



American Resource Center Newsletter U.S. Embassy Helsinki February 2016, Issue 2

The Future of the United States Lecture Series

Our spring lecture series "The Future of the United States" which is arranged in cooperation with the North American Studies at Helsinki University is almost over. We have had the pleasure of inviting several researchers from the Helsinki University to present their ideas about the future of the U.S.

Please join us for the final lecture on **Thursday, February 25!**

**LECTURE SERIES:
THE FUTURE OF THE U.S.**

Public Lecture by
Austin Lane Crothers &
Martha C. Horst
on Thursday, Feb 25,
at 17:00

**What If They're All Us?
Star Trek and the
Universalization of the
American Imaginary**

Kaisa Library, 7th floor.
Welcome!

American Resource Center 70th Anniversary

The ARC is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year. The first America Center Library was opened on May 28, 1946 on Kalevankatu 13. It later moved several times and was located at Korkeavuorenkatu, Bulevardi, Kaivokatu, Vuorikatu, and Unioninkatu. Our current premises are at the Helsinki University Kaisa Library at Fabianinkatu 30.

We will be celebrating the anniversary year several ways throughout 2016. Welcome to join us as we look back to our long history!

The anniversary logo designed by Jaska Poikonen.



WebPicks

collected by the ARC staff

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American Life

The Civil Rights Movement: What Good Was It? by Alice Walker. *The American Scholar*, February 10, 2016.

"In 1967, Alice Walker—then a 23-year-old unknown—won \$300 and first place in our national essay contest. The piece led to a writing fellowship at the MacDowell Colony in New Hampshire, and offers a rare glimpse at the early writing of one of America's literary icons."

<https://theamericanscholar.org/the-civil-rights-movement-what-good-was-it/>

How America Is Putting Itself Back Together by James Fallows. *The Atlantic*, March 2016.

Most people in the U.S. believe their country is going to hell. But they're wrong. What a three-year journey by single-engine plane reveals about reinvention and renewal.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2016/03/how-america-is-putting-itself-back-together/426882/>

Inside the Making of Serial Season Two by Carl Swanson. *New York*, December 28, 2015-January 10, 2016. How the podcast scaled up from Adnan to Afghanistan.

<http://www.vulture.com/2015/12/inside-serial-season-two.html>

John Hope Franklin: Race & the Meaning of America by Drew Gilpin Faust. *The New York Review of Books*, December 17, 2015. Black Lives Matter. History Matters. The historian John Hope Franklin, who died in 2009, showed us how much they matter to each other.

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2015/12/17/john-hope-franklin-race-meaning-america/>

Reimagining Journalism: The Story of the One Percent by Michael Massing. *The New York Review of Books*, December 12, 2015 and January 14, 2016.

On all sides, billionaires are shaping policy, influencing opinion, promoting favorite causes, polishing their images—and carefully shielding themselves from scrutiny. Journalists have largely let them get away with it.

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2015/12/17/reimagining-journalism-story-one-percent/>

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2016/01/14/how-to-cover-the-one-percent/>

Economy & Politics

Block the Vote: The New Attack on Hispanic Voting Rights by Jim Rutenberg. *The New York Times Magazine*, December 17, 2015.

After the Supreme Court decision that gutted the Voting Rights Act, tactics to suppress minority voting are flourishing—especially in states where Hispanic voters are reshaping the electorate. Part two of an ongoing series.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/20/magazine/block-the-vote.html>

Can This Man Keep Europe Out of Another Crisis? by Scott MacDonald. *The National Interest*, February 17, 2016.

Since 2010 Europe has gone from one crisis to another. In early 2016, Europe is being hit by another round of turmoil. It appears the Eurozone countries are heading into a new bout of financial crisis, with the risk that it morphs into another round of European sovereign debt crisis, all at a time when the global economy is threatening to stall.

<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/can-man-keep-europe-out-another-crisis-15230>

The Senate Awaits Its Doomed Nominee by Russell Berman. *The Atlantic*, February 16, 2016.

Charges of judicial hypocrisy broke out among lawmakers as President Obama weighed naming a replacement for Antonin Scalia, who might not even get a vote.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/02/scalia-replacement-senate-obama-supreme-court/462969/>

Why This Socialist Feminist Is for Hillary by Suzanna Danuta Walters. *The Nation*, January 25–February 1, 2016 Issue.

The stalled revolution for gender equity won't be won simply by installing a woman in the White House—but it can't hurt.

<http://www.thenation.com/article/why-this-socialist-feminist-is-for-hillary/>

Why This Socialist Feminist Is Not Voting for Hillary by Liza Featherstone. *The Nation*, January 25–February 1, 2016 Issue.

Socialist feminism assumes that redistribution is the best way to improve life for women. Clinton has demonstrated contempt for turning this project into policy.

<http://www.thenation.com/article/why-this-socialist-feminist-is-not-voting-for-hillary/>

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.

Can Energy Unite a Divided Europe? by Cristina Maza. The Christian Science Monitor, February 2, 2016.

Brussels is working to ensure that Europe's energy market is more unified than ever.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy/2016/0202/Can-energy-unite-a-divided-Europe>

The New Face of Hunger: How Statistics Underestimate the Food Problem by Frances Moore Lappé. Yes! Magazine, January 19, 2016.

Today, 800 million of us are considered "hungry," but we produce enough calories to feed us all. Rather than a lack of food, we're dealing with a lack of democracy.

<http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/good-health/the-new-face-of-hunger-how-statistics-underestimate-the-food-problem-20160119>

It's Official: 2015 'Smashed' 2014's Global Temperature Record. It Wasn't Even Close by Chris Mooney and Joby Warrick.

Washington Post, January 20, 2016.

