

AUGUST, ISSUE 7 - 2011
AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER NEWSLETTER
U.S. EMBASSY HELSINKI

REMARKS OF PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA - OBSERVING 9/11



In just two weeks, we'll come together, as a nation, to mark the 10th anniversary of the September 11th attacks. We'll remember the innocent lives we lost. We'll stand with the families who loved them. We'll honor the heroic first responders who rushed to the scene and saved so many. And we'll pay tribute to our troops and military families, and all those who have served over the past ten years, to keep us safe and strong.

We'll also recall how the worst terrorist attack in American history brought out the best in the American people. How Americans lined up to give blood. How volunteers drove across the country to lend a hand. How schoolchildren donated their savings. How communities, faith groups and businesses collected food and clothing.

We were united, and the outpouring of generosity and compassion reminded us that in times of challenge, we Americans move forward together, as one people.

This September 11th, Michelle and I will join the commemorations at Ground Zero, in Shanksville, and at the Pentagon. But even if you can't be in New York, Pennsylvania or Virginia, every American can be part of this anniversary. Once again, 9/11 will be a National Day of Service and Remembrance. And in the days and weeks ahead, folks across the country—in all 50 states—will come together, in their communities and neighborhoods, to honor the victims of 9/11 and to reaffirm the strength of our nation with acts of service and charity.

In Minneapolis, volunteers will help restore a community center. In Winston-

Salem, North Carolina, they'll hammer shingles and lay floors to give families a new home. In Tallahassee, Florida, they'll assemble care packages for our troops overseas and their families here at home. In Orange County, California, they'll renovate homes for our veterans. And once again, Michelle and I look forward to joining a local service project as well.

There are so many ways to get involved, and every American can do something. To learn more about the opportunities where you live, just go online and visit Serve.gov. Even the smallest act of service, the simplest act of kindness, is a way to honor those we lost; a way to reclaim that spirit of unity that followed 9/11.

On this 10th anniversary, we still face great challenges as a nation. We're emerging from the worst economic crisis in our lifetimes. We're taking the fight to al Qaeda, ending the war in Iraq and starting to bring our troops home from Afghanistan. And we're working to rebuild the foundation of our national strength here at home.

None of this will be easy. And it can't be the work of government alone. As we saw after 9/11, the strength of America has always been the character and compassion of our people. So as we mark this solemn anniversary, let's summon that spirit once more. And let's show that the sense of common purpose that we need in America doesn't have to be a fleeting moment; it can be a lasting virtue—not just on one day, but every day.

PEEK INTO THE ARC'S MAGAZINE SHELF



The National Interest is a prominent conservative American bi-monthly international affairs magazine published by the Nixon Center. It was founded in 1985 by Irving Kristol and until 2001 was edited by Anglo-Australian Owen Harries. The National Interest is not restricted in content to "foreign policy" in the narrow, technical sense but attempts to pay attention to broad ideas and the way in which cultural and social differences, technological innovations, history, and religion impact the behavior of states.

The National Interest is often critical of positions taken by a rival magazine, Foreign Affairs.

Source: Wikipedia

WEB PICKS

Disclaimer: The views expressed on these websites are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. Government policies. These links are being provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only; they do not constitute an endorsement or approval by the ARC or the U.S. Embassy in Helsinki, nor can we bear any responsibility for the accuracy, legality, functionality or content of the external site or for that of subsequent links.

American Life

10 Stories to Watch This College Football Season by Cameron Martin. The Atlantic, August 29, 2011.

The 2011 college football season kicks off Thursday, and the games will be a welcome reprieve from the scandal-plagued offseason. Given the series of unseemly reports about Ohio State, North Carolina, and Miami, and the ongoing possibility of problems at LSU and Oregon, it's tempting to be jaded about the state of big-time college football. And yet the games themselves will bring a renewal of rivalries and traditions, which will remind many of what's so attractive about the sport in the first place. Sure, the 2011 season will be marred by scandal, but positive storylines will emerge, too. Here are the 10 most compelling:

<http://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2011/08/10-stories-to-watch-this-college-football-season/244186/>

American Higher Education: "First in the World". Change, May/June 2011

For our nation to have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by the year 2020, we need to expand access, improve quality, and accelerate college completion while increasing productivity and reducing cost.

<http://www.changemag.org/Archives/Back%20Issues/2011/May-June%202011/first-in-the-world-full.html>

Does America Need Manufacturing? The New York Times, August 24, 2011.

Amid the working-class ruins of Michigan, the Obama administration is pursuing what amounts to a stealth industrial policy.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/28/magazine/does-america-need-manufacturing.html?ref=magazine>

The Master's as the New Bachelor's. The New York Times, July 22, 2011.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/24/education/edlife/edl-24masters-t.html?ref=general&src=me&pagewanted=all>

Wealth Gaps Rise to Record Highs Between Whites, Blacks, Hispanics. Pew Research Center, July 26, 2011.

The median wealth of white households is 20 times that of black households and 18 times that of Hispanic households, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of newly available government data from 2009.

