

---

E-ALERT is compiled based on an email service we receive from the Department of State's Office of International Information Programs. We are sending it to you to alert you of the latest issues and debates in the United States.

It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

**Please contact the Information Resource Center if you have problem retrieving any of the documents listed. To cancel this service, please reply to the present message and type "unsubscribe" as the text of your message.**

---

#### **Title Index**

Advancing The National Park Idea. U.S. Department of Interior. September 2009.

#### **Item#1**

Bringing Elections Into The 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Voter Registration Modernization. Pew Center on the States. Web posted September 2009.

#### **Item#2**

China's Arrival: A Strategic Framework For A Global Relationship. Center for a New American Security. Linton Brooks et al. September 22, 2009.

#### **Item#3**

FEMA Disaster Housing: From Sheltering To Permanent Housing. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Francis X. McCarthy. September 16, 2009.

#### **Item#4**

From The Classroom To The Community: Exploring The Role Of Education During Incarceration And Reentry. Urban Institute. Diana Brazzell et al. Web posted September 23, 2009.

#### **Item#5**

Health Insurance Reform And Medicare: Making Medicare Stronger For America's Seniors. Healthreform.GOV. September 23, 2009.

#### **Item#6**

More Extreme Weather: Implications For Public Health And Social Justice. National Wildlife Federation. September 18, 2009.

**Item#7**

Obama Addresses More Popular U.N. Pew Global Attitudes Project. Richard Wike. September 21, 2009.

**Item#8**

The Role Of Nongovernmental Organizations In Long-Term Human Recovery After Disaster. RAND Corporation. Anita Chandra and Joie Acosta. September 23, 2009.

**Item#9**

The State Of Health In The American Workforce: Does Having An Effective Workplace Matter? Families and Work Institute. Kerstin Aumann and Ellen Galinsky. September 22, 2009.

**Item#10**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Reports**

**Item#1**

ADVANCING THE NATIONAL PARK IDEA. U.S. Department of Interior. September 2009.

The report conveys the message that the National Park System is at a crossroads, facing challenges such as urgent environmental problems, a burgeoning population and critical needs in education. It calls for a new vision recognizing the interrelationships between human beings and the natural world and the need for a sustainable relationship between people and the planet.

Full Text:

[http://www.doi.gov/documents/Second\\_Century\\_Commission\\_Report.pdf](http://www.doi.gov/documents/Second_Century_Commission_Report.pdf) [PDF format, 52 pages].

**Item#2**

BRINGING ELECTIONS INTO THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY: VOTER REGISTRATION MODERNIZATION. Pew Center on the States. Web posted September 2009.

America's current voter registration system is outdated, costly and inaccurate, according to the report. The report estimates that more than two million voters were unable to cast a ballot in the 2008 general election due to registration problems. It reviews the underperformance of the current voter registration system and recommends a 21st century, data-driven registration system.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/Voter\\_Registration\\_Modernization\\_Brief\\_web.pdf](http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/Voter_Registration_Modernization_Brief_web.pdf) [PDF format, 4 pages].

### **Item#3**

CHINA'S ARRIVAL: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR A GLOBAL RELATIONSHIP. Center for a New American Security. Linton Brooks et al. September 22, 2009.

According to the report, China's rise is one of the most significant geopolitical events in modern history, with important ramifications for U.S. interests, regional power balances, and the international order. As the Obama administration confronts a broad set of worldwide challenges, questions remain as to how the United States should engage China amidst uncertainty about its long-term intentions and how to balance this important relationship against concerns regarding China's behavior in the international community.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/CNAS%20China's%20Arrival\\_Final%20Report.pdf](http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/CNAS%20China's%20Arrival_Final%20Report.pdf) [PDF format, 184 pages].

### **Item#4**

FEMA DISASTER HOUSING: FROM SHELTERING TO PERMANENT HOUSING. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Francis X. McCarthy. September 16, 2009.

