



American Resource Center Newsletter U.S. Embassy Helsinki

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International Education Expo - Resources for Studying in the U.S.

Dreaming of studying in the USA? To answer questions and help students get started on research, the U.S. Embassy Helsinki along with partners and exchange program alumni arranged the International Education Expo at the Kaisa Library on Tuesday, November 19. Did you miss the event? Download your free EducationUSA App from here: <https://www.educationusa.info/mobileapp/> and visit our website at: http://finland.usembassy.gov/education_programs.html. And don't forget - the ARC is a treasure house also for those interested in studying or traveling in the US!

Excerpt from the EducationUSA website:

Your 5 Steps to U.S. Study

With thousands of accredited U.S. colleges and universities in the United States, where do you begin to find the one that is right for you? Whether you plan to pursue an undergraduate, graduate, English language, or short-term program, EducationUSA's "Your 5 Steps to U.S. Study" helps you fulfill your goal through the following steps: 1) Research Your Options, 2) Complete Your Application, 3) Finance Your Studies, 4) Apply for Your Student Visa, and 5) Prepare for Your Departure. Your journey to study in the United States begins today!

(https://www.educationusa.info/for_international_students.php)



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Remember those U.S. government publications available at the ARC? A selection of them is now available for your eReader, smartphone, or mobile device. You can find more than 45 eBook titles – including Outline of U.S. Government, eJ|USA, and the NGO Handbook – under the "Publications" tab on the International Information Programs (IIP) website. Start exploring today with these popular publications:

- Outline of U.S. Government: Promote this publication when your audience has questions about the U.S. Constitution, the separation of powers or the concept of checks and balances.
- eJ|USA: Destination America: Invite your audience to experience the United States with this revamped eJ|USA on traveling in America.
- The NGO Handbook: Use this handbook to guide your audience through the steps of starting and operating an NGO.

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/>





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American Life

101 Objects that Made America. Smithsonian Magazine, November 2013.

101 objects selected from the 137 million artifacts held by the 19 museums and research centers of the Smithsonian Institution.

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/specialreports/101-objects-that-made-america/>

And Then Steve Said, ‘Let There Be an iPhone’ by Fred Vogelstein. The New York Times Magazine, October 6, 2013.

An age of darkness ended with a searing light, which shook the earth, and the great device was rendered unto thee. Fred Vogelstein is a contributing editor for Wired. His book “Dogfight: How Apple and Google Went to War and Started a Revolution” will be published in November.

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/06/magazine/and-then-steve-said-let-there-be-an-iphone.html?_r=0

Go west by Alison Langley. Columbia Journalism Review, November/December 2013.

In the quest for digital-age prosperity, legacy newsrooms are making pilgrimages to Silicon Valley.

http://www.cjr.org/feature/go_west.php

Hidden City by Ian Frazier. The New Yorker, October 28, 2013.

New York has more homeless than it has in decades. What should the next mayor do?

http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2013/10/28/131028fa_fact_frazier

Talent on the Sidelines: Excellence Gaps and America’s Persistent Talent Underclass by Jonathan Plucker, Jacob Hardesty, and Nathan Burroughs. Report by Center for Education Policy Analysis.

<http://cepa.uconn.edu/mindthegap/>

The Wedge Driving Academe’s Two Families Apart by David A. Hollinger. The Chronicle Review, October 18, 2013.

Can STEM and the human sciences get along?

<http://chronicle.com/article/Why-Cant-the-Sciencethe/142239/>

Why Are There Still So Few Women in Science? by Eileen Pollack. The New York Times Magazine, October 3, 2013.

Hint: The answer has more to do with “The Big Bang Theory” than with longstanding theories about men’s so-called natural aptitude.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/06/magazine/why-are-there-still-so-few-women-in-science.html?ref=magazine>

Economy and Politics

The 50 Greatest Breakthroughs Since the Wheel by James Fallows. The Atlantic, October 23, 2013.

Why did it take so long to invent the wheelbarrow? Have we hit peak innovation? What our list reveals about imagination, optimism, and the nature of progress.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2013/11/innovations-list/309536/>

A How-To Guide to Blowing Up the Constitution by Alex Seitz-Wald. National Journal, October 31, 2013.

