



American Resource Center Newsletter U.S. Embassy Helsinki

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Election Experts Analyzed U.S. Election Results at the ARC



Election Experts Analyzed U.S. Election Results at the ARC: from left Ambassador Bruce J. Oreck, Professor Markku Henriksson from the University of Helsinki, Charly Saloniuss-Pasternak from the Finnish Institute for International Affairs, and Mari K. Niemi from the University of Turku

As a conclusion to a long Election Day, the American Resource Center held a panel discussion on the results of the U.S. Presidential Election.

U.S. Ambassador to Finland Bruce J. Oreck gave the first comments, where he highlighted some aspects of the President's agenda, as he sees them. Then, Professor Markku Henriksson from the University of Helsinki, Charly Saloniuss-Pasternak from the Finnish Institute for International Affairs, and Mari K. Niemi from the University of Turku gave their perspectives. The experts provided analysis of the results, offered insights on the campaigns and took questions from an engaged audience in the new Helsinki University Main Library premises. Ambassador Oreck's views on the

elections and President Obama's second term agenda can be viewed from YouTube.

Link to the ARC Facebook photo gallery: <http://ow.ly/g3UG4>.



Ambassador Oreck with Cardboard President Obama

Mistä on vaalikampanjat tehty?

Presidentti Barack Obama äänestettiin toiselle 4-vuotiskaudelle Yhdysvaltain presidentinvaaleissa. Vaalit olivat tiukat ja kuvernööri Mitt Romney sai kannatusta laajemmin kuin kevään republikaanien esivaalien jälkeen olisi saattanut odottaa. Vaaleja ei käyty siitä, miten Obama onnistui ensimmäisellä kaudellaan. Sen sijaan äänestäjät valitsivat kahden erilaisen ideologian välillä.

On mahdotonta nimetä yhtä tekijää, joka ratkaisi vaalit. ARC:n kolumnissa Suomi-USA lehdessä esittelemme kolme seikkaa, jotka edesauttoivat Obaman kampanjan menestystä.

Lue artikkeli: <http://ow.li/fPUUW>

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

The Best Book I Read This Year. The Atlantic, December 11, 2012.

The Atlantic editors and writers share their favorite titles—new, classic, or somewhere in between—from a year of reading.
<http://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2012/12/the-best-book-i-read-this-year/266141/>

The Best Movies of 2012 by Richard Brody. The New Yorker, December 10, 2012

These are the years of radical cinema in all directions—extremely idiosyncratic efforts both in the lower-budget realms of independent filmmaking and in the mercantile reaches of franchise films—and 2012 has been a wild ride, even as, in “awards season,” much of the wildest work around gets pushed to the sidelines and surprisingly unsurprising films of mild invention but ostensibly important content rush to the forefront of critical appreciation.

<http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/movies/2012/12/best-movies-of-2012.html>

A Brief History of Brave Thinking. The Atlantic, November 2012.

Since 1857, The Atlantic has presented some of America’s most provocative thinkers, people with the bravery to challenge convention or imagine the future. Plenty have been prescient, and more than a few have been proved wrong—but time and again, they’ve inspired us all to think for ourselves.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2012/11/a-brief-history-of-brave-thinking/309137/>

Defying Expectations, Half of Young Voters Cast Ballots, 60% for Obama By Sara Lipka. The Chronicle of Higher Education

In some battleground states, tallies show, their ballots were decisive factors in the president’s victory.

http://chronicle.com/article/Defying-Expectations-Halfof/135620/?cid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en

Fulbright Tries Out Short-Term Fellowships by Ian Wilhelm. The Chronicle of Higher Education, November 2, 2012.

<http://chronicle.com/article/Fulbright-Tries-Short-Term/135420/>

The Neighborhood Effect by Marc Parry. The Chronicle of Higher Education, November 9, 2012.

25 years after William Julius Wilson changed urban sociology, scholars still debate his ideas. Is anyone else listening?

<http://chronicle.com/article/The-Neighborhood-Effect/135492/>

Our Favorite Books of 2012: Tina Brown, Andrew Sullivan, and Others’ Picks. Newsweek, December 11, 2012.

From Tina Brown to Andrew Sullivan to Michael Tomasky, our writers and editors pick the favorite books they read this year.

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2012/12/11/our-favorite-books-of-2012-tina-brown-andrew-sullivan-and-others-picks.html>

Economy and Politics

Time to End the Cuba Embargo by Doug Bandow. The National Interest, December 11, 2012.

The U.S. government has waged economic war against the Castro regime for half a century. The policy may have been worth a try during the Cold War, but the embargo has failed to liberate the Cuban people. It is time to end sanctions against Havana.

<http://nationalinterest.org/commentary/the-pointless-cuba-embargo-7834>

Why the Fiscal Cliff Is a Snooze by Howard Kurtz. Newsweek December 10, 2012.

The debt-ceiling showdown, which threatened to send the country into default, kept us enthralled. But the fiscal cliff won’t plunge us into a recession on Jan. 1. Howard Kurtz on the mass tune-out.

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2012/12/10/why-the-fiscal-cliff-is-a-snooze.html>

Global Challenges

4 Digital Threats to Worry About by Eugene Kaspersky. Foreign Policy, December 2012.

From hacktivism to cyberwarfare, the dangers that define the digital age.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2012/11/26/cyberscary_4_digital_threats_to_worry_about

100 Top Global Thinkers 2012: 2012's Global Marketplace of Ideas and the Thinkers Who Make Them. Foreign Policy, December 2012.

