



TJIC Alert

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The TJIC is open Mondays through Fridays, except on American and Philippine holidays, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. by appointment only.

U.S. Society and Values – Diversity

1. **Multicultural Literature in the United States Today**
eJournalUSA February 2009 61 p.
Full text: <http://www.america.gov/media/pdf/ejs/0209.pdf>

The United States is enriched culturally by immigrants from many nations. This edition of *eJournal USA* focuses on distinguished American writers from various ethnic backgrounds who add immeasurably to mutual understanding and appreciation through tales of their native lands and their experiences as Americans.

2. **National African American History Month, 2009: A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America**
White House February 2, 2009
Full Text:
http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/NationalAfricanAmericanHistoryMonth2009/

President Obama proclaims the National African American History Month, 2009 with the theme, "The Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas."

3. **High Stakes, More Meaning: An Overview of the Process of Redesigning the US Citizenship Test**
Migration Policy Institute September 29, 2008 18 p.
Full text: http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/BR6_NatzTest_092908.pdf

More than a decade in the making, the redesigned citizenship test required for use after October 1, 2008 is supposed to provide a more meaningful opportunity for applicants to demonstrate knowledge about US history and civics, and allow the government more standardized test administration. The most significant change to the test is the new civics portion. As before, applicants must correctly answer six out of 10 questions drawn from a master list of 100 civics questions. However, the 100 questions have undergone a significant overhaul with new questions emphasizing core concepts of American democracy and new items about geography, Native Americans, and women.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

4. Twin Peaks
Adam Gopnik
Smithsonian

February 2009
p. 50-54

Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin were born on the same day in February 1809, on opposite sides of the Atlantic and into very different circumstances; in the era in which they were born, people mostly believed that life on Earth as they knew it had been that way since the beginning of time, and that societies without existing order were inherently unstable. By the time Lincoln and Darwin had died, history had changed, and what they had done, written or said had contributed significantly to that change. In the early nineteenth century, democracy was a fringe idea in the minds of a small number of idealists, and the future of democracy in America was far from assured. At the same time, the sciences were changing our view of the earth and how life evolved. The author writes that Lincoln and Darwin not only represent the “two pillars of our society” — liberal democracy and the human sciences — but that they have come to represent that because they wrote so clearly, and that their writings are remarkably fresh even today.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

5. Census Bureau Projects U.S. Population of 305.5 Million on New Year’s Day

U.S. Census Bureau

December 29, 2008

Full Text: <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/013127.html>

As our nation rings in the New Year, the U.S. Census Bureau projected the Jan. 1, 2009, total U.S. population will be 305,529,237 — up 2,743,429, or 0.9 percent, from New Year’s Day 2008. In January 2009, one birth is expected to occur every eight seconds in the United States and one death every 12 seconds. Meanwhile, net international migration is expected to add one person every 36 seconds to the U.S. population in January 2009, resulting in an increase in the total U.S. population of one person every 14 seconds.

6. Managing Temporary Migration: Lessons from the Philippine Model

Dovelyn Rannveig Agunias

October 2008

Migration Policy Institute

44 p.

Full text: http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/Insight_POEA_Oct07.pdf

Developing countries can proactively manage large-scale, systematic, and legal movement of temporary migrant workers. The report analyzes the system the Philippines uses to manage the temporary migration of millions of Filipinos who work in countries around the globe. For many, the Philippines' system of managing temporary migration has unrivaled sophistication, making it a model for other developing countries hoping to access the benefits of global labor mobility.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

7. A Priceless Inheritance

Emory Holmes
American Legacy

Winter 2009
p. 23-30

With her salary as a librarian at the University of Southern California and UCLA, and later her Social Security checks, Mayme A. Clayton purchased rare photos, films, books and memorabilia that became the largest collection of African-American artifacts ever amassed by one person. Her son Avery is currently creating the Mayme Agnew Clayton Library and Museum in Culver City, California. He says his mother’s life mission for over 40 years had been to preserve endangered African-American artifacts “so that people will know that blacks did great things.” The collection is now a resource “of incalculable national worth,” according to author Emory Holmes: 3.5 million items, including 10,000 rare sound recordings, 1,700 films, 75,000 photos and 30,000 rare and out-of-print books. Among these are the first edition of Phillis Wheatley’s 1773 volume, *Poems on Various Subjects Religious and Moral*, the first book by an African-American author ever published in the United States. It is likely the only signed copy in existence. The new library is tentatively due to open in early 2010. In the United States today there are three major collections that focus on African-American history and culture: one is in Harlem, one in

