



American Resource Center Newsletter  
U.S. Embassy Helsinki  
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## An Analysis of the 2014 U.S. Midterm Elections

by Dr. Mark Miller, Fulbright Bicentennial Chair in American Studies, the University of Helsinki

Monday, November 10, 2014, at 17:00

Kaisa Library Auditorium, (Fabianinkatu 30, 7th floor)

Professor Mark Miller will be analyzing the U.S. midterm election results at a free lecture arranged by the American Resource Center on Monday, November 10, at 17:00. Welcome to join us!

Professor Mark C. Miller holds the Bicentennial Fulbright Distinguished Chair in the North American Studies Department at the University of Helsinki in Finland for the 2014-15 academic year. He will teach courses such as Introduction to American and Canadian Legal Systems, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties in the U.S., and Introduction to American Government and Politics. His research project will be examining how the Finnish courts and judges have adapted to Finland's membership in the European Union.



*Midterm elections in the United States have been scheduled for Tuesday, November 4, 2014. During this midterm election year, all 435 seats in the United States House of Representatives and 33 of the 100 seats in the United States Senate will be contested.*

# TIETOA OPISKELUSTA YHDYSVALLOISSA

EDUCATION EXPO

Suunnitteletko opintoja Yhdysvalloissa? Kaipaako tietoa stipendeistä, viisumeista tai kesätyömahdollisuuksista? Jos opinnot USA:ssa kiinnostavat mutta tiedon hankkiminen tuntuu hankalalta, suunnista Kaisa-kirjastoon **torstaina 13.11. klo 14-16 (auditorio, 7. krs).**

Piipahda hakemassa esitteitä ja esittämässä kysymyksiä tai jää kuuntelemaan tietoiskuja. Fulbright Centerin, Suomi-Amerikka Yhdistysten Liiton ja suurlähetystön edustajia sekä vaihto-ohjelmien alumneja on paikalla koko tapahtuman ajan.

# WebPicks

collected by the ARC staff

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## American Life

**30 Years of Coens.** The Atlantic, September 2014.

In the films of Joel and Ethan Coen, it's a hard world for little things (and everyone else).

<http://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/category/30-years-of-coens>

**Can News Literacy Grow Up?** by Lindsay Beyerstein. Columbia Journalism Review, September/October 2014.

After nearly a decade, a movement tries to prove its worth.

[http://www.cjr.org/feature/can\\_news\\_literacy\\_grow\\_up.php?page=all#sthash.xPQISaV.dpuf](http://www.cjr.org/feature/can_news_literacy_grow_up.php?page=all#sthash.xPQISaV.dpuf)

**Everything Is Illuminated** by Andrew Ross Sorkin. The New York Times Magazine, September 7, 2014

Should one of the world's richest men get to dictate the future of how we learn about our past? Bill Gates wants to remake the way history is taught. He's rich (and smart) enough to pull it off. Should we let him?

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/07/magazine/so-bill-gates-has-this-idea-for-a-history-class.html?ref=magazine&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/07/magazine/so-bill-gates-has-this-idea-for-a-history-class.html?ref=magazine&_r=0)

**Instant Gratification** by Paul Roberts. The American Scholar, Autumn 2014.

As the economy gets ever better at satisfying our immediate, self-serving needs, who is minding the future? Paul Robert's new book, *The Impulse Society: America in the Age of Instant Gratification*, from which this essay has been adapted, has just been published.

<http://theamericanscholar.org/instant-gratification/#.VD547RY8ofw>

**The New Establishment.** Vanity Fair, October 2014.

Twenty years ago, Vanity Fair defined and created the New Establishment: a lineup of the men and women who would drive the Information Age.

<http://www.vanityfair.com/news/new-establishment-2014>

**Saving Public Schools.** Special Issue of the Nation, September 24, 2014.

Charter-school advocates and others who claim the mantle of education reform have now seen their ideas put into practice in a number of areas—from high-stakes testing to digital learning to the takeover of struggling public schools. The results are in. How are they doing? Suffice it to say, if this were a high-stakes test, they'd fail.

