

# ARTICLE ALERT



INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER, U.S. EMBASSY, JAKARTA

Volume 10, October 2009

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## The World Digital Library (WDL)

*The World Digital Library offers free online access to cultural materials from libraries and archives worldwide. One goal is to narrow the digital divide between countries.*



*This illuminated page in Javanese script is from a chronicle of a Javanese court in Yogyakarta. The document is from the collections of the KITLV/Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies in Leiden.*

The World Digital Library (WDL), launched April 21, offers free online access to rare and important cultural materials from libraries and archives around the world. It is a project of the U.S. Library of Congress, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and more than 30 partner institutions. Every country in the world is invited to participate. By increasing the diversity of cultural materials on the Internet, the WDL aims to become a unique educational resource that will help improve international understanding and reduce the digital divide between countries. New content is being added regularly.

The vast multilingual collection of manuscripts, maps, rare books, sound recordings, films, prints, photographs and other cultural and historical materials can be viewed with the click of a computer mouse — and this is only the beginning of an ambitious project to share the contents of the world's libraries and cultural institutions.

The WDL's Web site functions in seven major languages, permitting users to conduct searches and read descriptions of the content in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish (the official languages of the United Nations) and Portuguese. All materials are presented in their original languages. For selected items, there are videos featuring discussions by expert curators.

For more information please visit:

America.gov  
[http://www.america.gov/digital\\_library.html](http://www.america.gov/digital_library.html)

World Digital Library website  
<http://www.wdl.org/en/>

### About the IRC

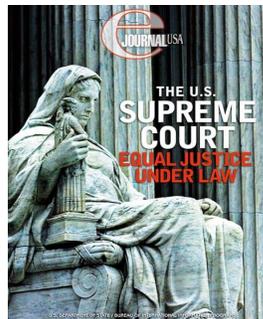
The U.S. Embassy's Information Resource Center (IRC) in Jakarta is a specialized Reference and Research Library. Its goal is to provide accurate, up-to-date information to the public about topics such as U.S. foreign policy, legislation, social issues, economics and trade. High speed Internet computers,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

## The U.S. Supreme Court: Equal Justice Under Law

As an institution, the Supreme Court commands respect, legitimacy, and prestige both in the United States and abroad. The October 2009 edition of eJournal USA describes many aspects of the U.S. Supreme Court. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Solicitor General Elena Kagan present their introductions and contributions by legal scholars and journalists focus on the elements of judicial decision making and independence of the justices. Four Court officials and a former Supreme Court law clerk also describe their jobs.

This eJournal USA is available online at:  
<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/1009.html>

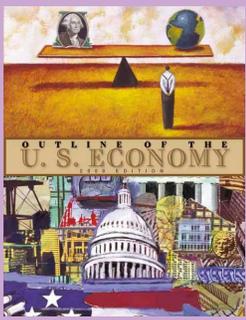


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## ARTICLE ALERT

### Outline of the U.S. Economy



A completely revised online and print publication, *Outline of the U.S. Economy*, in PDF and HTML versions, tells the story of U.S. farms, factories, and service providers, including the culture and legal framework in which they operate.

Chapter 1: The Challenges of This Century

Chapter 2: The Evolution of the U.S. Economy

Chapter 3: What the U.S. Economy Produces

Chapter 4: Competition and the American Culture

Chapter 5: Geography and Infrastructure

Chapter 6: Government and the Economy

Chapter 7: A U.S. Economy Linked to the World

Chapter 8: A New Chapter in America's Economic Story

Link:  
<http://www.america.gov/publications/books/outline-of-the-us-economy.html>

## DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

1. Greenwald, Bruce; Knee, Jonathan; Seave, Ava **THE MOGULS' NEW CLOTHES** (Atlantic, October 2009)

Even before the Internet upended their industry, big media companies were turning in poor performances and disappointing their shareholders. The four tenets of media industry wisdom — growth, globalization, content and convergence -- are myths, these authors insist. Growth has actually resulted in lower stock performance, and globalization doesn't necessarily lead to higher profits. Creating superior content makes more money for the artists than for the media companies hosting their work. And finally, increased competition from multiple media sources and the Internet undercut the advantage traditional big media companies had of economies of scale and captive customers. The only real avenue to salvation that the traditional media industry has open is unglamorous: improving the efficiency of their operations. Currently available online at <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200910/moguls>

2. Rieder, Rem **DAYDREAM BELIEVERS** (American Journalism Review, August/September 2009)

"America has become a country filled with people who stubbornly continue to believe what they want to believe, regardless of the facts," says Rieder, using as examples the persistence of people who refuse to believe Obama was born in the United States and those who believe that there are in fact provisions for "death panels" in health-care reform proposals. This situation makes it all the more critical for journalists to go beyond the "he-said, she-said" reporting of the past and not hesitate to reach firmly expressed conclusions -- with fairness, of course. Mainstream journalism has long been uncomfortable about making and expressing conclusions, but according to Rieder, "as long as that conclusion is based on carefully reported evidence, not ideology, there's no good reason not to do it." Currently available online at <http://ajr.org/Article.asp?id=4817>

## ECONOMIC SECURITY

3. Zingales, Luigi **CAPITALISM AFTER THE CRISIS** (National Affairs, No. 1, Fall 2009, pp. 22-35)

Zingales writes that the nature of the financial crisis, and the government's response to it, threatens to undermine America's unique brand of capitalism, and move the country in the direction of state corporatism. Unlike much of the rest of the West, democracy in America predates industrialization, so by the latter half of the nineteenth century, the American public had high expectations for fairness in economic policy; the concept of anti-trust law is a prime example. He notes that the pro-market aspects of American capitalism have been eclipsed by the pro-business forces, those that promote the interests of existing businesses. The financial sector's increasing concentration and political muscle, and the government bailouts for the major financial firms, threatens to start a vicious cycle.

4. Zwanecki, Andrzej **UNITED STATES LOOKS FOR SOURCES TO DRIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH** (America.gov, September 15, 2009)

In a cartoon featured on CartoonStock.com, a man standing in front of the "Missing Persons" service window asks: "What happened to consumer confidence?" The background is this: The Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index hovers around historic lows. The American consumer, whose spending has fueled economic growth in the United States and around the world for years, is, in fact, mostly missing in action. Currently available online at <http://www.america.gov/st/business-english/2009/September/20090901143555saikceinawz0.1191217.html>

## INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

5. Gedmin, Jeffrey **BOOM BOX USA: SURROGATE BROADCASTING AS A TOOL OF U.S. SOFT POWER** (Foreign Affairs, vol. 88, no. 5, September-October 2009)

According to Gedmin, president of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, U.S. government-sponsored surrogate broadcasting of accurate

and reliable news remains the most effective and cost-efficient way to promote democracy and advance U.S. security interests in countries lacking independent media. Currently available online at <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/65426/jeffrey-gedmin/boom-box-usa>

## SOCIETY & VALUES

6. Theroux, Paul **THE LONG WAY HOME** (Smithsonian, Vol. 40, No. 6, September 2009, pp. 70-77)

Paul Theroux is one of the masters of travel writing, but he opens this article for Smithsonian admitting that he has never seen a great deal of his own country. He begins his cross-country road trip in Los Angeles, heading to his home in Cape Cod, Massachusetts with the plan that the journey is the destination. Along the way, he makes many of the iconic stops of the American road trip -- the Las Vegas strip, the Red Rocks of Arizona, the memorial to victims of the Oklahoma City terrorist attack, and the blues bars on Memphis' Beale Street. Currently available online under the title "Taking the Great American Roadtrip" at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/The-Long-Way-Home-USA.html>

