

Article Alert

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TRANSITION: Forming the Next Government

President-elect Barack Obama will not take office until January 20, 2009, but his work already has begun.

Obama already announced the following nominees for department heads and other high level officials. They are:

Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State

Eric Holder
Attorney General

Bill Richardson
Secretary of Commerce

Arne Duncan
Secretary of Education

Timothy F. Geithner
Secretary of the Treasury

Shaun Donovan
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Rahm Emanuel
White House Chief of Staff

Timothy F. Geithner
Secretary of Treasury

Ken Salazar
Secretary of Interior

Eric Shinseki
Secretary of Veterans Affairs,

Lisa Jackson
Administrator of Environmental Protection

Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense

Tom Vilsack
Secretary of Agriculture

Tom Daschle
Secretary of Health and Human Services

Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy

Hilda Solis
Secretary of Labor

Ron Kirk
U.S. Trade Representative

Janet Napolitano
Secretary of Homeland Security

Peter R. Orszag
Office of Management and Budget Director

Admiral Mike Mullen
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

James Jones
National Security Advisor

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WEBLIOGRAPHY: Presidential Transition and 2009 Inauguration

Office of Presidential Elect
<http://change.gov/>

The White House
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/transition/>

State Department
<http://uspolitics.america.gov/uspolitics/elections/index.html>

The Foreign Press Center
<http://www.fpc.state.gov/>

Transition Laws
<http://directory.presidential-transition.gov/PTT-PresTransInaug-TransitionLaws.cfm>

CRS Report for Congress
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL30736.pdf>

2009 Congressional and Presidential Transition
http://www.gao.gov/transition_2009/

2009 Inauguration Ceremony
<http://www.senate.gov/galleries/>

Presidential Inauguration Committee
<http://www.pic2009.org/>

Road to the White House
<http://www.america.gov/st/elections08-english/2008/November/20081117155550hmnietsua0.4461634.html>

PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION

1. **ACHIEVING REAL IMPROVEMENT IN FEDERAL POLICY AND PROGRAM OUTCOMES: THE NEXT FRONTIER.** National Academy of Public Administration and the George Washington University. Kathryn Newcomer and F. Stevens Redburn. October 2008.

A new Administration eager to successfully implement its policy goals has the challenge of quickly identifying what is worth retaining and what is not of the performance management procedures established by the previous Administration. A new Administration also has an opportunity to redeploy the assets it inherits and draw lessons from recent experience about what will be most effective in achieving Presidential priorities. The guidance is based on review of the experience of the last decade with efforts to bring per-

information to bear in improving how programs are managed, and in improving decisions on policy design and use of resources.

2. **HOW OBAMA SHOULD CONFRONT CLIMATE CHANGE.** Brookings Institution. William J. Antholis and Bryan K. Mignone. December 2, 2008.

The days of the global warming deniers are long gone. The new era will be defined by how well Obama navigates, and ultimately defuses, a complex congressional minefield. Because the best policy is a lasting policy, climate enthusiasts would do well to look toward the political center.

3. **A NEW ERA IN EDUCATION: REDEFINING THE FEDERAL ROLE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY.** Office of Advocacy and Issues Management, National School Boards Association. Nov. 2008.

The National School Boards Association (NSBA) released its vision for "A New Era in Education" to President-elect Barack Obama's education advisors. The plan details steps for redefining the federal role in education and offers suggestions for how the new Administration can make education an urgent national priority. It recommends an immediate reevaluation of the federal role to better reflect the need to partner with and support states and local school districts in their efforts to prepare all students to succeed in the 21st century economy. It means more than just funding programs directed to students with the greatest needs, but also providing reliable research and best practices linked to improving student achievement.

4. **A TIME FOR DIPLOMATIC RENAISSANCE: TOWARD A NEW U.S. STRATEGY IN THE MIDDLE EAST.** Brookings Institution. December 2008.

