

ARTICLE ALERT



INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER, U.S. EMBASSY, JAKARTA

Volume 5, May 2010

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OBAMA'S FOREIGN POLICY

Guiding Principles



President Obama has committed himself and his Administration from the beginning of his presidency to a foreign policy that ensures the safety of the American people. But he also refuses the false division between our values and our security; the United States can be true to our values and

ideals while also protecting the American people. President Obama administration will use all elements of American power to achieve objectives, and consult closely with the Congress so that our policies may have the broad and bipartisan support that makes them most effective. Finally, while there are instances and individuals who can be met only by force, the United States will be prepared to listen to and talk with our adversaries in order to advance our interests, as follows:

- **Refocusing on the Threat from al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan**
- **Responsibly Ending the War in Iraq**
- **Keeping Nuclear Weapons Out of the Hands of Terrorists**
- **Promoting Peace and Security in Israel and the Middle East**
- **Re-energizing America's Alliances**
- **Maintaining Core American Values**
- **Sudan**
- **Restoring American Leadership in Latin America**
- **Ensuring Energy Security and Fighting Climate Change**

Online Resources to U.S. Foreign Policy

Whitehouse.gov

U.S. President official website
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>

State.gov

Department of State official website
<http://www.state.gov/>

Jakarta.usembassy.gov

The Official website of U.S. Mission in Jakarta, the Consulate General in Surabaya and the Consular Agent in Bali.
<http://jakarta.usembassy.gov/>

America.gov

This site delivers information about current U.S. foreign policy and about American life and culture.

<http://www.america.gov/>

US State Official Blog

DipNote is the official blog of the U.S. Department of State —a place to share stories, discuss experiences, and inspire new ideas on the important foreign policy issues of the day.

<http://blogs.state.gov/>

The Office of the Historian

It is responsible, under law, for the preparation and publication of the official historical documentary record of U.S. foreign policy in the Foreign Relations of the United States series.

<http://history.state.gov/>

Presidential Libraries

Promote understanding of the presidency and the American experience. Presidential Library preserve and provide access to historical materials, support research, and create interactive programs and exhibits that educate and inspire.

<http://www.archives.gov/presidential-libraries/>

US-Indonesia Foreign Relations

Basic information on US-Indonesia relations.
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2748.htm#foreign>

About the IRC

The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC) in Jakarta is a specialized Reference and Research Library. Its goal is to provide accurate, up-to-date information to the public about topics such as U.S. foreign policy, legislation, social issues, economics and trade. High speed Internet computers, printer and photo copier are provided at the IRC for library users.

Books, articles, and websites described in the Article Alert present a diversity of views in order to keep our IRC users abreast of current issues in the United States. These items represent the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official U.S. Government policy.

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IRC REFERENCE TIPS! GOVERNMENT PORTALS

Browse Topics

www.browsetopics.gov
(A GPO & OSU Library Partnership).
This service arranges U.S. Government sites by topic.

Federal Agency Directory

www.lib.lsu.edu/gov/
(Louisiana State University libraries). A service in partnership with the US Government Printing Office. Provides access to more than 1100 USG web sites.

FedWorld

www.fedworld.gov.
(A program of the US Dept of Commerce) Searchable database of government information sorted by federal databases, information networks, government reports, and virtual presence.

Google US Government Search

www.google.com/unclesam.
A very powerful and precise search engine that limits its searching to .gov and .mil websites.

GovSpot.com

govspot.com
A well-organized portal to useful federal and state government information.

GPO Access

www.gpoaccess.gov
The Government Printing Office has responsibility for the electronic availability of a wide variety of USG information.

USA.Gov

www.usa.gov.
The U.S. government's official web portal.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

1. Krugman, Paul **GREEN ECONOMICS** (New York Times Magazine, April 11, 2010, pp. 34//49)

Krugman notes that we can afford to tackle climate change, but any serious solution must rely mainly on giving everyone a self-interested reason to produce fewer emissions. This is not fair, he says, but climate altruism must take a back seat to getting such a system in place. Rather than focus on climate change itself, it is necessary instead to understand climate economics, or rather the economics of lessening climate change. Ronald Reagan liked to talk about the magic of the marketplace but today conservatives now think that the marketplace loses its magic as soon as market incentives are invoked in favor of issues such as energy conservation. Currently available online at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/11/magazine/11Economy-t.html>

2. Williams, Neville **SOLAR SOLUTIONS FOR THE DEVELOPING WORLD** (Solutions, No. 1, January-February 2010)

Williams' experience with solar energy dates back to 1979, when he joined the U.S. Department of Energy. In 1990 he started a successful nonprofit, Solar Electric Light Fund, which brought solar power to the developing world, beginning in Sri Lanka. He relates his experiences, which ultimately led to his launch of a business, Solar Electric Light Company (SELCO) in India with the help of Harish Hande. The solar technology that works so well in Asia and Africa has the same promise in the United States: "Solar energy is now the fastest growing business on earth," he writes. Available online at <http://www.thesolutionsjournal.com/node/548>

FOREIGN POLICY

3. Nau, Henry R. **OBAMA'S FOREIGN POLICY** (Policy Review. Washington: Apr/May 2010. , Iss. 160; pg. 27, 21 pgs)

Since Reagan, American presidents have been less successful at stopping the pendulum. According to national polls dating back to the 1950s, voters opposing the party that occupies the White House become more dissatisfied with American foreign policy than the president's own party. At what point will he refresh America's commitment to freedom as the foundation of security, an effective diplomacy backed by military leverage, a world market that accepts risks to achieve higher growth, and a style of leadership that is not subordinate to the slowest camel in the caravan? Available online at <http://www.hoover.org/publications/policyreview/89074287.html>

