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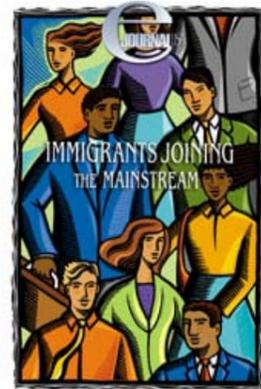
The books, articles, and web sites described in the Article Alert present a diversity of views in order to keep our IRC users abreast of current issues and concerns in the United States. These items represent the views and opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect official U.S. Government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

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NEW E-JOURNAL FEBRUARY 2008

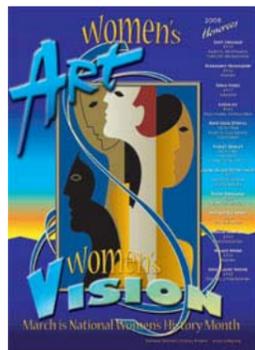
Immigrants Joining the Mainstream

Immigrants made the United States what it is. Being an American depends on acceptance of certain American ideals, not on the place of birth of a person or of his or her ancestors. This edition of eJournal USA tells the story of immigration and diversity as it has played out through the centuries and continues to play out now.



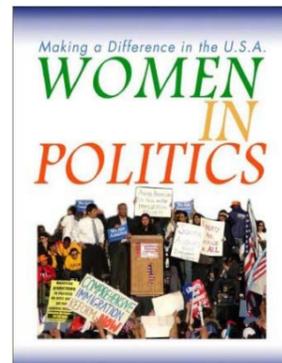
Full text of the e-journal is available free at:
<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0208/ijse/ijse0208.htm>

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



The United States Celebrates Women's Achievements in March

In 1981, the U.S. Congress passed a resolution establishing National Women's History Week. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month, and has since passed such a resolution every year. Congressional action is followed by a U.S. presidential proclamation declaring March as Women's History Month.



Women in the United States not only vote in huge numbers, but volunteer to help run elections. Above, precinct chair Judy Wittkop explains the rules during a caucus in Le Mars, Iowa, January 3, 2008.

For more information on Women in Politics is available free at:
<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/womenpolitics/>

Information Resource Center

Article Alert

No. 3, March 2008

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Copies of articles listed in *IRC's Article Alert* are available from the Information Resource Center, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy Jakarta. Should you wish to receive a photocopy of an article, please complete the ARTICLE ALERT REQUEST FORM (page 3) and return it to us. We will mail or fax the requested articles directly to you, at no cost.

EARTH DAY 2008

Earth Day, April 22, is the annual celebration of the environment and a time to assess the work still needed to protect the natural gifts of our planet. Earth Day has no central organizing force behind it though several nongovernmental organizations work to keep track of the thousands of local events in schools and parks that mark the day. Earth Day is observed around the world, although nowhere is it a national holiday. In the United States, it affirms that environmental awareness is part of the country's consciousness and that the idea of protecting the environment - once the province of a few conservationists - has moved from the extreme to the mainstream of American thought.

Portal for U.S. Government
Earth Day Web sites
<http://www.earthday.gov/>

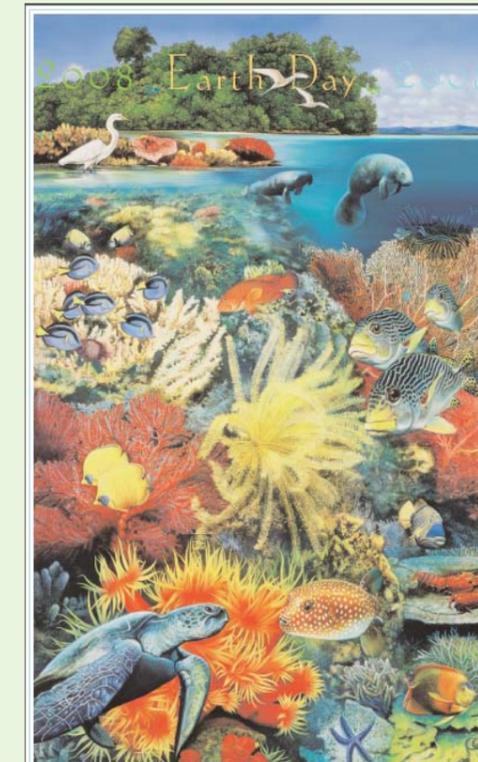
Army
<http://aec.army.mil/usaec/publicaffairs/earthday00.html>