7. Heinberg, Richard **OUR EVANESCENT CULTURE AND THE AWESOME DUTY OF LIBRARIANS** (Energy Bulletin, October 7, 2009)

How secure is our civilization's accumulated knowledge? Educator and author Heinberg notes that earlier civilizations over the millennia have disappeared, having given insufficient thought to how their societies' achievements would be preserved. Although the sheer volume of modern cultural materials is unprecedented, in many ways our modern heritage is uniquely vulnerable, and large swaths of it are at risk of being swept away at astonishing speed. The problem, notes Heinberg, is digitization -- not just that storage formats become obsolete, but

that the entire cultural enterprise depends on electricity: "digitization represents a huge bet on society's ability to keep the lights on forever." The real threats to modern information are systemic vulnerabilities, such as aging infrastructure and declining supplies of fossil fuels to power the electric grid. He says that the message is clear: don't let books die, and promote skills-based education to keep the practical and performing arts alive. Available online at <http://www.energybulletin.net/node/50315>

8. Masterson, Kathryn **ISLAMIC SCHOLARS PLAN FOR AMERICA'S FIRST MUSLIM COLLEGE** (Chronicle of Higher Education, Vol. 56, No. 5, September 25, 2009, pp. A1, A17-A20)

In fall 2010, Zaytuna College hopes to open in Berkeley, California as the first accredited Muslim college in the U.S. For the first time, Muslim college students will have the option of studying Islam in the U.S. from a mainstream Muslim tradition rather than from a secular perspective. The institute, founded in 1996 to promote understanding between different faiths and cultures, started a pilot seminary program in 2004 that graduated five students last year. Zaytuna's founders, Sheik Hamza Yusuf and Imam Zaid Shakir, see an urgent need to educate new leaders for the estimated 2,200 mosques and 500 Islamic elementary and secondary schools in the U.S. They also plan to operate their college at a level comparable to the best religious seminaries and general institutions of higher education, and will seek accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

## October 2009 National Information Literacy Awareness Month

The American Library Association (ALA) joins President Obama in highlighting the importance of ensuring all Americans have the skills necessary to effectively navigate the Information Age.

The president issued a statement proclaiming October 2009 as National Information Literacy Awareness Month and calling "upon the people of the United States to recognize the important role information plays in our daily lives, and appreciate the need for a greater understanding of its impact."

The president's statement also makes the key point that "though we may know how to find the information we need, we must also know how to evaluate it."

"In libraries across the country, librarians are helping the public achieve this goal," ALA President Camila Alire said. "During this month of awareness, ALA encourages more Americans to visit their local libraries to take full advantage of the services they provide to help the public develop strong information literacy skills."

Link: <http://www.ala.org/>

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- 1. ( ) THE MOGULS' NEW CLOTHES
- 2. ( ) DAYDREAM BELIEVERS
- 3. ( ) CAPITALISM AFTER THE CRISIS
- 4. ( ) ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR A WORLD IN CRISIS
- 5. ( ) BOOM BOX USA
- 6. ( ) AMERICA FALLING
- 7. ( ) OUR EVANESCENT CULTURE AND THE AWESOME DUTY OF LIBRARIANS
- 8. ( ) ISLAMIC SCHOLARS PLAN FOR AMERICA'S FIRST MUSLIM COLLEGE

### Special Offers:

- ( ) New edition of Outline of the U.S. Economy (see page 2)
- ( ) The U.S. Supreme Court: Equal Justice Under Law (see page 1)

## Diversity Visa Lottery for 2011



Registration for the 2011 Diversity Visa Lottery (DV-2011) is open from October 2 to November 30, 2009, the U.S. State Department has announced.

Each year, the U.S. government makes 50,000 permanent residence visas ("green cards") available through the

Diversity Immigrant Visa program. Visa applicants are selected through a computer-generated, random lottery. The selection of a person's name in the lottery gives that person the opportunity to take the next steps in the visa application process.

More details on Diversity Visa Lottery, please visit: <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov/>