4. Kapstein, Ethan B. **BABIES ON BOARD : STRENGTHENING THE INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION REGIME** (Foreign Affairs. New York: May 2010)

The recent instances of international adoptions gone awry -- the suspected abduction of Haitian children after the January earthquake, followed by the case of a Russian boy sent home by his adoptive mother in Tennessee -- have once again focused the public's attention on the lopsided relationship between adults in the West and children in the developing world (and in emerging markets). In both of the above examples, questions of adult morality -- and, indeed, sanity -- became mixed up with the dictates, obligations, and vagaries of international law, with children caught in the confusion. Available online at <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/59373/ethan-b-kapstein/the-baby-trade>

DO YOU KNOW? INDONESIAN STUDENTS' WINNING WEB SITE

Indonesian students in Sumatra won the 2009 Doors to Diplomacy contest with their Web site on preserving the arts and culture of the Minangkabau people. Read more at <http://minangteamdoortodiplomacy.webnode.com>

GLOBAL ISSUES

5. Gibbs, Nancy. **THE PILL AT 50: SEX, FREEDOM AND PARADOX** (Time. New York: May 3, 2010. Vol. 175, Iss. 17; pg. 1)

Gibbs talks about why Americans are still fighting about the Pill, an oral contraceptive, 50 years after it was approved by FDA in May 1960. The invention of the pill is traced and the opposition to it of social and religious groups are discussed. The social and political impact of the pill are also explored. Available online at <http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1983712,00.html>

6. Morozov, Evgeny. **THINK AGAIN: THE INTERNET** (Foreign Policy. Washington: May/ Jun 2010. , Iss. 179; pg. 40, 6 pgs)

The Internet has now been around for two decades, and it has certainly been transformative. The amount of goods and services available online is staggering. Communicating across borders is simpler than ever. But just as earlier generations were disappointed to see that neither the telegraph nor the radio delivered on the world-changing promises made by their most ardent cheerleaders, people haven't seen an

Internet-powered rise in global peace, love, and liberty. And they're not likely to. Many of the transnational networks fostered by the Internet arguably worsen -- rather than improve -- the world as they know it. Sadly enough, a networked world is not inherently a more just world. Available online at http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/04/26/think_again_the_internet?page=full

7. Simon, Joel. **REPRESSION GOES DIGITAL** (Columbia Journalism Review. New York: Mar/ Apr 2010. Vol. 48, Iss. 6; pg. 12)

The simplest way to stop the dissemination of information or ideas is to limit access to the Internet or cellular networks. This is a strategy employed in some of the world's most repressive countries, such as Burma and Cuba. By making it difficult for average citizens to get online, these governments inhibit the rise of mass citizen journalism, and make it easy to target the individuals who defy the government. Here, Simon discusses how the Internet becomes a chokepoint for repressive regimes. Available online at http://www.cjr.org/feature/repression_goes_digital.php?page=full

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

8. McGann, Laura. **FAREWELL, FACEBOOK : WHY ONE SUPER-CONNECTED INTERNET ENTHUSIAST DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO PULL THE PLUG** (The American Prospect May 11, 2010 | web only)

Facebook No More. One former fanatic of the U.S.-based friend finder decided it's not fun anymore. The chorus of pro-privacy, anti-Facebook bloggers is getting louder. Facebook wants to keep track of everything you "like" -- all over the Web and even in the real world. McDonald's has signed on as Facebook's first geolocation partner. Whatever that means. Available online at http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?article=farewell_facebook

9. Blowers, Helene. **FROM REALITIES TO VALUES** (Computers in Libraries. Westport: May 2010. Vol. 30, Iss. 4; pg. 6, 5 pgs)

For most Digital Natives, there is no definitive divide between their physical identity and their digital footprint; they coexist as a singular entity. [...] a 2007 study concluded that the world produced 161 exabytes (161 billion gigabytes) of digital information in just the previous year alone - more than 3 million times the amount of information contained in all the books ever written. Available online <http://www.infotoday.com/cilmag/may10/Blowers.shtml>

US GOVERNMENT SOCIAL NETWORKS

FACEBOOK

- E.JOURNAL USA
- CO.NX (WEBCHAT)
- JAKARTA.USEMBASSY
- CONJEN SURABAYA

TWITTERS

- americagov
- americagovalert
- americagovprint
- Co.Nx (webchat)
- usembassyjkt

YOUTUBE PAGES

- Democracy Video Challenge
- America.gov
- Pasjakartaindonesia

MOBILE GAMES

- X-Life

FLICKER PAGES

- America.gov

Find more at:

<http://www.america.gov/communities/social-networks.html>



LIVING BOOK

Help us write this book. We'll post the first chapters here at regular intervals and we ask readers to suggest future chapters we will include in the Living Book. Details please visit <http://www.america.gov/y>

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ASIAN PACIFIC HERITAGE MONTH



Asian Pacific American Heritage Month a Celebration of Diversity: Contributions of Asian Americans to U.S. culture are honored in May

President Obama praised the contributions of Asian Americans to every facet of life in the United States — business, academia, sports, the arts, science and technology -- in a May 1, 2009.

Read more at: <http://www.america.gov/st/peopleplace-english/2009/May/20080502093710xlrennef0.8770563.html>