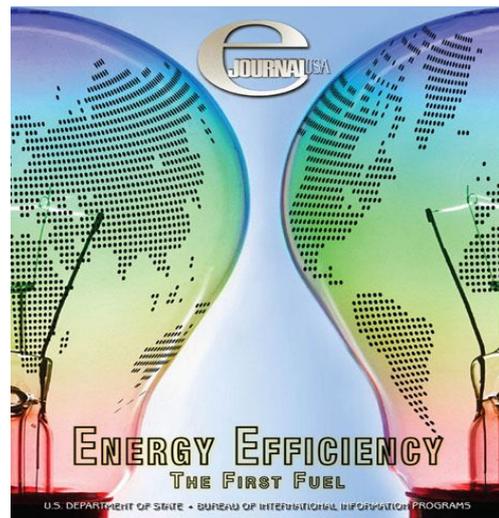
- ★ **U.S. Embassy Vienna/YouTube** - The Obama Factor: Opportunities, Challenges and Potential Impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan on Business Development

[Part 1](#), [Part 2](#)

Lecture by Dr. David Pistrui, Director of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Amerika Haus Vienna, May 19, 2009

- ★ **America.gov** - [Energy Efficiency – The First Fuel](#), (ejournal, April 2009)

Increasing the efficient use of existing energy supplies is widely acknowledged as the fastest, cheapest, and cleanest way to meet future energy needs. Energy Efficiency: The First Fuel examines the strong U.S. record of tapping efficiency as a resource, and the accelerated efforts by individuals, organizations, and governments to squeeze greater productivity from all energy sources.



- ★ **More Publications by America.gov**

- ★ [The Greening of U.S. Corporations](#) (ejournal, March 2008)
- ★ [Clean Energy Solutions](#) (ejournal, July 2006)
- ★ [Rachel Carson: Pen Against Poison](#) (book, March 2007)

Articles by America.gov

[Spotlight on the Colorado River](#), June 17, 2009

... The Colorado River system supplies water to more than 30 million people in the Southwest, including Los Angeles, Phoenix, Las Vegas and Denver. Reservoirs in the system, including the giant lakes Mead and Powell, were nearly full in 1999, with almost four times the annual flow of the river stored. By 2007, the system had lost about half of that storage after enduring the worst drought in 100 years of record keeping. Runoff was reduced due to low winter precipitation, and warm, dry and windy spring seasons that substantially reduced snowpack.

[U.S. Regions Experiencing Climate Change Effects Now, Report Says - Choices about heat-trapping emissions to have far-reaching consequences](#), June 17, 2009

The first U.S. report in nearly a decade to assess the impacts of climate change in different regions of the United States confirms and extends research that describes rising sea and air temperatures and sea levels, melting ice, intensified hurricanes and many other changes that are happening now. Such changes will continue into the future, affecting water resources, agriculture, coastal areas and health.

[President Obama Seeks New Fuel Efficiency Standards](#), May 19, 2009

New federal rules proposed May 19 would increase national fuel efficiency standards for vehicles sold in the U.S. "We have set in motion a national policy aimed at both increasing gas mileage and decreasing greenhouse gas pollution for all new trucks and cars sold in the United States of America," President Obama said at the White House.

[Forecasts Show How Changing Environment Might Affect Life - Remote-sensing satellites, computer models linked to biological world](#), May 13, 2009

Scientists are combining climate-related data sets, data from Earth-observing satellites and mathematical models of organism behavior to forecast the effects of environmental change on ecosystems, much like how meteorologists forecast weather and climate.

[Climate Change "Clear and Present Danger," Secretary Clinton Says - Forum for 17 major economies is preparation for Copenhagen climate meeting](#), April 29, 2009

Representatives of 17 of the most important contributors to rising concentrations of planet-warming carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases met April 27-28 to begin discussions they hope will lead to success at the United Nations climate change meeting in Copenhagen in December.

65th ANNIVERSARY – JUNE 6, 1944- D-DAY IN NORMANDY, FRANCE

On June 6, 1944, 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of the heavily-fortified French coastline to fight Nazi Germany on the beaches of Normandy. General Dwight D. Eisenhower called the operation a crusade in which "we will accept nothing less than full victory." More than 5,000 ships and 13,000 aircraft supported the D-Day invasion, and by day's end on June 6, the Allies gained a foot-hold in Normandy. The D-Day cost was high -more than 9,000 Allied soldiers were killed or wounded - but more than 100,000 soldiers began the march across Europe to defeat Hitler. (More: [The United States Army D-Day Site](#) - Video, audio, photos, posters, and maps tell the story.)

