

# OCTOBER, ISSUE 9 - 2011 AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER NEWSLETTER U.S. EMBASSY HELSINKI

## AMERICA @ YOUR LIBRARY TOUR IN OSTROBOTHNIA

America @ Your Library is an U.S. Embassy Helsinki project, which donates books to regional libraries around Finland. The donation includes over 100 non-fiction and fiction titles. The topics highlight American contemporary society, political trends, history, and cultural diversity and include both classic and modern American fiction.

The Public Affairs team started their Ostrobothnia tour in Kokkola, where they visited the City Library to present a book donation to the Chief Librarian Susann Forsberg. Afterwards, PAO Marjut Robinson gave a talk on the diversity in the U.S. Students were also interested in finding out more about the Public Affairs Officer's



From left: PAO Marjut Robinson presented a book donation in the City Library of Kokkola (Susann Forsberg), in the City Library of Seinäjoki (Mervi Heikkilä), and in the City Library of Vaasa (Birgitta Aurén).

work at the Embassy and expressed interest in visiting the United States.

On day 2 of the PAS team's Ostrobothnia tour, the program began with a visit to the famous Seinäjoki Alvar Aalto -designed City Library, where PAO Marjut Robinson presented an America@Your Library book donation to Library Director Mervi Heikkilä. The high school student group gathered in the library listened attentively to PAO Robinson's talk on

the multiculturalism in America. Several students asked questions about studying in the U.S.

The third day of the Public Affairs Ostrobothnia tour took the team to Vaasa, where they visited the City Library. A group of high school students were assembled in the library auditorium to hear PAO Marjut Robinson's presentation titled "Being a Teenager in America Today." After the presentation PAO Robinson presented an A@YL book donation to the Library Director Birgitta Aurén.



## PEEK INTO ARC'S MAGAZINE SHELF



Curious about Native communities and their traditions? From Alaska Native villages to the Andean communities of Peru, American Indian Magazine tells inspiring and enlightening stories illustrated with glorious photographs. This quarterly, award-winning publication of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian informs its readers with diverse articles such as American Indian firefighting traditions, the enduring presence of Native peoples in the U.S. military, stunning Native travel destinations, and the modern-day challenges facing Native communities in western Mexico.

Source: National Museum of the American Indian

## ARC GRANT

### Call for Applications!

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.

The deadline for the applications is **November 30, 2011**. The grant recipient will be announced at the end of January 2012.

More information and application form: <http://finland.usembassy.gov/arc-grant.html>

## 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

**Presidential Nominating Process: Current Issues** by Kevin J. Coleman. Congressional Research Service, September 20, 2011.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/174240.pdf>

**Pumpkin Carving Ideas From Around the Smithsonian** by Brian Wolly. Smithsonian.com, October 22, 2010.

Print out and tape these stencils to your Halloween pumpkin for a different kind of jack

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/Pumpkin-Carving-Ideas-From-Around-the-Smithsonian.html#ixzz1c3JN6AIa>

**The Road to Melville** by Nathaniel Philbrick. Vanity Fair, November 2011.

Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick* has daunted many since its 1851 debut. In an adaptation from his new book Philbrick says, Get reading: not only is it the Greatest American Novel, it's a survival manual too.

<http://www.vanityfair.com/culture/features/2011/11/moby-dick-201111>

### Economy and Politics

**Amazon, the Company That Ate the World** by Brad Stone. Bloomberg Business Week, September 28, 2011.

Jeff Bezos' new tablet, the Kindle Fire, is cheap, pretty, and puts Amazon in perfect position to take a bite out of Apple—and every online transaction you make.

<http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/the-omnivore-09282011.html>

**Citizen Cain** by Michael Daly. Newsweek, October 17, 2011.

A month ago, he was a punchline. Now Herman Cain is laughing. Meet the rising GOP star who is confounding the pundits and much of black America.

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2011/10/16/herman-cain-s-unlikely-republican-rise.html>

**A Course in Giving** by Victoria Barret. Forbes Magazine, October 10, 2011.

Bill Gates isn't leaving his vast fortune to his kids; he'll make sure it's gone shortly after he dies. He talks with America's youngest billionaire, Facebook cofounder Dustin Moskovitz, about the importance of legacy.

<http://www.forbes.com/forbes/2011/1010/forbes400-11-dynasties-gates-moskovits-course-giving-legacy-barret.html>

**Occupy Wall Street Demographic Survey Results Will Surprise You** by Carl Franzen. TPM, October 19, 2011.

Over a month since the demonstrations began in New York's Zuccotti Park, two demographic surveys of the movement and its supporters are now available online, both of them containing surprising, perhaps even counter-intuitive findings about the makeup of the movement and its supporters.

<http://idealab.talkingpointsmemo.com/2011/10/occupy-wall-street-demographic-survey-results-will-surprise-you.php?ref=fpb>

**What Is Happening to America's Children? A Look at the Widening Opportunity Gap for Today's Youth** by Michael Greenstone and Adam Looney. Brookings, October 7, 2011.