America, we’ve got some bad news: Our Constitution isn’t going to make it. It’s had 224 years of commendable, often glorious service, but there’s a time for everything, and the government shutdown and permanent-crisis governance signal that it’s time to think about moving on. “No society can make a perpetual constitution,” Thomas Jefferson wrote to James Madison in 1789, the year ours took effect. “The earth belongs always to the living generation and not to the dead.... Every constitution, then, and every law, naturally expires at the end of 19 years.” By that calculation, we’re more than two centuries behind schedule for a long, hard look at our most sacred of cows. And what it reveals isn’t pretty.

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/innovation-works/a-how-to-guide-to-blowing-up-the-constitution-20131031>

The Final Insult in the Bush-Cheney Marriage by Peter Baker. The New York Times Magazine, October 10, 2013.

Not since Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger had two Americans in public office collaborated with such lasting effect as George Bush and Dick Cheney. In the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, they confidently steered America through its most traumatic years since Vietnam, erecting a national-security apparatus that their successors have largely adopted and prosecuting wars in Afghanistan and Iraq that, members of the administration take pains to emphasize, toppled two brutal regimes. The continuing effects of their tenure are evident in some of the most vexing issues of today — what to do with the prisoners at Guantánamo Bay, how to balance the need for surveillance with the rights of private citizens and whether to use even a modest amount of force in Syria when the American public is tired of the costs of two long wars.

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/13/magazine/the-final-insult-in-the-bush-cheney-marriage.html?_r=0

Presidents and Libraries: A blueprint for the Barack Obama Presidential Library by Michael Sorkin. *The Nation*, Oct 8, 2013. Although the presidential library is now as natural a part of our national trove of civic rituals and commemorations as the Pledge of Allegiance, it is, like the pledge, a fairly new one. The first presidential library was FDR's in Hyde Park, New York. Based on his own sketches, it opened in 1941, one year before the pledge was adopted by Congress, not long after the completion of the Lincoln Memorial and while the Jefferson was under construction.
<http://www.thenation.com/article/176550/presidents-and-libraries#>

The Tea Party's Pyrrhic Victory by Peter Coy. *Bloomberg Businessweek*, October 17, 2013. Say this for Tea Party Republicans: They don't back down. No apologies for triggering a partial shutdown of the federal government, then refusing to raise the debt ceiling without concessions. Condemnation rains down on them from the White House, from foreign capitals, from public opinion polls, but the Tea Party rages on.
<http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2013-10-17/tea-partys-victory-against-government-spending-comes-at-high-price>

Which of the 11 American Nations Do You Live in? by Reid Wilson. *Washington Post*, November 8, 2013. Red states and blue states? Flyover country and the coasts? How simplistic. Colin Woodard, a reporter at the *Portland Press Herald* and author of several books, says North America can be broken neatly into 11 separate nation-states, where dominant cultures explain our voting behaviors and attitudes toward everything from social issues to the role of government.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/govbeat/wp/2013/11/08/which-of-the-11-american-nations-do-you-live-in/?tid=pm_pop

Global Challenges

GOP Deeply Divided Over Climate Change. Pew Research Center, November 1, 2013. "Two-thirds of Americans (67%) say there is solid evidence that the earth has been getting warmer over the last few decades, a figure that has changed little in the past few years. While partisan differences over climate change remain substantial, Republicans face greater internal divisions over this issue than do Democrats."
<http://www.people-press.org/2013/11/01/gop-deeply-divided-over-climate-change/>

Is This the Best Humanity Can Do for the Philippines? by Conor Friedersdorf. *The Atlantic*, November 11, 2013. The inadequacy of our planning for disaster relief.
<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2013/11/is-this-the-best-humanity-can-do-for-the-philippines/281332/>

Typhoon Haiyan: how you can help – and how some US Filipinos already are by Daniel B. Wood. *Christian Science Monitor*, November 11, 2013. The more than 300,000 Filipinos that live in southern California are holding auctions and sponsoring events such as 5K walks in the wake of typhoon Haiyan. Here are ways that you can contribute to the relief efforts, too.
<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/2013/1111/Typhoon-Haiyan-how-you-can-help-and-how-some-US-Filipinos-already-are-video>

