



# American Resource Center Newsletter U.S. Embassy Helsinki August 2015, Issue 7

## Brief History of U.S. - Finnish Diplomatic Relations

When Colorado-based tax lawyer Bruce J. Oreck was sworn in as U.S. Ambassador to Finland on August 12, 2009, he probably had no idea he would become the longest-serving U.S. Ambassador to Finland. When he left his post on July 25, 2015, he had served in Finland just shy of six years.

Diplomatic relations between the United States and Finland were established in 1919. The first United States Chief of Mission to serve in Finland was Alexander R. Magruder who presented his credentials on March 19, 1920. After him, eight other Ministers served in Finland between 1922 and 1952. Jack K. McFall was named Minister to Finland in 1952 and Ambassador when the post became an Embassy in 1954. After McFall, 21 other U.S. Ambassadors have served in Finland. More information about previous Ministers and

Ambassadors is available at the [U.S. Embassy website](#).



*(Image from the ARChives: Carl T. Rowan [U.S. Ambassador May 21, 1963 - Feb. 8, 1964] presenting credentials to President Kekkonen.)*

To learn more about the history of U.S. - Finnish diplomatic relations please visit <http://finland.usembassy.gov/us-finnish-diplomatic-relations.html> to access a book "U.S.-Finnish Diplomatic Relations." U.S. Embassy Helsinki re-published this book in 1999 to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the countries' diplomatic relations. It includes chapters on the beginnings of the U.S. - Finnish relationship, the Winter War, deterioration and rebuilding of the relationship,

and the state of the friendship in the 1980s.

New U.S. Ambassador to Finland Charles C. Adams presented his credentials on August 4, 2015.

Welcome to Finland, Ambassador Adams!

*(Kuva/Photo: Tasavallan presidentin kanslia / Office of the President of the Republic of Finland)*



# WebPicks

collected by the ARC staff

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## American Life

**Digital Journalism: How Good Is It?** by Michael Massing. The New York Review of Books, June 4, 2015.  
<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2015/jun/04/digital-journalism-how-good-is-it/>

**Our Universities: The Outrageous Reality** by Andrew Delbanco. The New York Review of Books, June 21, 2015.  
The cost of college is rising faster than public, institutional, or, for most Americans, personal resources available to meet it.  
<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2015/jul/09/our-universities-outrageous-reality/>

**The Really Big One** by Kathryn Schulz. The New Yorker, July 20, 2015.  
An earthquake will destroy a sizable portion of the coastal Northwest. The question is when.  
<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/07/20/the-really-big-one>

**What Happens When an Ex-Google Executive Creates a School System?** by Adam Satariano. Bloomberg BusinessWeek, June 10, 2015.  
Max Ventilla used to run a team that personalized your search results—now he wants to do the same for kids' education.  
<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2015-06-10/what-happens-when-an-ex-google-executive-creates-a-school-system->

**When Colorado Was (And in Many Ways Still Is) the Switzerland of America** by Tony Perrottet. Smithsonian, June 2015.  
A hundred years ago, city slickers looking for wild times in Rocky Mountain National Park invented a new kind of American vacation.  
<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/colorado-switzerland-america-180955293/?no-ist>

## Economy & Politics

**50 Smartest Companies 2015** by Nanette Byrnes. MIT Technology Review, July/August 2015.  
Massive solar panel factories. Fertility treatments. Friendly robots. Meet the companies reshaping the technology business.  
<http://www.technologyreview.com/lists/companies/2015/>

**Arianna Huffington's Improbable, Insatiable Content Machine** by David Segal. The New York Times Magazine, June 30, 2015.  
She did more than anyone else to invent the Internet news business. After a decade, despite setbacks, she is still setting the pace.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/05/magazine/arianna-huffingtons-improbable-insatiable-content-machine.html>

**Daymond John: How I Spot Winners** by Graham Winfrey. Inc., July/August 2015.  
This Shark Tank star has learned to spot entrepreneurial talent fast. The trick? Focus on the people, not the product.  
<http://www.inc.com/magazine/201507/graham-winfrey/how-i-spot-winners.html>

**Will Humans Go the Way of Horses?** by Erik Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee.  
The debate over what technology does to work, jobs, and wages is as old as the industrial era itself. In the second decade of the nineteenth century, a group of English textile workers called the Luddites protested the introduction of spinning frames and power looms, machines of the nascent Industrial Revolution that threatened to leave them without jobs. Since then, each new burst of technological progress has brought with it another wave of concern about a possible mass displacement of labor.  
<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2015-06-16/will-humans-go-way-horses>

**Who Will Own the Robots?** by David Rotman. MIT Technology Review, July/August 2015.  
We're in the midst of a jobs crisis, and rapid advances in AI and other technologies may be one culprit. How can we get better at sharing the wealth that technology creates?  
<http://www.technologyreview.com/featuredstory/538401/who-will-own-the-robots/>

## Global Challenges

*The U.S. is the Chair of the Arctic Council from May 2015 through May 2017. We will be highlighting Arctic issues in the WebPicks through the chairmanship.*

**Arctic Issue: The Big Unchill** by David Abel. The Boston Globe, July 11, 2015.

The Arctic ice is melting faster than ever recorded, the warmth tied to the emissions of modern life. But it is the ancient ways at the top of the world that are most at risk.