<http://www.thenation.com/article/181742/our-public-education-system-needs-transformation-not-reform>

## Economy & Politics

**2014 Midterms: Why the Election Will Matter... and Why It Won't** by Thomas E. Mann. Brookings, October 20, 2014.

Two weeks before the 2014 midterm elections (though well into early and mail balloting in some key states), how are we best to think about them? Opining about the likely winners in the Senate, House and state elections has too short a half-life; we will have the actual results on November 5 or, if runoffs are needed in Louisiana or Georgia, December 6 or January 6. The plethora of forecasting models available this year, mostly based on polls, have already absorbed too much of our attention. It's better to focus on the likely meaning of the elections for politics and governance. <http://goo.gl/HnZukJ>

**For the Fed's Janet Yellen, It's No More Ms. Nice Chair** by Peter Coy. Bloomberg Businessweek, October 2, 2014.

Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen has been called a dove so many times, including in this magazine, that one half-expects to spy white feathers protruding from her black suits. Her career has taken her through such liberal enclaves as New Haven, Cambridge, Mass., and Berkeley, Calif. She's married to a rumpled lefty (and Nobel laureate) who once called the George W. Bush administration "the worst government the U.S. has ever had." She's devoted much of her research to unemployment, the doves' No. 1 concern.

<http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-10-02/feds-yellen-isnt-a-true-dove-on-monetary-policy>

**"I Never Dreamed It Would Turn Out This Way"** by James Bennet. The Atlantic, October 2014.

On the 10th anniversary of the Clinton Global Initiative, Bill Clinton assesses the state of the world, and of his post-presidency.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2014/09/i-never-dreamed-it-would-turn-out-this-way/379347/>

**Latino Voters and the 2014 Midterm Elections: Geography, Close Races and Views of Social Issues** by Mark Hugo Lopez et al. Pew Research, October 16, 2014.

A record 25.2 million Latinos are eligible to vote in the 2014 midterm elections, making up, for the first time, 11% of all eligible voters nationwide. But despite a growing national presence, in many states with close Senate and gubernatorial races this year, Latinos make up a smaller share of eligible voters, according to an analysis of Census Bureau data by the Pew Research Center.

<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2014/10/16/latino-voters-and-the-2014-midterm-elections/>

**Made in America, Again: Three Big Trends That Could Shape the Future of High-Tech Manufacturing—and the Middle Class** by James Fallows. *The Atlantic*, September 17 2014.

In the decade after World War II, the United States produced more goods than the rest of the world combined. Now America's share of world production is about 20 percent, which, depending on how you count, is about the same as China's or slightly more.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/10/made-in-america-again/379343/>

**Wave of Immigrants to U.S. Resurges** by Neil Shah. *The Wall Street Journal*, October 9, 2014.

Asians Drive Migrant Growth, but Mexicans Rebound.

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/wave-of-immigrants-to-u-s-resurges-1412899992?mod=e2tw>

## Global Challenges

**Beating Climate Change by Retooling the Economy—The Story Begins in Navajo Country** by Mary Hansen. *YES! Magazine*, October 17, 2014.

A proposed community-owned solar project on an abandoned coal mine in Arizona illustrates how cooperative economics make it possible to stop extracting fossil fuels—without leaving workers behind.

<http://www.yesmagazine.org/commonomics/beating-climate-change-retooling-economy-navajo-country>

**Enough Ice Has Melted in Antarctica to Alter the Earth's Gravity** by Marissa Fessenden. *Smithsonian.com*, October 1, 2014.

The gravity loss is tiny but indicates big changes in ice coverage.

<http://ow.ly/DspfT>

**The Most Ambitious Environmental Lawsuit Ever** by Nathaniel Rich. *The New York Times Magazine*, October 2, 2014.

A quixotic historian tries to hold oil and gas companies responsible for Louisiana's disappearing coast.

<http://ow.ly/Dgqol>

**The Risks of Cheap Water** by Eduardo Porter. *The International New York Times*, October 14, 2014.

This summer, California's water authority declared that wasting water — hosing a sidewalk, for example — was a crime. Next door, in Nevada, Las Vegas has paid out \$200 million over the last decade for homes and businesses to pull out their lawns. It will get worse.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/15/business/economy/the-price-of-water-is-too-low.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/15/business/economy/the-price-of-water-is-too-low.html?_r=1)

**Wind and Solar Create More Jobs When They're Locally Owned, Report Finds** by Kayla Schultz. *YES! Magazine*, October 22, 2014.