<http://pewsocialtrends.org/2011/07/26/wealth-gaps-rise-to-record-highs-between-whites-blacks-hispanics/>

What Drove the Terrible War? The New York Review of Books, July 14, 2011.

Five new books on the American Civil War.

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2011/jul/14/what-drove-terrible-war/?page=1>

Economy and Politics

Globalization and Unemployment: The Downside of Integrating Markets. Foreign Affairs, July/August 2011.

Jobs growth was slow in May, renewing pessimism about the U.S. economy. Spence, a Nobel Prize-winning economist writes that economic growth and employment in the United States have started to diverge, increasing income inequality and reducing jobs for less-educated workers.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/67874/michael-spence/globalization-and-unemployment>

How Health Care Can Save or Sink America: The Case for Reform and Fiscal Sustainability by Peter R. Orszag.

Foreign Affairs, July/August 2011.

The United States' fiscal future depends on whether the country can limit health-care costs. Obama's reforms were a major step in the right direction, argues the former White House budget director. But to finish the job, the U.S. medical system must evolve so that it emphasizes evidence and pursues quality rather than quantity.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/67918/peter-r-orszag/how-health-care-can-save-or-sink-america>

The Sad Statistic That Trumps the Others. The New York Times, August 20, 2011

There's been a lot of bad economic news lately, yet we may be overlooking the most disturbing development of all: our economic productivity has been weakening. This isn't just a problem for the United States. Because America remains a leader in technology and innovation, it is also a matter of concern for the entire world.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/21/business/economy/weaker-productivity-is-a-worrying-sign.html?r=2&partner=rss&emc=rss>

Serendipity Shopping. Forbes, August 3, 2011.

EBay is mining millions of data points in an attempt to expose items that buyers never dreamed they'd want.

<http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2011/0822/technology-ebay-discover-amazon-netflix-serendipity-shopping.html>

What's Your Social Media Strategy? Harvard Business Review, July/August 2011.

A new study shows four ways companies are using technology to form connections.

<http://hbr.org/2011/07/whats-your-social-media-strategy/ar/1>

Woman of the World. Vanity Fair, June 2011.

In her ninth year as America's most admired woman, Hillary Clinton is dealing with radical change across the globe, as well as trying to transform U.S. diplomacy on the nuts-and-coffee level. But despite the secretary of state's punishing pace—half a million miles in her Boeing 757—and the complex relationship between her and President Obama, Clinton seems clear about what she can (and can't) accomplish, and, as Jonathan Alter reports, her friends are clear about something else: Madam Secretary is in her element.

<http://www.vanityfair.com/politics/features/2011/06/hillary-clinton-201106>

Global Challenges

3 Electric Cars You Can Buy Soon (And 3 That'll Blow Your Mind) by Brad Tuttle. Time Magazine, August 29, 2011.

For American drivers interested in electric vehicles, the options have been limited. The only true EV currently sold in the marketplace is the Nissan Leaf, and until recently it's only been available in a handful of states. The gas-electric hybrid Chevy Volt is unduly expensive (upwards of \$40K) for what it is: a GM sedan. But very soon, green-minded drivers fascinated with the latest tech will have at least three more road-ready EVs to choose from—and based on the features of some amazing new concept electric cars, there will be plenty of even more exciting options down the line.

<http://moneyland.time.com/2011/08/29/3-electric-cars-you-can-buy-soon-and-3-thatll-blow-your-mind/>

Better, Faster, Stronger by Rebecca Mead. New Yorker, September 5, 2011.

PROFILE about self-help guru Timothy Ferriss. A few months ago, Timothy Ferriss, a self-help author, threw himself a party in San Francisco, where he lives. Officially, it was not a celebration for his most recent book, "The 4-Hour Body: An Uncommon Guide to Rapid Fat-Loss, Incredible...

http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2011/09/05/110905fa_fact_mead

The Future Is Now: An Foreign Policy magazine Special Report by Robert D. Kaplan, Phillip Longman, Anne-Marie Slaughter, et al. Foreign Policy, September / October, 2011.

What will the world look like in 2025? Much like today, only faster, driven by more complex diplomacy, high-risk economic density, a whole new kind of destructive proliferation -- and robot chauffeurs.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/the_future_issue

Libya and the Future of Humanitarian Intervention by Stewart Patrick. Foreign Affairs, August 26, 2011.

Qaddafi's defeat at the hands of the Western-backed rebels was a triumph for Obama and the principle of humanitarian intervention -- one that is, unfortunately, unlikely to be repeated any time soon.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/68233/stewart-patrick/libya-and-the-future-of-humanitarian-intervention>

Steve Jobs: The Edison of Our Time and the Future of Apple by Derek Thompson. The Atlantic, August 25, 2011.

Steve Jobs, who stepped down as Apple's CEO, defined and guided a tech revolution spanning media and computing. What will be the most lasting legacy of his historic tenure?