Some of the suggested initiatives will take considerable time to ripen and bear fruit, like rebuilding Palestinian capabilities, promoting political development in Arab countries, increasing energy security; whereas it may be possible or necessary to realize others relatively early on, like assembling a new diplomatic offer to Iran backed by the threat of harsher sanctions, drawing down troops in Iraq, promoting Israeli-Syrian peace.

Transition-The Economy



President-elect Obama is seeking cooperation with Congressional and state officials to help manage the U.S. economy (<http://uspolitics.america.gov/uspolitics/elections/index.html>)

DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

5. Barnes, James A. **OBAMA'S FIRST YEAR** (National Journal, December 13, 2008)

National Journal surveyed 129 members of Congress and 232 political insiders (party chairmen, political strategists, pollsters, lobbyists, fundraisers and media consultants) to get some insight on what they expect the first year of the Obama administration to be like. Overall, the findings "suggest that 2009 will be a year of opportunity for Obama, provided that he and his Democratic allies remain focused on the overarching task of righting the economy," the author writes. While Obama campaigned on a theme of change, most insiders do not expect there to be a major transformative change in Washington.

Some of those surveyed note that the economic crisis could provide an opportunity for the next president. "A crisis gives you the opportunity ... to energize [the public]," said Ken Duberstein, President Reagan's chief of staff. The author suggests that Obama may have more opportunity for success with his policy proposals by linking them to economic goals. Available online at http://www.nationaljournal.com/njmagazine/cs_20081213_2134.php

6. Sanchez, Yoani **LOST IN CYBERSPACE: IS THERE A WAY OUT?** (Global Journalist, vol. 14, no. 2, Summer 2008, pp. 3-4)

Sanchez, a 'Generation Y' Cuban journalist who blogs from Ha-

na, says despite that the limited availability of Internet access in the country, the Web is helping to spur an end to years of public silence about Cuba's problems and unfulfilled promises. She relates how her posts are "marked by some emotional outbursts that serious newspapers would never publish," and how change, rather than coming from the top, is being "loosened" from the inside. She concludes that the homogeneity and slogging of the official press and the Cuban state's monopoly on information is currently being lost "once and for all." Currently available online at http://www.globaljournalist.org/content/emprint/2008_summer.pdf

7. Stickney, Dane **CHARTICLE FEVER** (American Journalism Review, vol. 30, no. 5, October-November 2008, pp. 36-39)

A fast-growing trend in newspapers is the article -- a bite-size combination of words, images and graphics. Some newsrooms call them blurbs. No matter what the name, these easy-to-digest forms for relaying information are becoming all the rage among newspapers eager to attract young readers away from the Internet and appeal to busy readers short on time. Detractors say charticles contain too much personal opinion and lack detail. Currently available online at <http://www.ajr.org/Article.asp?id=4608>

ECONOMIC SECURITY

8. Rowe, Jonathan FALSE READINGS: HOW THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT LEADS US ASTRAY (Columbia Journalism Review, vol. 47, no. 4, November/December 2008, pp. 22-24)

The Gross Domestic Product, or GDP, was devised as a planning tool by economist Simon Kuznets at the U. S. Commerce Department in 1933 to help navigate the Depression. Since that time it has been extensively used – erroneously, according to the author – as a barometer of how the economy is doing. Looking at GDP alone without examining the side effects of “growth” gives an inaccurate picture, Rowe maintains. Some effects, assumed harmless, may not be when consumption is the result of diseases caused by industrial pollution, a byproduct of growth. Kuznets, who ultimately won a Nobel Prize, came

to see “fixation on the GDP as fundamentally misguided.” The author offers Kuznets’ view that knowing exactly what is growing and the effects of that growth is as important as knowing the rate of economic growth.