Links & Resources

- ★ [The U.S. Army – Photos from the Front](#)
- ★ [The U.S. Army Center of Military History – Normandy](#)
- ★ [The National World War II Memorial, Washington, D.C.](#)
- ★ [National D-Day Memorial Foundation](#)

National memorial to the Allied forces who participated in the WWII invasion on June 6, 1944.

- ★ [Overlord Echoes, the 65th Anniversary of D-Day](#)
 - ★ [PBS - American Experience – D-Day](#)
- Participants describe the planning and execution of the Normandy invasion during World War II.

★ [American Experience – D-Day - Did You Know?](#)

Ever since June 6, 1944, people have been asking what the "D" in "D-Day" means. Does it stand for "decision?"

- ★ [Encyclopedia Britannica - Guide to Normandy 1944](#)
- The story of the Normandy Invasion through the spoken recollections of veterans who fought it.
- ★ [The National World War II Museum](#)

*'The tide has turned!
The free men of the world are
marching together to Victory!'*

Dwight David Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of the troops invading France, issued an order of the day

In his early Army career, he excelled in staff assignments, serving under Generals John J. Pershing, Douglas MacArthur, and Walter Krueger. After Pearl Harbor, General George C. Marshall called him to Washington for a war plans assignment. He commanded the Allied Forces landing in North Africa in November 1942; on D-Day, 1944, he was Supreme Commander of the troops invading France. (Source: [The White House: The Presidents](#))

Teaching Material U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

- ★ [Teaching With Documents](#)
- Message Drafted by General Eisenhower in Case the D-Day Invasion Failed and Photographs Taken on D-Day
- ★ [American Originals: D-Day, 1944](#)
 - ★ [A People at War](#)
- Exhibit highlights the contributions of the thousands of Americans, both military and civilian, who served during WW II.
- ★ [Teaching American History – Northern Europe Interactive Map](#)
- Includes histories, campaign maps, personal accounts, and photographs
- ★ [National Endowment for the Humanities/EDSITEment - Victory in Europe, 1944-45](#)

Designated by Congress as the country's official World War II Museum, this remarkable attraction illuminates the American experience during the WWII era.

On June 6, President Barack Obama took part in activities commemorating the 65th anniversary of D-Day.

- ★ **The White House** – [Remarks by the President at D-Day 65th Anniversary Ceremony](#), June 5, 2009
- ★ **America.gov** – [Obama: D-Day Changed an Entire Century](#), June 6, 2009

LITERATURE: NAHID RACHLIN

Born in Iran, Nahid Rachlin has lived in the United States since college. Her literary work includes four novels – *Jumping Over Fire*, *Foreigner*, *Married to a Stranger*, and *The Heart's Desire* and a collection of short stories, *Veils* and her memoir, *Persian Girls*. As a student Rachlin was awarded both a Doubleday-Columbia fellowship from Columbia University and a Wallace Stegner fellowship from Stanford University. Among her honors are the Bennett Cerf Award, a PEN Syndicated Fiction Project Award, and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Nahid Rachlin teaches at the New School University and the Unterberg Poetry Center of the 92nd Street Y, and is an associate fellow at Yale University.

Books by Nahid Rachlin

Persian Girls

Her memoir *Persian Girls* was published in 2006. Telling the story of her family, based in the city of Ahvaz, near the Persian Gulf, this book is about growing up in Iran and a young girl's desire to move to the US, to pursue her education there and to fulfill her own dream of becoming a writer. Nahid overcomes all the obstacles that traditional Iranian culture sets for young women who seek their independence, and experiences the difficulties and the opportunities that life in America has to offer to a bright young girl. A leitmotif of *Persian Girls* is Nahid's close relation to her sister Pari, who is forced into an arranged marriage, lives a tragic life with a cruel husband. The two sisters go through the brightest and the darkest moments in their lives together and even though thousands of miles apart from each other they are close in their hearts. *Persian Girls* is a memoir about Iranian culture, it is about starting a new life in America, it is about a family story with all its happiness and tragedy, it is a memoir of ultimate hope, but above all *Persian Girls* is about sisterhood.

Review: Abbas Milani, director of Iranian Studies at Stanford University: "In elegant, beguiling, supple prose, Nahid Rachlin has chronicled the traumas and triumphs of a Persian girl, fashioning for herself a persona that is at once global and quintessentially Persian."