Environmental Protection
Agency
<http://www.epa.gov/earthday>

Department of Energy's Federal
Energy Management Program
<http://www1.eere.energy.gov/femp/services/earthday.html>

White House Policies In Focus:
Environment
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/environment/>

White House Council on Envi-
ronmental Quality Earth Day
Photo Essay
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/photoessays/earthday/index.html>



Information from other federal agencies about the environment is available from USA.gov, the official U.S. government portal:
http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Environment_Agriculture.shtml

Clear Skies
<http://www.epa.gov/clearskies>

Healthy Forests
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/healthyforests/>

Hydrogen Fuel Cells & Vehicles
<http://www.eere.energy.gov/hydrogenandfuelcells>

Information from the White House
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/environment>

Preserve America
www.preserveamerica.gov/

ENVIRONMENT | Protecting our natural resources

Individuals, communities and governments all have a stake in cutting greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming. America.gov looks at renewable energy sources. For more information please visit:
<http://science.america.gov/science/environ/index.html>

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DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

1. Chopra, Dharam CONTRIBUTIONS OF STATISTICS TO MODERN PROGRESS (Choice, vol. 45, no. 7, March 2008, pp. 1097-1107)

This bibliographical essay provides a snapshot of the history, importance, and applications of statistics which is undergoing constant changes, providing very important tools for gaining knowledge using inductive logic and computer technology. The mathematical science of statistics deals with the collection, analysis, interpretation or explanation, and presentation of data, and is applicable to a wide variety of academic disciplines, from the natural and social sciences to the humanities, and to government and business. Statistical methods can be used to summarize or describe a collection of data (descriptive statistics) or they may be modeled in a way that accounts for randomness and uncertainty in the observations, and then used to draw inferences about the process or population being studied (inferential statistics).

2. Stern, Todd; Antholis, William A CHANGING CLIMATE: THE ROAD AHEAD FOR THE UNITED STATES (Washington Quarterly, vol. 31, no. 1, Winter 2007-2008, pp. 175-187)

The next U.S. president must adopt an aggressive policy to address global climate change, according to these authors who are with the Center for American Progress and the Brookings Institution respectively. They recommend that the president engage in a "layered diplomacy," with a focus on a core group of nations responsible for a majority of world emissions. The next American chief executive should also step up the nation's engagement with the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change and China, soon to surpass the United States as the world's greatest emitting nation. The G-8 group is the model for one multilateral forum suggested by the authors to focus on global warming. They recommend the creation of an E-8 to address critical ecological dangers involving executive level representation from Brazil, China, the European Union, India, Japan, Russia, South Africa, and the United States. The authors' most emphatic point is that the threats of global warming are too imperative to ignore: "These daunting risks should impel us to take aggressive action to insure the world against grave harm", they write.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

3. Daschle, Tom CHANGING THE POLITICAL CLIMATE ON CLIMATE CHANGE (Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, vol. IX, no. 1, Winter/Spring 2008, pp. 93-101)

The former Democratic senator from South Dakota, now with the Center for American Progress, believes that the United States must act with urgency to lead the international response to the threat of climate change. However, Daschle argues that the single biggest obstacle to implementing a comprehensive climate change policy is the lack of political will in Washington, especially among the administration officials responsible for implementing it who seem to have ceded leadership to the European Union, isolating the U.S. in the process. The next U.S. president, along with facing other important global and domestic challenges such

as reforming the health care system and stopping Iran's nuclear program, faces the emerging consequences of climate change and the looming deadline of the 2012 expiration of phase I of the Kyoto Protocol. By leading the international response to the threat of climate change, the U.S. will be more environmentally and economically secure but also better positioned to lead the world on other pressing challenges.