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2015/07/11/the-big-unchill/JNbnstRLER1EGErgBEO7MO/story.html>

**California's Drought Changes Habits in the Kitchen** by Kim Severson. The New York Times, July 7, 2015.

Across California, home cooks and restaurant chefs are adjusting to a new reality in kitchens where water once flowed freely over sinks full of vegetables. The state is in the fourth year of a severe drought, but the reality of living with less water began hitting hard in the spring. For the first time, state officials ordered residents of every city and town to conserve water or face consequences.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/08/dining/california-drought-restrictions-kitchen-chef-restaurants.html?smid=fb-nytimes&smtyp=cur&r=0>

**How to Stop Humans From Filling the World With Trash** by Alana Semuels. The Atlantic, July/August 2015.

The future of garbage.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/07/future-of-trash/395279/>

**Ocean Trash Isn't just Bad for the Environment – It's Bad for Your State of Mind** by Chris Mooney. The Washington Post, July 8, 2015.

Humanity is badly damaging the oceans. To give just one example, we're filling them with 8 million metric tons of plastic annually, equivalent to "five bags filled with plastic for every foot of coastline in the world," according to researcher Jenna Jambeck of the University of Georgia.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/07/08/why-clean-beaches-are-so-important-if-you-want-a-relaxing-vacation/?wpisrc=nl\\_green&wpm=1](http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/07/08/why-clean-beaches-are-so-important-if-you-want-a-relaxing-vacation/?wpisrc=nl_green&wpm=1)

**Power to the People** by Bill McKibben. The New Yorker, June 29, 2015.

Why the rise of green energy makes utility companies nervous.

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/06/29/power-to-the-people>

## International Relations

**The Confused Person's Guide to the Iran Deal** by Karl Sharro. The Atlantic, July 20, 2015

How the Arab Street views the agreement, in one simple diagram

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/07/guide-iran-nuclear-deal-satire/398933/>

**How Obama Went From Being a Peace Candidate to a War President** by Sherle R. Schwenninger. The Nation, June 22, 2015.

Critics call him timid, but the president's foreign policy has often been too aggressive—even at the risk of our long-term national interests.

<http://www.thenation.com/article/208953/obamas-quiet-war-doctrine>

**John Kerry on Restoring Relations with Cuba: 'Nothing is More Futile than Trying to Live in the Past'** by Priscilla Alvarez. National Journal, July 20, 2015.

After more than a half century, the U.S. and Cuba took a major symbolic step toward re-establishing diplomatic relations.

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/politics/john-kerry-on-restoring-relations-with-cuba-nothing-is-more-futile-than-trying-to-live-in-the-past-20150720>

**There's No App for That: Disrupting the Military-Industrial Complex** by Jason Tama. Brookings Federal Executive Fellows Policy Papers, July 2015.

The Digital Revolution is not over. Rapidly emerging technologies continue to disrupt manufacturing and services across global markets.

Despite the pace of change, the United States' military-industrial complex (MIC) remains dominated by a highly consolidated base of "traditional" prime contractors and has proven to be nearly impervious to smaller, and in many cases more agile and more diversified, "non-traditional" companies.

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2015/07/08-military-industrial-complex-silicon-valley-tama>

**Why China Wants a Jeb-vs.-Hillary Race** by Aaron Mak. Politico Magazine, July 20, 2015.

Sensitive about their own democracy deficit, the Chinese are poking fun at the Bush-Clinton dynasties.

[http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/07/jeb-hillary-beijing-china-media-dynasty-120243.html?ml=m\\_t1\\_2h#.Va4smvntluA](http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/07/jeb-hillary-beijing-china-media-dynasty-120243.html?ml=m_t1_2h#.Va4smvntluA)

## Poetry and Intention or "What Do You Mean?"

Poet **Rae Armantrout** discusses the way poetry can engage with uncertainty and ambiguity.

The public lecture is part of the Helsinki Festival.

Thursday August 27 at 3 pm  
Helsinki University Library  
Fabianinkatu 30  
7th floor

Welcome!



Runokuu-kirjallisuustapahtuma 21.-27.8.2015  
<http://www.runokuu.fi/>



### Great Decisions Discussion Group Offered Again in September

The ARC is organizing another U.S. foreign policy discussion group starting at the end of September. Would you like to ponder over foreign policy in the English language? Do topics such as human trafficking, privacy in the digital age, or Syria's refugee crisis interest you? The group will meet 8 times during the fall. More information and details on how to apply coming soon - follow our [Facebook page](#) for the latest information and events!



ARC at Kaisa House  
P.O.Box 53 (Fabianinkatu 30)  
00014 University of Helsinki  
Finland

Telephone: +358-50-448 5704

 [arc@usembassy.fi](mailto:arc@usembassy.fi)

 [finland.usembassy.gov/arc.html](http://finland.usembassy.gov/arc.html)

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