Married to a Stranger

Rachlin's novel *Married to a Stranger* is also inspired by her own family story. She took the unhappy marriage of her other sister Manijeh as a leitmotif to explore a fictional story of a woman being in love and married to a man who is in love with someone else and only married Minou, the lead character in this novel, because of an arrangement. So this book literally deals with a sad marriage life of a young girl being married to a stranger.

Reviews: *The New York Times Book Review*: "Miss Rachlin shows us not only the tranquil inner courtyards with sweets and gossip exchanged by the fishpond, the flower bedecked bridal chamber, but also the political, social and religious factions contending for primacy in the streets outside... Minou is a dreamy literary girl... like other yearning heroines from



American troops landing at Normandy, June 6, 1944. © Image courtesy of [American Memory](#) at the Library of Congress.



© [Nahid Rachlin](#)

Lesson Plan

★ [Talkin' 'Bout a Revolution: Exploring the Islamic Revolution](#)

Students read an article exploring U.S.-Iran relations on the 30th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution of 1979, research the events of that period, and write historical fiction based on photographs of Iran then and now. (*The New York Times Learning Network*, February 13, 2009)

America.gov:

★ [Americans Explore Images from Iran](#)

Images from Iran, a mobile exhibition of portraits and photographs of people in Iran going about everyday life, was designed to help Americans and Iranians better understand each other.

Links

★ [Nahid Rachlin's website](#)

★ [An Interview with Nahid Rachlin. *The Writer's Chronicle*, May/Summer 2008](#)

★ [Fora.tv - Nahid Rachlin talks about *Persian Girls*](#), November 11, 2006

*I wanted to become a writer and
change the world.*

Nahid Rachlin

Dorothea Brooke to Emma Bovary, she wants more than conventional marriage."

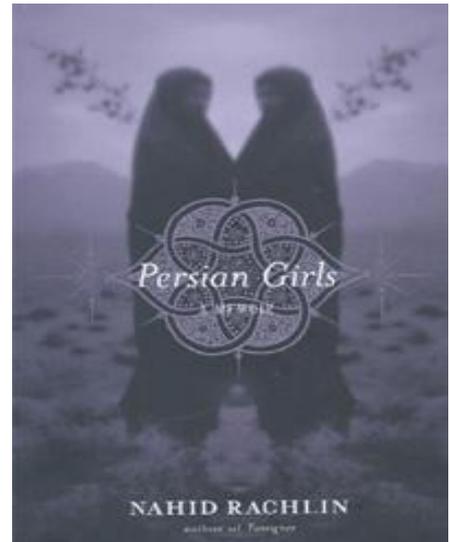
Where our Hearts are - A Short Story

"Mina reread Tom's letter. The apartment, Columbus, are lonely with you all the way in Tehran. I can't call them home... Phone connections had been difficult during the six weeks she had been in Iran. Either international lines rang busy or there was no connection. There was no internet connection in her mother's house, in the whole neighborhood." ([Complete story](#))

A room of her own - A writer remembers her childhood writing room in Iran

By Nahid Rachlin, *Los Angeles Times*, May 10, 2009

"I began to write when I was in high school, in the 1960s, in Ahvaz, an oil town in Southwest Iran. I still can vividly see the room in which I wrote. It was one of a row of bedrooms, on the second floor of our two-story house with a wrap-around balcony. I had furnished my room sparsely -- a wooden desk and chair, an iron bed covered by a quilt my grandmother made, a rust colored Persian rug on the floor. But the room had a window overlooking Pahlavi Square, full of discordant color. [...]"



NEW ELECTRONIC JOURNAL

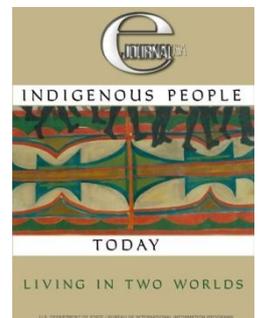
Published by the Bureau of International Information Programs/
U.S. Department of State

Indigenous People

June 2009

The June 2009 edition of *eJournal USA* provides insight into Native Americans and other indigenous peoples. Articles provide historical background and look at issues surrounding their languages and culture, their legal status, and how they are networking around the world.