4. FORUM: CHARTING THE FUTURE OF FOOD (Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, vol. 9, no. 1, Winter/Spring 2008, pp. 3-6)

New technologies are forcing rapid globalization of markets, and the agriculture industry has no choice but to adapt. There is, however, a stark disparity between developed and developing nations; a biotech and GMO revolution is occurring in developed nations, while developing nations are struggling to overcome unfavorable intellectual property laws and trade barriers. Biofuel production is consuming more agricultural resources, raising food prices and reducing exports. Though policy experts participating in the current round of trade negotiations in Doha are attempting to address the challenges facing farmers, the outcome is unclear.

5. Salter, Chuck, et al. FAST 50: THE WORLD'S MOST INNOVATIVE COMPANIES (Fast Company, no. 123, March 2008, pp. 73-117)

Writers from the magazine Fast Company identify 50 companies that are moving forward in innovative ways. Some companies are included on the list for their new patents granted this year, others for innovative management techniques, or new products brought to market. Tata made the list for trying to bring a \$2500 car to India and GE for re-engineering the CF34 jet engine. Communications and computer firms are represented as well as niche retailers. Google is first on the list and the authors describe what makes Google an innovative company through profiles of Google managers.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

6. Muller, Jerry Z. US AND THEM: THE ENDURING POWER OF ETHNIC NATIONALISM (Foreign Affairs, Vol. 87, No. 2, March-April 2008)

According to Muller, professor of history at the Catholic University of America, persistent ethnic nationalism does not happen by chance; rather, it is inevitable in the continued development of nation-states. Ethnic separation into different states has economic and cultural costs, besides bloodshed that has cost million of lives since the 19th century. Yet the expanding harmony of Europe since World War II represents not failure of ethnic nationalism but its success, having removed sources of conflict both within and between countries. "The fact that ethnic and state boundaries now largely coincide has meant that there are fewer disputes over borders or expatriate communities," Muller says, "leading to the most stable territorial configuration in European history." In existing multiethnic countries where ethnic violence erupts, partition into separate nation-states may be the most humane lasting solution.

7. Krueger, Alan WHAT MAKES A TERRORIST (The American, November/December 2007)

Public policymakers have been grappling for decades trying to understand what it takes to make a terrorist so that effective anti-terrorism and counterterrorism measures can be developed and implemented. One of the most popular explanations is that terrorism is caused by economic deprivation and a lack of education, which creates the growth media for extremism that leads to terrorism. Princeton economics professor Alan Krueger has recently completed research that indicates that neither economic deprivation nor a lack of education are serious contributing factors. Krueger's research indicates that consistent with the work on international terrorist incidents, countries with fewer civil liberties and political rights were more likely to be the birthplaces of foreign terrorists. Geographic distance is also a factor. Most terrorists come from nearby nations, he says. Krueger says that the evidence suggests that terrorists care about influencing political outcomes, and are often motivated by geopolitical grievances.

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

8. Draut, Tamara et al. MOBILIZING MILLENNIALS (American Prospect, Special Report, vol. 19, no. 3, March 2008, pp. A1-A23)

Today's young adults are the first generation whose living standards may decline from their parents'. There is abundant evidence of declining economic opportunity and growing insecurity, with widespread debt and the shrinking number of jobs paying decent wages for most without advanced degrees. Most political campaign rhetoric has been aimed at middle-aged and retired voters, while the concerns of the young are largely confined to the margins. However, there is growing political activism, with 43 percent of young people ages 18-29 having voted this year, and an increasing interest in trade unionism. In this special series, eight authors appraise the gloomy outlook for today's young people, and call for a sustained commitment to improve their economic horizons.

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No. 3, March 2008

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4. FORUM: CHARTING THE FUTURE OF FOOD

5. FAST 50: THE WORLD'S MOST INNOVATIVE COMPANIES

6. US AND THEM: THE ENDURING POWER OF ETHNIC NATIONALISM

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