Last year shattered 2014's record to become the hottest year since reliable record-keeping began, two U.S. government science agencies announced in yet another sign that the planet is heating up.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/01/20/its-official-2015-smashed-2014s-global-temperature-record-it-wasnt-even-close/>

The Staggering Economic Cost of Air Pollution by Chelsea Harvey. The Washington Post, January 29, 2016.

Air pollution caused by energy production in the U.S. caused at least \$131 billion in damages in the year 2011 alone, a new analysis concludes.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/01/29/the-staggering-economic-cost-of-air-pollution/>

There May Soon Be More Plastic in the Oceans Than Fish by Gregory Barber. Mother Jones, January 29, 2016.

Discarded plastic will outweigh fish in the world's oceans by 2050, according to a report from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. That is, unless overfishing moves the date up sooner.

<http://www.motherjones.com/blue-marble/2016/01/more-plastic-than-fish-oceans-gyre>

Arctic Issue: Unusually Warm Arctic Winter Stuns Scientists with Record Low Ice Extent for January by Andrew Freedman.

Mashable, February 5, 2015.

Right about now, Arctic sea ice should be building up toward its annual maximum, making most of the region impenetrable to all but the most hardened icebreakers. Instead, January and indeed much of the winter so far has been unusually mild throughout large parts of the Arctic.

<http://mashable.com/2016/02/05/arctic-sea-ice-hits-record-low-for-january/>

Worldwide Water Shortages Might Be Worse Than We Thought by Sara Rathod. Mother Jones, February 12, 2016.

New research finds that 4 billion people face severe water scarcity at some point every year.

<http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2016/02/water-shortages-drought-crisis-scarcity-conflict>

International Relations

Accelerating the Fight Against ISIS by Paul Starr. The American Prospect, December 16, 2015.

Going into 2012, Obama had Osama. Going into 2016, the Democrats need the fall of Raqqa and Mosul.

<http://prospect.org/article/accelerating-fight-against-isis>

Cuba and the U.S.: An Ongoing Thaw by J. Weston Phippen. The Atlantic, February 16, 2016.

The two countries signed an agreement that allows American commercial flights to return to the island for the first time in almost 60 years.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2016/02/cuba-and-america-relations/462960/>

Eastern Economic Integration Projects and the EU Periphery by Susann Handke and Frans Paul Van Der Putten. Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, February 17, 2016.

The turmoil in Ukraine is far from over. More than one year after Russia's annexation of Crimea and the outbreak of hybrid war in the Donbas, European Union leaders are still trying to make sense of the crisis that has disrupted Europe's post-World War II security order.

<http://journal.georgetown.edu/eastern-economic-integration-projects-and-the-eu-periphery/>

Structure, Strategy, and American Power: Insights from America's Last Geopolitical Resurgence by Hal Brands. FPRI

E-Notes, February 2016.

Great changes in the international order often reflect a combination of deep structural forces, on the one hand, and conscious strategic choices, on the other. American resurgence from the late 1970s onward was rooted in a potent mix of these factors.

<http://www.fpri.org/articles/2016/02/structure-strategy-and-american-power-insights-americas-last-geopolitical-resurgence>

Valentine's Day

Expressing one's love to another is a celebrated custom on Valentine's Day. Sweethearts and family members present gifts to one another, such as cards, candy, flowers and other symbols of affection. Opinions differ as to who was the original Valentine, but the most popular theory is that he was a clergyman who was executed for secretly marrying couples in ancient Rome. In A.D. 496, Pope Gelasius I declared Feb. 14 as Valentine Day. Esther Howland, a native of Massachusetts, is given credit for selling the first mass-produced valentine cards in the 1840s. The spirit continues today with even young children exchanging valentine's cards with their fellow classmates.

For future reference: romantic-sounding places for spending a Valentine's:

Rose City, Texas (Population – 514)	Rose City, Mich. (Population – 636)	Loveland, Ohio (Population – 12,405)
Loveland, Colo. (Population – 72,651)	Sacred Heart, Minn. (Population – 520)	Love County, Okla. (Population – 9,773)
Romeo, Colo. (Population – 394)	Valentine, Neb. (Population – 2,785)	Loveland, Okla. (Population – 13)
Lovejoy, Ga. (Population – 6,406)	Lovelock, Nev. (Population – 1,900)	Lovelady, Texas (Population – 621)
Loves Park, Ill. (Population – 23,551)	Loving, N.M. (Population – 1,399)	Loving County, Texas (Population – 86)
Lovington, Ill. (Population – 1,109)	Lovington, N.M. (Population – 11,840)	Valentine, Texas (Population – 126)
Romeoville, Ill. (Population – 39,679)	Rosemont, Md. (Population – 306)	Rose Hill Acres, Texas (Population – 444)



Did You Know?

Naistenpäivänä sata naista Wikipediaan

Suomen tähän asti suurin Wikipedia-tapahtuma "Sata naista Wikipediaan" järjestetään Naistenpäivänä 8.3.2016 Kaisa-kirjastossa. Pääjärjestäjät ovat Helsingin yliopiston kirjasto, Kiasma ja Wikimedia Suomi ry. Mukana on kymmenen museota, kirjastoa ja arkistoa pääkaupunkiseudulta.

Päivän tavoite on luoda ja laajentaa artikkeleita sadasta eri alojen naisvaikuttajasta. Kulttuurilaitokset esittelevät sopivia kohdehenkilöitä omilta aloiltaan ja tarjoavat asiantuntija-apua. Lue lisää esimerkiksi sivuilta <http://blogs.helsinki.fi/librarynews/satanaista/> ja <http://blog.kiasma.fi/blog/?p=2702>.

#satanaista



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