<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0609.html>



ARTICLES

If you are interested in receiving the full text, please send an e-mail to: arc@usembassy.at

- **The Global Food Crisis - The End of Plenty**
By Joel K. Bourne, Jr., *National Geographic*, June 2009
<http://nqm.nationalgeographic.com/2009/06/cheap-food/bourne-text>

This special report reviews in-depth the problem of how to feed a world that is consuming more food than farmers have been producing. The combination of several factors has led to the current global food crisis. Populations in many poor countries are burgeoning, and consumers in countries experiencing new economic growth are eating more meat. There are growing demands for grain for food, animal feed and fuel. Global warming has restrained growth in yields by depleting water and soil resources. As a result, food prices have risen dramatically, and global grain reserves have dropped to record lows; the author notes that these factors ensure that food prices are not coming down soon. Although controversial, some are calling for another "green revolution," involving new seed varieties and environmentally-sound uses of fertilizer, pesticides and irrigation; it must include Africa, Bourne writes, and in half the time of it took for the first revolution that led to a reduction in widespread hunger in Asia in the 1960s and 1970s. An increasing awareness of the importance of agricultural development has led to more investing in that area by international donors and by some countries -- like Malawi -- whose leaders want to turn their nations into surplus producers.

- **Is Technology Tearing Apart Family Life?**
By Dana Wollman, *Laptop*, March 2009
<http://www.laptopmag.com/mobile-life/is-technology-tearing-apart-family-life.aspx>

The author notes that text messaging, social networking and online video are changing the dynamics between parents and children; technology today is the new "rock-and-roll," with the older generation trying to make sense of it, if not openly embrace it. Some believe that social networking will improve family interaction, while others argue that the new technology threatens to

rip apart not just family unity but the fabric of society itself, as more individuals communicate only through their high-tech devices, decreasing the amount of time they actually interact on a personal level. Eye contact, emotional resonance and body language are lost if humans rely primarily on texting, instant-messaging or FaceBook as means of communication. Family togetherness, like evening meals or weekend activities, gets short-changed once again as children use their gadgets as a substitute for family participation.

■ **National to Nation**
By Jose Barreiro, *American Indian*, Spring 2009

The Indian Wars of the late 1700s in America were fueled by hunger for land by the new settlers; the colonists moved into Native peoples' lands with little regard for treaty guarantees. The new U.S. president, George Washington, sought federal power to curb the unbridled practices of the states, and he realized that the new republic could not afford more wars with the Indian nations. He also sought an honorable course for negotiation of land purchases with the Native nations. The Seneca warrior chief Cornplanter (Kiantwhauka) emerged as a key negotiator with Washington; a decade-long dialogue with America's Founding Father resulted in the Treaty of Canandaigua in 1794, and helped frame U.S.-Indian relations during the formation of the U.S. Constitution. Cornplanter was well-known for his eloquence as a public speaker, and was instrumental in persuading the new U.S. Congress to address the Indian nations with one voice, instead of the confusing multiple positions of the states. The first Indian Non-Intercourse Act of 1790 remains on the books today, and provided the basis of the historic tribal land claims cases of the twentieth century.

■ **What Makes Us Happy**
By Joshua Wolfshenk, *The Atlantic Monthly*, June 2009
<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200906/happiness>

For more than 70 years, Harvard University researchers have been collecting data on a group of its male students to gain some insights into the keys to "successful living." The collected data of what is known as the Grant Study, passed from one generation of researchers to another, amounts to a rare kind of longitudinal study. Wolfshenk is the first journalist to comb through the accumulated files and draw some conclusions about whether the data does what it set out to do. The primary researcher on the study for more than forty years says the lives of the 268 subjects, half of whom are now deceased, "were too human for science, too beautiful for numbers, too sad for diagnosis and too immortal for bound journals." On a more tangible level, researcher George Vaillant did identify a number of factors that seemed to mark a healthy transition from middle age to a healthy old age: education, stable marriage, not smoking, not abusing alcohol, some exercise, and healthy weight. Of those who had most of these factors in their favor at age 50, half arrived at the age of 80 as happy and well.

SUGGESTED WEB SITES

■ **George Washington: A National Treasure**
<http://www.georgewashington.si.edu/>

When people think of George Washington, they frequently think of the very famous portrait of the man himself painted by Gilbert Stuart.