When it comes to providing jobs and money to towns and cities, not all renewable energy is created equal.

<http://www.yesmagazine.org/planet/locally-owned-renewable-energy-better-for-the-environment-and-your-town>

## International Relations

**China's New Export: Military in a Box** by Shai Oster. *Bloomberg Businessweek*, September 25, 2014.

At the Africa Aerospace and Defence expo in September, weapons buyers from across the continent descended on Air Force Base Waterkloof in the South African capital of Pretoria for a bit of shopping. There they were wooed by Chinese defense gear giant Norinco, which has honed its pitch to an art.

<http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-09-25/chinas-norinco-is-defense-giant-on-global-growth-path>

**The "Islamic State" Crisis and U.S. Policy** by Kenneth Katzman et al. Congressional Report Service Report, October 22, 2014.

The Islamic State is a transnational Sunni Islamist insurgent and terrorist group that has expanded its control over areas of parts of Iraq and Syria since 2013. It threatens the governments of both countries and potentially several other countries in the region, and has drawn increased attention from the international community. There is debate over the degree to which the Islamic State organization might represent a direct terrorist threat to the U.S. homeland or to U.S. facilities and personnel in the region.

<http://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/R43612.pdf?>

**Turkey's Shifting Strategic Culture: Part 3 – From Republican to Neo-Ottoman** by Ryan Evans. *FPRI Blog*, October 22, 2014.

Coups are a constant reference point in Turkish politics. This is not surprising given the fact that the country has experienced three of them, plus a military intervention into politics in the late 1990s that has been dubbed a "post-modern coup."

<http://www.fpri.org/geopoliticus/2014/10/turkeys-shifting-strategic-culture-part-3-republican-neo-ottoman>

**Understanding Stalin** by Anne Applebaum. *The Atlantic*, October 14, 2014.

Russian archives reveal that he was no madman, but a very smart and implacably rational ideologue.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/11/understanding-stalin/380786/>

**Vladimir Putin's Tangled Stance on Israel** by Matt Schiavenza. *The Atlantic*, October 26, 2014.

The Russian president comes out against settlement construction in the West Bank. But Moscow's relationship with Israel has never been better.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/10/vladimir-putins-israel-palestine-dance/381943/>

## PopUp America Landed in Arabia School in Helsinki

The ARC reached out to Arabia School in Helsinki on October 22 by arranging a pop-up workshop "Welcome to America." Fulbright Scholar Molly Schwartz joined us for a fun day filled with America trivia and good old-fashioned board games. The Welcome to America workshop at the Arabia PopUp school day was targeted at 7th to 9th graders. Big thanks to all who participated, especially the English teachers Riitta and Jere!



## Reminder: ARC Grant 2014

As a reminder, we are still accepting applications for the ARC Grant 2014 until November 28, 2014.

The American Resource Center's annual scholarship provides a grant of 1,000 Euros to support Master's degree work on studies of the U.S. Applications are invited from students of Finnish nationality, enrolled at a Finnish university, and who are currently working on a Master's Thesis on a topic related to the United States. More information available at [http://finland.usembassy.gov/arc\\_grant.html](http://finland.usembassy.gov/arc_grant.html).

Good luck!



**Veterans Day** originated as "Armistice Day" on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary marking the end of World War I. Congress passed a resolution in 1926 for an annual observance, and Nov. 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation in 1954 to change the name to Veterans Day as a way to honor those who served in all American wars. The day honors military veterans with parades and speeches across the nation.

Did You Know?

In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims, early settlers of Plymouth Colony, held a three-day feast to celebrate a bountiful harvest, an event many regard as the nation's first **Thanksgiving**. The Wampanoag, the Indians in attendance, also played a lead role. Historians have recorded ceremonies of thanks among other groups of European settlers in North America, including British colonists in Virginia in 1619. The legacy of thanks and the feast have survived the centuries, as the event became a national holiday 150 years ago (Oct. 3, 1863) when President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday of November as a national day of thanksgiving.

The U.S. Embassy Finland is closed both on Veterans' Day (November 11) and Thanksgiving (November 27) but the ARC remains open.



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