For over three decades the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has provided temporary housing assistance to eligible victims of natural disasters. FEMA has responded to more than a thousand disaster and emergency events over this period, employing a number of options for meeting the needs of people who have lost their primary housing as a result of a disaster declared by the President. The cycle of help from sheltering provided by local organizations in the immediate aftermath, to the eventual repair and rebuilding or replacement of private homes and rental units, is the focus of the report.

Full Text:

[http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40810\\_20090916.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40810_20090916.pdf) [PDF format, 30 pages].

### **Item#5**

FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE COMMUNITY: EXPLORING THE ROLE OF EDUCATION DURING INCARCERATION AND REENTRY. Urban Institute. Diana Brazzell et al. Web posted September 23, 2009.

The report synthesizes the Education Reentry Roundtable. It surveys the current landscape of correctional education, discussing both the educational needs of people involved in the criminal justice system and the programs being provided to meet those needs; reviews research on the effectiveness of

correctional education and guiding principles for effective programming; discusses the issues involved in providing education in correctional settings and identifies some potential responses to these challenges.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411963\\_classroom\\_community.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411963_classroom_community.pdf) [PDF format, 57 pages].

#### **Item#6**

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM AND MEDICARE: MAKING MEDICARE STRONGER FOR AMERICA'S SENIORS. Healthreform.GOV. September 23, 2009.

Vice President Joe Biden and Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius hosts a town hall meeting with seniors in Silver Spring, Md., and releases the report. The report outlines how health insurance reform will help seniors and answers key questions about President Obama's health insurance reform plan.

Full Text:

<http://www.healthreform.gov/reports/medicare/medicare.pdf> [PDF format, 7 pages].

#### **Item#7**

MORE EXTREME WEATHER: IMPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE. National Wildlife Federation. September 18, 2009.

Global warming is making hot days hotter, rainfall and flooding heavier, storms stronger, and droughts more severe. As the Senate prepares to take up clean energy legislation, the National Wildlife Federation, Harvard Medical School, the NAACP, and the Apollo Alliance hosted a Congressional briefing to emphasize the public health and social justice issues that any legislation must address.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://www.nwf.org/extremeweather/pdfs/NWF\\_ExtremeWeather\\_report.pdf](http://www.nwf.org/extremeweather/pdfs/NWF_ExtremeWeather_report.pdf) [PDF format, 4 pages].

#### **Item#8**

OBAMA ADDRESSES MORE POPULAR U.N. Pew Global Attitudes Project. Richard Wike. September 21, 2009.

In recent years, the opening session of the U.N. General Assembly has frequently produced controversy. But controversies aside, the United Nations remains a quite popular institution throughout much of the world. Indeed, its image has improved in many nations over the last couple of years. This is especially true in the United States, where attitudes toward the U.N. are more positive than they have been since early in this decade.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1348/united-nations-global-opinion-more-popular> [HTML format, various paging].

#### **Item#9**

THE ROLE OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN LONG-TERM HUMAN RECOVERY AFTER DISASTER. RAND Corporation. Anita Chandra and Joie Acosta. September 23, 2009.

In the four years since Hurricane Katrina, volunteers and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have been instrumental in supporting community efforts to recover and rebuild from the devastation in the Gulf States region. The period also provides a case study of the complex process of human recovery and the resource and policy constraints on NGO involvement in these efforts.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional\\_papers/2009/RAND\\_OP277.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2009/RAND_OP277.pdf) [PDF format, 34 pages].

#### **Item#10**

THE STATE OF HEALTH IN THE AMERICAN WORKFORCE: DOES HAVING AN EFFECTIVE WORKPLACE MATTER? Families and Work Institute. Kerstin Aumann and Ellen Galinsky. September 22, 2009.

In the midst of the most vigorous national health care debate in 15 years, and at a time of heightened economic insecurity, new data on employers show that the health of employed American workers is trending downward in a number of important areas. The report finds that only 28% of employees today report that their overall health is "excellent," down from 34% just six years ago. Perhaps surprisingly, men's overall health has declined more rapidly than women's.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://familiesandwork.org/site/research/reports/HealthReport.pdf> [PDF format, 46 pages].