Activity in the labor market picked up slightly last month, according to today's employment report. Payroll employment increased by just over 100,000 jobs in September, an increase that partially reflected the return to work of striking telecommunications workers. The unemployment rate was unchanged at 9.1 percent. Since April, payroll employment has increased by an average of 72,000 per month, compared with an average of 161,000 for the prior seven months.

[http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/1007\\_jobs\\_greenstone\\_looney.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/1007_jobs_greenstone_looney.aspx)

### Global Challenges

**The End of the American Era** by Stephen M. Walt. The National Interest, October 25, 2011.

The United States has been the dominant world power since 1945, and U.S. leaders have long sought to preserve that privileged position. They understood, as did most Americans, that primacy brought important benefits. It made other states less likely to threaten America or its vital interests directly. By dampening great-power competition and giving Washington the capacity to shape regional balances of power, primacy contributed to a more tranquil international environment. That tranquility fostered global prosperity; investors and traders operate with greater confidence when there is less danger of war. Primacy also gave the United States the ability to work for positive ends: promoting human rights and slowing the spread of weapons of mass destruction. It may be lonely at the top, but Americans have found the view compelling.

<http://nationalinterest.org/article/the-end-the-american-era-6037>

**Energy: Friend or Enemy?** by William D. Nordhaus. New York Review of Books, October 27, 2011

Is energy our friend or our enemy? In their personal lives, most people regard energy as an essential friend. It powers our computers, warms our homes in the winter, fuels our cars and planes, and provides a necessary input to produce virtually everything we use. Modern life would be inconceivable without the friendly side of energy.

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2011/oct/27/energy-friend-or-enemy/>

**Inside Google Plus** by Steven Levy. Wired, October 2011.

For all of Google's successes, the company has an underwhelming track record when it comes to social networks. Time after time, its attempts have been met with shrugs or downright hostility. An early offering called Orkut languished in obscurity (unless you live in Brazil). Wave, a real-time messaging system, proved too confusing for most users.

[http://www.wired.com/magazine/2011/09/ff\\_google\\_horowitz/](http://www.wired.com/magazine/2011/09/ff_google_horowitz/)

**Obama's Power Grid** by Robert Sam Anson. Vanity Fair, November 2011.

President Barack Obama's environmental record has prompted eco-minded groups to call his policies "disastrous," a "nightmare," and a "sell-out." Less well-known, however, is the fact that Obama himself has long been allied with Chicago-area pro-nuclear-energy leaders and that several people in his core council have professionally benefited from their association with Exelon, the power company that runs America's largest nuclear fleet. With Japan's nuclear accident still looming, many in the environmental movement, who initially supported Obama's "clean-energy" agenda, have been turned off, but, as Vanity Fair contributing editor Robert Sam Anson brings to light, Obama and his inner circle have vowed not to take the nuclear-power option off the table.

<http://www.vanityfair.com/politics/features/2011/10/obama-nuclear-201110>

**The Rubicon Theory of War: How the Path to Conflict Reaches the Point of No Return** by Dominic D.P. Johnson, Dominic Tierney. International Security, Summer 2011, volume 36, issue 1.

A major paradox in international relations is the widespread fear and anxiety that underlies the security dilemma in times of peace and the prevalence of overconfidence or "false optimism" on the eve of war. A new theory of the causes of war—the Rubicon theory of war—can account for this paradox and explain important historical puzzles. The "Rubicon model of action phases," which was developed in experimental psychology, describes a significant shift in people's susceptibility to psychological biases before and after making a decision. Prior to making decisions, people tend to maintain a "deliberative" mind-set, weighing the costs, benefits, and risks of different options in a relatively impartial manner. By contrast, after making a decision, people tend to switch into an "implemental" mind-set that triggers a set of powerful psychological biases, including closed-mindedness, biased information processing, cognitive dissonance, self-serving evaluations, the illusion of control, and optimism. Together, these biases lead to significant overconfidence. The Rubicon theory of war applies this model to the realm of international conflict, where implemental mind-sets can narrow the range of bargaining options, promote overambitious war plans, and elevate the probability of war.

[http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/publication/21156/rubicon\\_theory\\_of\\_war.html?breadcrumb=%2Fproject%2F58%2Fquarterly\\_journal%3Fparent\\_id%3D46](http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/publication/21156/rubicon_theory_of_war.html?breadcrumb=%2Fproject%2F58%2Fquarterly_journal%3Fparent_id%3D46)

**The WikiLeaks Illusion** by Alasdair Roberts. Wilson Quarterly, Summer 2011.

WikiLeaks' tsunami of revelations from U.S. government sources last year did not change the world, but it did change WikiLeaks. Late last November, the antisecrecy group WikiLeaks achieved the greatest triumph in its short history. A consortium of major news media organizations—including The New York Times, The Guardian, Der Spiegel, Le Monde, and El País—began publishing excerpts from a quarter-million cables between the U.S. State Department and its diplomatic outposts that WikiLeaks had obtained. The group claimed that the cables constituted "the largest set of confidential documents ever to be released into the public domain." The Guardian predicted that the disclosures would trigger a "global diplomatic crisis."