Visitors to this site will get a chance to explore every angle of that painting on this site, along with puzzles, quizzes, and historical features that offer insight into Washington's life and times. The site was created by the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, with generous support from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation. Visitors should start their exploration by clicking on the "Explore the Portrait" link. Here they can take in the portrait through three vantage points: the symbolic, the biographic, and the artistic. It's a fantastic and multifaceted portrait of, well, a portrait, and it's worth several visits. Moving on, "The Patriot Papers" area of the site contains several fun activities, including a tile game, and a feature titled "CROSS-ing the Delaware." Finally, this section also contains some fun articles that answer timely questions like "What were George Washington's teeth really made of?"

■ **A Virtual Tour of the 1906 Earthquake in Google Earth**
<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/regional/nca/virtualtour/>

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) offers a host of earthquake information, but this portion of their website focuses on the 1906 earthquake in San Francisco, which was not only the worst in United States history, but also "revealed the existence and significance of the San Andreas fault to earth scientists...[and] gave birth to the science of earthquakes." Visitors can "view" the 1906 earthquake from several perspectives on this interactive site. The section entitled "Historic Photographs of the 1906 Earthquake" informs the visitor that the earthquake was the first natural disaster to be well-documented by photographs, and that UC Berkley holds the largest collection of such photos, numbering in the thousands.

- **Mickle Street Review: An Electronic Journal of Whitman and American Studies**
<http://micklestreet.rutgers.edu/index.htm>

Walt Whitman always reads well, but on this site he also sounds and looks quite well. The Mickle Street Review brings together audio clips, video recordings, and written scholarship on and about Whitman and the broader world of American Studies.



The Review was first published in 1979 and it is based at Rutgers University in Camden. Visitors to the site can browse all of the back issues of the Review, and they can also view the current issue as well. On the homepage, visitors will find the works divided into categories such as "Documents," "Features", and "Essays." One of the more fantastic additions to their site is the digital version of "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry," which contains a close reading of the text along with a downloadable Brooklyn walking tour by Jesse Merandy. Moving on, the "Listening Room" contains recordings of *Leaves of Grass* read by Ralph Bellamy and a version of "Song of Myself" read by Orson Welles. Finally, the "Viewing Room" contains various adaptations and creative visions of Whitman's works and explorations of his life.

- **storySouth**
<http://www.storysouth.com/>

storySouth's mission has been "to showcase the best fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry that writers from the new south have to offer." Its aim is to inform the world that, like the New South, the writing of the "21st century south is a mix of traditional and new, regional and international." The website design is simple and clean, something on which the editors pride themselves. Visitors can just sit back with a cup of coffee and enjoy a good read by perusing the new offerings in the "Poetry," "Fiction," and "Nonfiction" sections found on the homepage. The "News" section of the site, which is on the right hand side of the page, includes book reviews and mp3 recordings of fiction and poetry readings. Visitors interested in submitting work can click on "guidelines" on the right side of the page to get information on submission periods, author's rights, the site's rights, and technical details. The Million Writer's Award, established by the founder of the site, is given each year to the best short story published online.

- **Smithsonian American Art Museum: The Lincoln Connection**
<http://americanart.si.edu/exhibitions/online/artfulabe/>

As part of the ongoing celebration of Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday (our 16th President was born February 12th, 1809), the Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM) invites you to play Artful Abe, an online game that connects outdoor sculptures with works at the Museum. Players begin by selecting a sculpture from a map, and then follow clues to find works at the Museum. For example, selecting the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. sends you on a scavenger hunt to find a portrait of Marian Anderson, who sang on the steps of Memorial before an audience of seventy-five thousand people, after she was barred by the Daughters of the American Revolution from performing in Washington's Constitution Hall. A limitation of the game is that visitors can only choose works that have been pre-selected by curators at SAAM - no selecting your own favorite Lincoln in your own state. As a partial remedy for this, the Museum has created the Artful Abe Flickr Pool (<http://www.flickr.com/groups/artfulabe/>), where game players can upload additional Lincoln artworks that they have discovered, closer to their homes.

- **Children of the Atomic Bomb**
<http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/cab/index.html>

The legacy of the atomic bomb and its development continues to be



explored in a number of different settings, and this website from UCLA's Asian American Studies Center is a powerful reminder of the far-reaching effects of this technology. The site was developed by Dr. James N. Yamazaki and the Center, along with funding provided by the Paul I. Terasaki Foundation. Dr. Yamazaki was the lead physician of the U.S. Atomic Bomb Medical Team assigned to Nagasaki to survey the effects of the bomb, and the site contains a variety of his writings and observations, including the complete text of his 1995 book *Children of the Atomic Bomb*. On the right hand side of the homepage, visitors can view images and video which discuss various aspects of the atomic bomb's legacy. Moving on, the "Images and Resources" area contains links to sites that deal with the nuclear disarmament and divestment movement both at the University of California and other institutions. Overall, the site is quite moving and may come in handy in a variety of classroom settings.