The backlash after the heady Arab revolutions of 2011. The rumblings of war with nuclear-aspiring Iran. The bloody persistence of Bashar al-Assad in civil war-torn Syria. Not to mention a Europe mired in its biggest crisis since World War II and an American presidential campaign that distracted and depressed in equal measure. If ever there were a year for Big Ideas, and a frustration at not hearing them from our leaders, 2012 was it.

<http://www.foreignpolicy.com/2012globalthinkers>

5 Ways Social Media Will Change The Way You Work in 2013 by Eric Savitz. Forbes, December 11, 2012.

In the nine short years since Mark Zuckerberg launched thefacebook.com, social media has evolved from dorm room toy to boardroom tool. Last year, 73 percent of Fortune 500 companies were active on Twitter, while more than 80 percent of executives believed social media engagement led to increased sales.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/ciocentral/2012/12/11/5-ways-social-media-will-change-the-way-you-work-in-2013/>

Eating Nano by Brita Belli. E: The Environment Magazine, November 1, 2012.

Processed Foods and Food Packaging Already Contain Nanoparticles—Some of Which Could Be Harmful to Our Health

<http://www.emagazine.com/magazine/eating-nano>

Our Imperiled World by Owen Gingrich. The American Scholar, Winter 2013.

It took billions of years to make the earth habitable for humans. A distinguished astronomer warns the United Nations how quickly that can be reversed.

<http://theamericanscholar.org/our-imperiled-world/>

International Relations

The Fog of Cyberwar: Why the Threat Doesn't Live Up to the Hype by Brandon Valeriano and Ryan Maness. Foreign Affairs, November 21, 2012.

Despite the hype, cyberwarfare is a seldom-used, relatively toothless tactic that will not change foreign policy calculations anytime soon.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/138443/brandon-valeriano-and-ryan-maness/the-fog-of-cyberwar>

General Principles:How good was David Petraeus? by Dexter Filkins. New Yorker, December 17, 2012.

In the Roman conquest of Gaul, Julius Caesar led his legions into battle wearing a flowing red cape. The cape made him more likely to be killed but easier for his men to see; it served as a reminder of his fearlessness. John Bell Hood, one of the Confederacy's most audacious commanders, had his left arm shattered at Gettysburg, and lost his right leg at Chickamauga; from then on, he rode into battle tied to his horse. Even in the Second World War, when senior officers had it easier than their predecessors, General Dwight Eisenhower was so consumed by the job that he smoked four packs of cigarettes and drank fifteen cups of coffee a day.

http://www.newyorker.com/arts/critics/atlarge/2012/12/17/121217crat_atlarge_filkins

Reading Machiavelli in Iraq by Kenneth M. Pollack. The National Interest, Nov-Dec 2012.

Most Americans know Niccolò Machiavelli only from The Prince, a sixteenth-century "audition tape" he dashed off in lieu of a résumé to try to land a job. It's a shame. Not only was Machiavelli the leading advocate of democracy of his day, but his ideas also had a profound influence on the framers of our own Constitution.

<http://nationalinterest.org/article/reading-machiavelli-iraq-7611>

The World in 2030 Won't Look Anything Like You Think by Joshua Foust. The Atlantic, December 11, 2012.

...But that doesn't mean thinking isn't still important. What to make of the intelligence community's effort to forecast global events.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/12/the-world-in-2030-wont-look-anything-like-you-think/266108/>

Elections 2012 Special

The Billionaires' Long Game by Robert Reich. The American Prospect, December 12, 2012.

Why wealthy political investors will keep pouring money into politics—until they're stopped.

<http://prospect.org/article/billionaires-long-game>

The Mainstream Media's Trivial Pursuit of Campaign 2012 by Eric Alterman. The Nation, October 23, 2012.

Pity the poor American campaign journalist. The 2012 election, says Politico's Dylan Byers, quoting The New York Times Magazine's Mark Leibovich, has been characterized by a "devastating 'joylessness.'" "Until the candidates restore joy, it's impossible for us to be joyful," adds NBC News senior White House correspondent Chuck Todd. "If these candidates were comfortable, the campaign might be joyful to cover."

<http://www.thenation.com/article/170790/media-work>

What the New President Should Consider by Paul Volcker. The New York Review of Books, December 6, 2012.

Americans have long been eager consumers and home owners. But there is no doubt we collectively overdid it during the years leading up to the financial and economic crisis of 2008. The personal savings rate dropped close to zero. Mortgage indebtedness grew to new (and ultimately unsustainable) heights.

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2012/dec/06/what-new-president-should-consider/>

America @ Your Library



America@YourLibrary Book Donations to Turku City Library and Oulu City Library

Counselor for Press and Cultural Affairs David McGuire visited Turku City Library on September 26, and Oulu City Library on November 20. His visits honored the cooperation between the U.S Embassy and Finnish regional libraries. Both

libraries have received book collections chosen by the American Resource Center. The donated titles highlight American contemporary society, political trends, history, and cultural diversity.

DVDs at ARC

The American Resource Center has a collection of some 100 DVDs featuring American society and culture. This catalog is an annotated listing of our holdings, arranged by the subject area.

All films are in PAL format and they are available for home and educational use free of charge. The loan period is 2 weeks.

If you have questions about the programs, please contact us.

A DVD catalog is available here (PDF; updated in December 2012) : <http://owl.li/fQ4Rj>



Warmest greetings of the Season and every good wish for the Coming Year from the ARC staff.



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