<http://www.wilsonquarterly.com/article.cfm?AID=1964>

## International Relations

**The Challenge of Violent Drug-Trafficking Organizations** by Christopher Paul, Agnes Gereben Schaefer and Colin P. Clarke. Rand, October 2011.

Violent drug-trafficking organizations (VDTOs) in Mexico produce, transship, and deliver into the United States tens of billions of dollars worth of narcotics annually, but their activities are not limited to drug trafficking. VDTOs have also engaged in human trafficking, weapon trafficking, kidnapping, money laundering, extortion, bribery, racketeering, and assassinations.

<http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG1125.html>

**Fixing the Facts or Missing the Mark? Intelligence, Policy, and the War in Iraq** by Joshua Rovner. FPRI, October 2011.

The major national security controversies over the last decade have revolved around intelligence. Critics blamed the intelligence community for failing to alert policymakers before the September 11 attacks, but others argued that the White House ignored intelligence that warned of the looming danger. Critics of intelligence also blamed it for exaggerating Iraq's capabilities and terrorist links before the war, but others argued that White House pressure caused intelligence leaders to inflate the threat.

<http://www.fpri.org/enotes/2011/201110.rovner.iraq.html>

**Our Man in Kandahar** by Matthieu Aikins. The Atlantic, November 1, 2011.

Abdul Raziq and his men have received millions of dollars' worth of U.S. training and equipment to help in the fight against the Taliban. But is our ally--long alleged to be involved in corruption and drug smuggling--also guilty of mass murder?

<http://www.cfr.org/afghanistan/atlantic-our-man-kandahar/p26033>

**Repairing Relations** by Michael E. O'Hanlon. Brookings opinions, October 12, 2011.

After a year of calamitous turns in the relationship between Washington and Islamabad, many Americans are wondering how this troubled alliance can possibly be repaired.

[http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/1012\\_afghanistan\\_ohanlon.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/1012_afghanistan_ohanlon.aspx)

## NATIVE AMERICAN INDIANS LECTURE SERIES BEGINS



### St. Clair's Defeat

The first lecturer Juha Hiltunen, Adjunct Professor in Native American Studies at the University of Oulu, launched the series with an interesting presentation on St. Clair's Defeat. The battle between General Arthur St. Clair's men and the Miami and Shawnee took place near the present-day

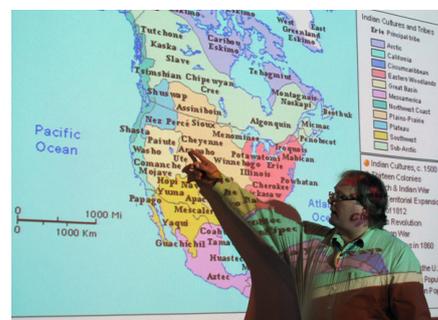
Fort Recovery, Ohio in November 1791. St. Clair's troops were completely unprepared when the Indians led by Little Turtle and Blue Jacket attacked the militia. St. Clair's Defeat was the greatest defeat that U.S. Army ever suffered at the hands of the Native American Nations; and the losses surpassed those in any battle during the American Revolution.



From left: Dr. Riku Hämäläinen, Counselor for Press and Cultural Affairs Marjut Robinson and Dr. Juha Hiltunen

The American Resource Center is organizing in cooperation with The Finnish Association for American Indian Cultures a lecture series on the history and culture of Native Americans.

The lecture series continues every Tuesday until the end of November. The lectures will be held in Finnish. Check out the program flyer for more information on the upcoming lectures at [http://photos.state.gov/libraries/finland/788/pdfs/native\\_am\\_lectures\\_flyer.pdf](http://photos.state.gov/libraries/finland/788/pdfs/native_am_lectures_flyer.pdf).



Anthropologist Simo Hankaniemi

### Comanche Expansion

The second lecture by Cultural anthropologist Simo Hankaniemi dealt with the expansion of the Comanche in the 18th century. The Comanche emerged as a distinct group shortly before 1700 and they lived in the upper Platte River in Wyoming. The Comanche were hunter-gatherers and their horses allowed them greater mobility in their search for better hunting grounds. The Comanche may have been the first group of Plains natives to fully incorporate the horse into their culture and to have introduced the animal to the other Plains peoples. The expansion of the Comanche took them to the southern Great Plains, and their huge territory extended from the Arkansas River to central Texas.

## The American Resource Center

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

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<http://twitter.com/ARCHelsinki>