Chicago, and the third is Mayme Clayton's, which is the largest such collection in the world held independently. Mayme Clayton died in 2006 at the age of 83.
[Note: contains copyrighted material]

- 8. American Indian and Alaska Native Students and U.S. High Schools**
Alliance for Excellent Education November 2008 5 p.
Full text: http://www.all4ed.org/files/AmerIndianAKNative_FactSheet.pdf

There are an estimated 4.4 million American Indian and Alaska Native people living in the continental United States, representing 1.5 percent of the total population. They are citizens of the United States, and many are also citizens of the respective tribal nations to which they belong. The Alliance seeks commitment to ensuring the well-being of these students and the quality of the education they receive, particularly given the clear evidence of striking disparities in their educational achievement and attainment levels.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

- 9. The Skill Composition of Migration and the Generosity of the Welfare State**
National Bureau of Economic Research February 2009 21 p.
Full Text: <http://www.nber.org/papers/w14738.pdf>

Skilled migrants typically contribute to the welfare state more than they draw in benefits from it. The opposite holds for unskilled migrants. It suggests that a host country is likely to boost, respectively, curtail, its welfare system when absorbing high-skill, respectively, low-skill, migration. The paper examines this hypothesis in a politico-economic setup.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

- 10. Status and Trends in the Education of American Indians and Alaska Natives: 2008**
U.S. Department of Education October 11, 2008 203 p.
Full text: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2008/2008084.pdf>

The report examines both the educational progress of American Indian/Alaska Native children and adults and challenges in their education. It shows that over time more American Indian/Alaska Native students have gone on to college and that their attainment expectations have increased. Despite these gains, progress has been uneven and differences persist between American Indian/Alaska Native students and students of other racial/ethnic groups on key indicators of educational performance.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

- 11. Foreign-Born Veterans of the US Armed Forces**
Migration Policy Institute October 31, 2008 4 p.
Full text: http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/FS22_Veterans_103008.pdf

As the United States prepares to commemorate Veterans Day on Nov. 11, the report gives an analysis of a sometimes overlooked group of U.S. armed forces veterans: those born in other countries. There are over 644,000 foreign-born veterans of the U.S. armed forces, accounting for nearly 3 percent of all surviving U.S. veterans. This figure does not include those currently serving in the military. The analysis shows that most foreign-born U.S. veterans migrated from European or Latin American countries. The countries where the highest numbers of U.S. immigrant veterans were born were the Philippines, representing 12 percent of foreign-born veterans, and Mexico, birthplace to 11 percent.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

- 12. American Mobility: Who Moves? Who Stays Put? Where's Home?**
Pew Research Center December 25, 2008 44 p.
Full Text: <http://pewsocialtrends.org/assets/pdf/Movers-and-Stayers.pdf>

Census data indicate that Americans are settling down. Only 13% of Americans changed residences between 2006 and 2007, the smallest share since the government began tracking this trend in the late

1940s. The Pew survey finds that most Americans have moved to a new community at least once in their lives, although a notable number, nearly four-in-ten, have never left the place in which they were born. Asked why they live where they do, movers most often cite the pull of economic opportunity. The stayers most often cite the tug of family and connections.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

13. DHS and Immigration: Taking Stock and Correcting Course

Migration Policy Institute

February 2009

127 p.

Full Text: http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/DHS_Feb09.pdf

The report assesses the performance of the three immigration agencies within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), offering detailed recommendations for policy and operational changes that could be accomplished by the executive branch without legislation. It offers an assessment of immigration policy direction and coordination almost six years into the life of a young department with a vitally important national security mission.

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14. Census Bureau Data Show Characteristics of the U.S. Foreign-Born Population

U.S. Census Bureau

February 19, 2009

Full Text:

http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/american_community_survey_acs/013308.html

According to the analysis of data about the U.S. foreign-born population, a higher percentage of people born in India have a bachelor's degree or higher (74 percent) than people born in any other foreign country. Egypt and Nigeria had rates above 60 percent. Meanwhile, among the nation's foreign-born, Somalis and Kenyans living in the United States are the most likely to be newcomers, and Somalis are among the youngest and poorest. "These new 'selected population profiles' highlight the diversity among the many different foreign-born groups in the United States," said Elizabeth Grieco, chief of the Census Bureau's Immigration Statistics Staff.

15. Immigrants and the Current Economic Crisis: Research Evidence, Policy Challenges, and Implications

Demetrios G. Papademetriou and Aaron Terrazas

January 2009

Migration Policy Institute

35 p.