9. Ferguson, Niall WALL STREET LAYS ANOTHER EGG (Vanity Fair, December 2008)

Ferguson, notes that the worldwide financial crisis is about more than the stock market; it is “a fundamental breakdown of the entire financial system, extending from the monetary-and-banking system through the bond market, the stock market, the insurance market, and the real-estate market. It is global in scope and unfathomable in scale.” Credit and money have been growing faster than underlying economic activity for several decades, to the point where, two years ago, the total value of

domestic and international bonds was forty percent higher than the economic output of the entire world. Says Ferguson, “Planet Finance was beginning to dwarf Planet Earth; Planet Finance seemed to spin faster, too.” He notes that the “hunt for scapegoats is futile. We have all played a part ... we shall now have to question some of our most deeply rooted assumptions” about the nature of the modern economic system. Available online at <http://www.vanityfair.com/politics/features/2008/12/banks200812>

10. Mihm, Stephen SO, YOU WANT TO SAVE THE ECONOMY? INSIDE THE INFLUENTIAL NEW WORLD OF ECONOBLOGGERS (Boston Globe, December 7, 2008)

The author notes that a disparate range of experts in eco-

As the financial disaster unfolded on Wall Street, Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson pressed economic and finance, including some well-known individuals, starting picking apart Paulson’s plan live, on the Internet, in public blogs. Many bloggers provided historical context and offered counterproposals; their readers began badgering their Congressional representatives to oppose the plan. Many journalists used the blogs to fill in gaps in their knowledge of esoteric aspects of mortgage finance. Currently available online at http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2008/12/07/so_you_want_to_save_the_economy/?page=1

U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

11. Gurwitt, Rob EDS, MEDS AND URBAN REVIVAL (Governing, May 2008)

In many American cities, a university or medical system is the largest private employer, and in four of them – Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, San Diego and Baltimore – universities and medical systems generate more than half the jobs among the 10 largest employers. Taking Birmingham, Alabama, as an example, Gurwitt looks at how local political and civic leaders are beginning to think strategically about how “eds and meds” can be used to further economic and community development. Available online at <http://www.governing.com/articles/0805universities.htm>

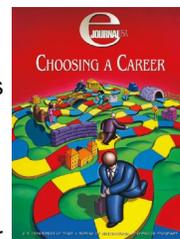
12. Tucker, Patrick THE 21ST-CENTURY WRITER (Futurist, vol. 42, no. 4, July/August 2008, pp. 25-31)

Tucker, senior editor of The Futurist, notes that for both writers and readers, these are times of upheaval. The information technology revolution has led to an explosion in written content. For book publishers, the mission is to reinvent the concept of the book for the digital age. For many writers, particularly nonfiction writers, it means joining the online world of blogs, vlogs, and RSS feeds where the pace of news is accelerated. Some bloggers report that the money from ad clicks related to their blog content is barely enough to cover the cost of blogging. Book pub-

lishers are finding it harder to back first-time or less popular authors. Across the United States, newspapers and magazines are focusing their resources more and more on their Web sites. In the process, they’re giving voice to an entirely new breed of digital journalist even as they show the door to news department veterans. Many writers are justifiably alarmed by the shift, but writers who are willing to view themselves as storytellers first and foremost, who are eager to incorporate new technology into the writing process, have a bright future. Currently available online at <http://www.wfs.org/May-June%20files/Futwrite1.htm>

E-Journal: Choosing a Career

This edition of eJournal USA rambles down the many varied paths that Americans take on their way to find their life's work. Professionals in various fields explain how they got there, and some wrong turns they made along the way. Experts describe how young people can weigh and explore the options before them. This e-journal is available online at: <http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/120>



U.S. Embassy Jakarta
Public Affairs Section
Jl. Medan Merdeka Selatan 4-5
Jakarta 10110

Phone: (021) 350-8467
Fax: (021) 350-8466
E-mail: ircjakarta@state.gov

Mail label here

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Special Offer:

- () CHOOSING A CAREER (page 3)

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR 2009**