<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2011/08/steve-jobs-the-edison-of-our-time-and-the-future-of-apple/244134/>

Will Obama-esque Vision of Manufacturing Sell? by Rebecca Kaplan. National Journal, August 29, 2011.

Last January, Andrew Liveris, the CEO of Dow Chemical, published a book called Make it in America that laid out a path for the United States to reclaim its onetime manufacturing dominance. Four pages into his preface, he warned readers to expect a surprise. "If you picked [the book] up thinking this was another long complaint by another CEO who wants nothing more than for government to back off, recede from the picture, do nothing, and let the markets rule," he wrote, "then I'm afraid you'll be disappointed."

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/economy/man-in-the-middle-20110829?page=1>

International Relations

Disconnected Narratives Between the United States and Global Muslim Communities. A Brookings paper on how to identify new initiatives to promote greater visual media programming to redress cross-cultural misunderstandings between the United States and global Muslim communities.

http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2011/08_islam_media_hagood_ginsberg.aspx

Everything You Think You Know About the Collapse of the Soviet Union Is Wrong. Foreign Policy, July/August 2011.

*And why it matters today in a new age of revolution.

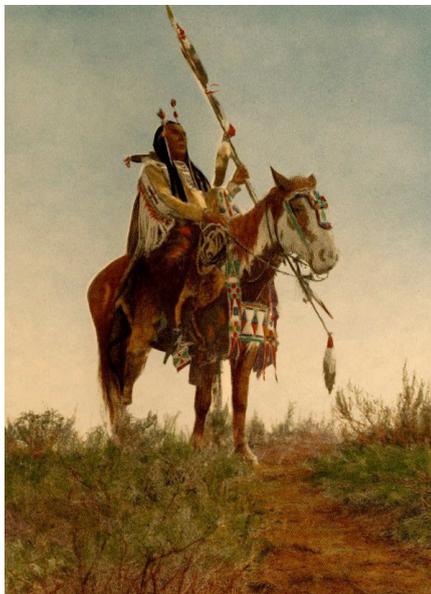
http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/06/20/everything_you_think_you_know_about_the_collapse_of_the_soviet_union_is_wrong

The Major Roadblock to Muslim Assimilation in Europe by Shadi Hamid, Director of Research, Brookings Doha Center, August 23, 2011

I was having dinner the other day with some European friends who are reasonable center-left types. London riots were in full swing. Anders Breivik had killed more than 80 of his countrymen in an apparent bid to halt the "Islamization" of Europe. Greece's economy had collapsed. The consensus among my friends was that the next five to 10 years could turn out "very scary" for Europe.

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0818_muslim_europe_hamid.aspx

“INDIANS ARE COMING TO THE ARC” LECTURE SERIES DURING THE FALL 2011



FREE ENTRANCE!

WELCOME!

The American Resource Center and Finnish Native American Association (Suomen Intiaaniyhdistys) will organize a series of lectures in October and November 2011. The series will run from 11th of October to the end of November; with a new lecture on every Tuesday at 18.00. The lectures will be held in the auditorium of the National Library, Yliopistonkatu 1.

More information, when available, about the lectures can be found from the homepage of the US Embassy Helsinki (<http://finland.usembassy.gov/>) and from the ARC's Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/AmericanResourceCenter>).



On Tuesdays, at 18.00, Auditorium of National Library, Yliopistonkatu 1, Helsinki (Lectures will be held in Finnish)

11.10.2011

Juha Hiltunen:

St. Clairin tappio 1791: Taistelu, jonka Amerikka on halunnut unohtaa

18.10.2011

Simo Hankaniemi:

Hevoskansan historia: Comanche-intiaanien ekspansio 1700-luvulla

25.10.2011

Riku Hämäläinen:

Kilpiä, karhuja ja sulkakimppuja: Tasankointiaanien sotarohdot

1.11.2011

Rainer Smedman:

Valkoisen miehen sivistystä oppimassa: Koulutus lakotojen keskuudessa 1868–1889

8.11.2011

Saara Kekki:

Reservaateista kaupunkiin: Intiaanikulttuurien murros 1940–1950-luvuilla

15.11.2011

Rani-Henrik Andersson:

Alkuperäisiä amerikkalaisia ja kansallispuistoja: Luonnonsuojelua, turismia vai pyhiä paikkoja?

22.11.2011

Tiina Wikström:

Egokeskeisyydestä ekokeskeisyyteen: Intiaanikirjallisuuden ydintä etsimässä

29.11.2011

Markku Henriksson:

Kongressi, hallitus ja oikeuslaitos: Kaikki intiaanien kimpussa

ARC GRANT 2012

Coming next month - 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 will be available in September, and the deadline for the applications is November 30, 2011. The grant recipient will be announced at the end of January 2012.

The American Resource Center

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 9-20, Sat 9-16; Reference service: Mon-Fri 9-17

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<http://finland.usembassy.gov/arc.html>

<http://www.facebook.com/AmericanResourceCenter>

<http://twitter.com/ARCHelsinki>