■ **Frank Lloyd Wright: From Within Outward**

http://web.guggenheim.org/exhibitions/exhibition_pages/flw/index.html#/overview

The Guggenheim Museum building on New York's Upper East Side is one of Frank Lloyd Wright's most celebrated buildings, and it is truly one of the icons of an architectural career that spanned seven decades. This online exhibition complements an in situ exhibit designed to commemorate the 50th anniversary of this distinguished structure. Visitors to this online exhibit will be able to peruse four primary sections, including "Oral Histories," "Biography," and "Projects." In the "Projects" area, visitors can look through architectural drawings that depict Wright's Unity Temple in Oak Park, Illinois, along with Fallingwater and his proposed "Mile High" skyscraper. With the skyscraper drawing, visitors can also click on an animation button that provides a 360 degree view of the proposed building. Moving on, the "Oral Histories" area provides an excerpt of the master himself speaking about his work, along with commentaries from other distinguished architects, including Philip Johnson.

■ **The National Archives: Ancient Petitions**

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/petitions.asp>

These days, online petitions, missives, and other such documents are pretty much ubiquitous across the web. Centuries ago, petitions were a bit more difficult to draw up, and usually they would not involve a populist appeal, but rather one directed to an important figurehead, such as a king or a chancellor. This site from The National Archives in Britain presents over 17,000 images from petitions presented to kings, Parliament, chancellors, and other officers of state. For the most part, these fascinating documents fall into two primary categories: "some ask for the redress of grievances which could not be resolved at common law; others are more straightforward requests for a grant of favour." The petitions here date from the reign of Henry III (1216-1272) to the reign of James I (1603-1625).

■ **The Mannahatta Project**

<http://themannahattaproject.org/>

Amongst old time residents of the island on Manhattan, talk can turn to what the Lower East Side used to be like 20, 10, or even 5 years ago. Some like to bemoan the gentrification of Harlem and others recall the "bad old days" in Hell's Kitchen. The folks at the Wildlife Conservation Society are interested in the long view, and they'd like to find out what Manhattan (or Mannahatta as it was called by local Indians) was like in 1609. Over the past decade they have been involved in uncovering and investigating the original ecology of Manhattan, and they have found a natural landscape of hills, valleys, forests, fields, salt marshes, beaches, and streams. Visitors to the site can explore Mannahatta via the "Explore" page and even look at block-by-block species information. Moving on, the "Science" page gives visitors information about the science and technology involved in creating an ancient landscape. There's even a "Discuss Mannahatta" area where visitors can talk about Mannahatta-related issues with other interested persons. Finally, visitors can also go to the "News" page to find out about upcoming Mannahatta walking tours, talks, and exhibitions.



■ **The Economist: Audio and Video**

<http://audiovideo.economist.com/>

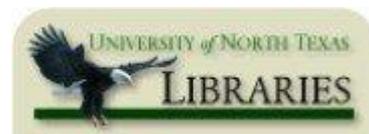
The audio and video segments of the *Economist* online are plentiful, and free. There is no need to register to start listening or watching. Furthermore, there is a very handy feature that allows a visitor to add a segment to their playlist, if they are overwhelmed by all the great choices and don't want to forget to hear them all.



■ **World War I and II Poster Collection**

<http://digital.library.unt.edu/browse/department/rarebooks/wwpc/>

War posters from World War I and II encouraged the people of the nations at war to buy war bonds, plant gardens, ration, enlist, or work extra hard for the sake of the war effort. A collection of these posters can be found in abundance on the library website of the University of North Texas. The library has over 600 war posters, and fortunately, 493 of them are digitized. Some are quaint by today's standards, but some, like the fifth record on the homepage, entitled "Deliver Us From Evil: Buy War Bonds," has an eerie haunting quality to it. More information about the artist, Harriet Naduea, can be found in the notes on the poster, accessible by clicking on "more info," underneath a partial description of the poster. In the search box underneath the introduction to the poster collection, type in Geisel to see a poster by a familiar



artist and author, encouraging Americans to "Starve the Squander Bug." Visitors should click on the thumbnail to see those "squander bugs" in full detail.

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