Full Text: http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/lmi_recessionJan09.pdf

The report finds that the recession may produce differing results for legal and illegal immigration flows. It cites a growing body of evidence suggesting there has been a measurable slowdown in the historic growth of immigration in the United States, largely because there has been no significant growth in the unauthorized immigrant population since 2006. The report examines the effects of the economic crisis and factors such as immigration enforcement on the immigrant population already in the United States.

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16. African American History Month

Law Library of Congress

February 2, 2009

Full Text: <http://www.loc.gov/law/help/commemorative-observations/african-american.php>

National African American History Month had its origins in 1915 when historian and author Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. This organization is now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History ("ASALH"). Through this organization Dr. Woodson initiated the first Negro History Week in February 1926. Dr. Woodson selected the week in February that included the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, two key figures in the history of African Americans.

17. Post-Adoption Contact Agreements Between Birth and Adoptive Families: Summary of State Law

Child Welfare Information Gateway February 11, 2009 42 p.
Full Text: http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/cooperativeall.pdf

Post adoption contact agreements, sometimes referred to as cooperative adoption or open adoption agreements, are arrangements that allow some kind of contact between a child's adoptive family and members of the child's birth family after the child's adoption has been finalized. Contact or communication with birth relatives can be a resource to adoptive parents for information about their child's medical, social, and cultural history. In general, State law does not prohibit post adoption contact or communication. Approximately 22 States currently have statutes that allow written and enforceable contact agreements.

18. Black History Month Honors Legacy of Struggle And Triumph

Louise Fenner U.S. Department of State January 29, 2009
Full Text: <http://www.america.gov/st/diversity-english/2009/January/20070126175516xlrennef0.8811151.html>

Each February, Black History Month honors the struggles and triumphs of millions of American citizens over the most devastating obstacles, slavery, prejudice, poverty, as well as their contributions to the nation's cultural and political life.

19. America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2008

U.S. Census Bureau February 25, 2009
Full Text: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam/cps2008.html>

With declining fertility rates and the aging of baby boomers, the percentage of families with their own child living at home decreased to 46 percent in 2008, from 52 percent in 1950, according to new data. The findings are based on statistics on family and nonfamily households, characteristics of single-parent families, living arrangements of children and data on married and unmarried couples. "Decreases in the percentage of families with their own child under 18 at home reflect the aging of the population and changing fertility patterns," said Rose Kreider, family demographer at the U.S. Census Bureau.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

20. Muslims in America

Jen'nan Ghazal Read November 12, 2008
Contexts and American Sociological Association 5 p.
Full text: <http://contexts.org/articles/files/2008/10/contexts-fall08-muslims-in-america.pdf>

Seven years after the terrorist attacks on U.S. soil catapulted Muslims into the American spotlight, concerns and fears over their presence and assimilation remain at an all-time high. Recent national polls find that four in 10 Americans have an unfavorable view of Islam, five in 10 believe Islam is more likely than other religions to encourage violence, and six in 10 believe Islam is very different from their own religion. All this despite the fact that seven in 10 admit they know very little about Islam. According to the author, many Americans are convinced Muslim Americans pose some kind of threat to American society.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

21. Miracles, Divine Healings, and Angels: Beliefs Among U.S. Adults 45+ With Hispanic Oversample

American Association of Retired Persons November 27, 2008 50 p.
Full text: http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/general/miracles_08.pdf

The American Association of Retired Persons' July 2008 telephone survey included a Hispanic over sample. Key findings include: Four in five survey respondents (80%) say they believe that miracles occur today as in ancient times, while 67% say they believe that illnesses and injuries can be divinely healed. Respondents age 45-54 were more likely to believe in miracles (85%) than age 55 and older (77%).

Unsurprisingly, God (84%) and Jesus (75%) were the two figures respondents rated highest in bestowing miracles. A strong majority of Hispanics report believing in miracles (86%), spirits and angels (86%), and divine healings (82%), significantly more than white non-Hispanics.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

22. A Religious Portrait of African-Americans

Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life

January 30, 2009

Full Text: <http://pewforum.org/docs/?DocID=389>

While the U.S. is generally considered a highly religious nation, African-Americans are markedly more religious on a variety of measures than the U.S. population as a whole, including level of affiliation with a religion, attendance at religious services, frequency of prayer and religion's importance in life. Compared with other racial and ethnic groups, African-Americans are among the most likely to report a formal religious affiliation, with fully 87% of African-Americans describing themselves as belonging to one religious group or another, according to the report.

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