Values, Not Technology, Are What Matters to Democracy by Kentaro Toyama. *The Atlantic*, November 11, 2013. We have free speech online because we have free speech offline, not the other way around.
<http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2013/11/values-not-technology-are-what-matters-to-democracy/281368/>

Where Cars are Illegal: Eco-Tourism on Mackinac Island, Michigan by John D. Ivanko. *Mother Earth News*, Nov 8, 2013. "As soon as my wife, son and I stepped off the Shepler's Ferry, one of only three ferry services to Mackinac Island, our connection to motorized transport ceased to exist. Since 1898, cars and nearly every other form of motorized, gas-guzzling transportation are illegal on this Michigan island. So, our adventure would be exclusively on foot, by bicycle, in a horse-drawn carriage, or on the back of a horse. Here, the police cruisers are bicycles."
<http://www.motherearthnews.com/green-transportation/where-cares-are-illegal-zbcz1311.aspx#ixzz2kPrB6vtS>

International Relations

America's Enduring Military by Thomas C. Bruneau, *The National Interest*, November 12, 2013. The first sentence in the latest report on the U.S. military by the Pew Research Religion & Public Life Project reads as follows: "Americans continue to hold the military in high regard with more than three-quarters of U.S. adults (78 percent) saying that the members of the armed services contribute 'a lot' to society's well-being." Another 15 percent say that the military contribute "some," and only 5 percent "not too much/not at all." These ratings are higher than any other of the ten occupational groups included in the early 2013 Spring survey.
<http://nationalinterest.org/commentary/americas-enduring-military-9383>

This Map Predicts Where Violence Will Erupt in Afghanistan by Kathryn Olson. *New Republic*, November 25, 2013. Joshua Stevens, Jay Yonamine, and John Beiler developed a statistical model and visualization that maps every material conflict that has occurred in Afghanistan, and used it to predict future unrest. "When mapped in this way, the precision of GDELT reveals spatial patterns in the data that can help analysts determine the context of each event. For example, conflicts near borders become especially salient, exposing the significance of geopolitics in the region."
<http://www.newrepublic.com/article/115718/afghanistan-violence-map-predicts-where-it-will-erupt>

Obama to Hollywood: Don't Glorify Guns by Amie Parnes. *The Hill's Political News Blog*, November 26, 2013. "We gotta make sure that we're not glorifying it," Obama told the crowd at DreamWorks studio, adding that movie executives had a "big responsibility" to the viewing public. "Because the stories you tell shape our children's outlook and their lives."
<http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/191523-obama-to-hollywood-think-about-gun-violence>



Thanksgiving - November 28th

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. Later, President Franklin Roosevelt clarified that Thanksgiving should always be celebrated on the fourth Thursday of the month to encourage earlier holiday shopping, never on the occasional fifth Thursday.

Thanksgiving by the numbers

4: Number of places in the United States named after the holiday's traditional main course. Turkey Creek, La., was the most populous in 2012, with 440 residents, followed by Turkey, Texas (415), Turkey, N.C. (295) and Turkey Creek, Ariz. (294). There are also two townships in Pennsylvania with "Turkey" in the name: Upper Turkeyfoot and Lower Turkeyfoot.

7: Number of places and townships in the United States that are named Cranberry or some spelling variation of the acidic red berry (e.g., Cranbury, N.J.), a popular side dish at Thanksgiving. Cranberry Township (Butler County), Pa., was the most populous of these places in 2012, with 28,832 residents. Cranberry township (Venango County), Pa., was next (6,608).

242 million: The number of turkeys forecasted to be raised in the United States in 2013. That is down 5 percent from the number raised during 2012.

768 million pounds: The forecast for U.S. cranberry production in 2012. Wisconsin was estimated to lead all states in the production of cranberries, with 450 million pounds, followed by Massachusetts (estimated at 210 million).

2.6 billion pounds: The total weight of sweet potatoes — another popular Thanksgiving side dish — produced by major sweet potato producing states in 2012. North Carolina (1.2 billion pounds) produced more sweet potatoes than any other state, followed by California, Mississippi and Louisiana.

47,800: Acres of pumpkins harvested in the U.S. in 2012, with a total estimated production value of \$148.9 million. Of the top six pumpkin-producing states, Illinois led the country by producing an estimated 556.3 million pounds of this vined gourd, followed by California, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Michigan.

Source:

United States Census Bureau http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/



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