

## The Olympic Experience – Beijing 2008

The Olympic Games remind us of certain universal human values. Every Olympian has a story that echoes the shared human struggle for excellence and our devotion to pursue purpose in life. In this issue of *eJournal USA*, we celebrate the Olympics through insights of former athletes who share their memories of the Olympic Experience. [Inside this publication](#)

[Official Website – U.S. Olympic team](#)

[U.S. Olympic Team Reflects America’s Global Roots](#)

**Beijing’s Olympic-Sized Catch-22** by Victor Cha in *Washington Quarterly*, Summer.

For two weeks in August, Beijing will host the 2008 Olympics against a backdrop of one of the world’s most ancient and celebrated civilizations. While hoping to use the Olympic spotlight to enhance its prestige, it must also face intense pressure for political change. And it is under siege from intense political scrutiny by Nobel laureates, journalists, media stars such as director Steven Spielberg, and NGOs all demanding changes in China’s domestic and foreign policies. [ARTICLE 486](#)

**Beijing Olympics: A Game to Unite, or a Game to Divide?** by Lan Xue, *Brookings*, 9 July.

The Olympic Games is an event that should promote mutual understanding, friendship, and fair play among athletes from around the world—it is a event designed to unite. However, less than three months before the start of the Olympic Games in Beijing, a different game has been in play around the world—a divisive game between those who are using the Olympics as an occasion to advance their specific political agendas and those in the broader global community - millions of Chinese included - who support the Games and their intended goals. So far, the game to divide is winning. [ARTICLE 487](#)

**China** – *State Department*.

**U.S. - China/Taiwan Relations**– *e-Spotlite U.S. Embassy, Wellington*.

**The China Beat** - examines media coverage of China, providing context and criticism from China scholars and writers.

**Managing Crisis and Sustaining Peace between China and the United States** – by Wu Xinbo. *USIP*, April, 2008.

**SPOTLIGHT** is produced monthly by the American Reference Center, Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy Wellington.

It offers abstracts of current articles from U.S. publications and by U.S. authors, highlighting significant issues in international or U.S. domestic affairs. **Views expressed in the articles cited are those of authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. government policies.**

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## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**Remarks to New Zealand - U.S. Council** by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Auckland War Memorial Museum, Auckland, 26 July.

New Zealand and the United States, Kiwis and Americans, have a long history of partnership. [\*\*ARTICLE 488\*\*](#)

**Maritime Security** *GAO*, June. 36p.

The safety and economic security of the United States depends on the secure use of the world's seaports and waterways. Homeland Security Presidential Directive-13 (HSPD-13, also referred to as National Security Presidential Directive-41) directs the coordination of U.S. maritime security policy. This report looks at the extent to which the strategy and its supporting plans contain desirable characteristics of an effective national strategy, and the reported status of the implementation of these plans. [\*\*ARTICLE 489\*\*](#)

**Islam, the Law, and the Sovereignty of God** by Mark Gould in *Policy Review*, June/July.

A central tenet of the Islamist position is that *Shari'a* can function as a constitution in Islamic states, promoting good and forbidding evil, ensuring, when embodied institutionally, that law is in accord with Muslim precepts. This viewpoint runs counter to post-Enlightenment legal positivism, where constitutional provisions are reduced to procedures and where parliaments, perhaps representing the people, may pass any law that is justified procedurally. Gould argues that the positivist position is misguided, that valid laws must be both procedurally justified *and* legitimated in light of constitutional values and where the procedures themselves are legitimate.

[\*\*ARTICLE 490\*\*](#)

**The Reign of Thuggery** by Joshua Hammer in the *NY Review of Books*, 26 June.

The current crisis in Zimbabwe was set in motion last fall when Mugabe, who commanded guerrilla forces in a six-year independence war against the white-minority regime of Ian Smith, and who has ruled the country since independence in 1980, announced that he would run again for his country's presidency. Until that time, it was widely assumed that Mugabe, who is eighty-four, would retire to a \$15 million villa in the northern suburbs of Harare in mid-2008 and pass on power to one of several possible heirs in waiting. However, this was not to be...

[\*\*ARTICLE 491\*\*](#)

**Deterring Terrorists** by Shmuel Bar in *Policy Review*, June/July.

What Israel has learned.

[\*\*ARTICLE 492\*\*](#)

**A Better Approach To Foreign Aid** by Justin Muzinich & Eric Werker in *Policy Review*, August/Sept.

Frustration with U.S. foreign aid is widespread. The left complains that the U.S. does not provide enough money to developing countries. The right laments that aid is an inefficient use of resources. Both sides are correct to some degree. While the United States distributed \$ 23 billion in 2006 - more than any other country - it was still very little for the billion people living on less than one dollar a day. And for every dollar given to sub-Saharan Africa, less than 44 cents reached the ground, partially because of inefficient spending and corruption. Given the justifiable frustration with the current system, private development finance is vital. [\*\*ARTICLE 493\*\*](#)

**Mullahs, Money, and Militias: How Iran Exerts Its Influence in the Middle East** by Barbara Slavin. *USDIP*, June. 22p.

Focuses on Iran's interactions with groups in Lebanon, Iraq, and, to a lesser extent, the Palestinian territories. The intent is to help policymakers understand the real extent of Iranian influence so that they can better motivate Iran and its allies to become more constructive actors in the Middle East. Slavin contends that Iran's reach remains constrained by an open-ended U.S. military presence in the region, domestic weakness, and historic divisions between Arabs and Persians, Sunnis and Shiites, and among Shiites. [\*\*ARTICLE 494\*\*](#)

**Neighbors in Need: Zimbabweans Seeking Refuge in South Africa** Human Rights Watch. 19 June. 119p.

Since 2005 an estimated one to 1.5 million Zimbabweans have fled across the border into South Africa, the region's economic power. They have run from persecution and from economic destitution as the Zimbabwean economy collapses. Recent refugees fleeing the brutal crackdown on political opponents of President Robert Mugabe in the aftermath of the March 2008 Zimbabwean elections are the latest wave. Due to South Africa's asylum system and deportation practices, many of the tens of thousands that have applied for asylum are at constant risk of being unlawfully returned. Many of the ones remaining are mistreated by police, abused and exploited by employers. [ARTICLE 495](#)

**The Rising Instability of Family Incomes** Jacob S. Hacker & Elisabeth Jacobs *EPI*, June.

Most Americans are aware that income inequality has increased in the last 30 years. Less well known is that income instability (how much families' incomes fluctuate up and down) has also grown substantially. In fact, families are facing much greater income swings than they did a generation ago. The authors discuss rising family income instability, its potential causes, and the economic implications of this disturbing trend. On Thursday, May 29, the authors presented their findings in this EPI Forum, along with noted authors, journalists, and thinkers who discussed the current challenges to American families' economic security. [ARTICLE 496](#)

**The Corruption of School Accountability** by Richard Rothstein, in *School Administrator*, *EPI*, June.

This summary of a longer paper Rothstein prepared for the National Center on Performance Incentives lays out the reasons why accountability measures, like NCLB, that rely exclusively on quantitative measures like test scores, have been found wanting in other public sectors and in the private sector. [ARTICLE 497](#)

**Where Does the Money Go? Best and Worst Practices in Foreign Aid** by William Easterly & Tobias Pfitze. *Global Economy & Development*, *Brookings Institute*, June. 34p.

The study focuses on the best practices in aid. First, it discusses best practice for an ideal aid agency and the difficulties that aid agencies face because they are typically not accountable to their intended beneficiaries. Second, it considers the transparency of aid agencies and other dimensions of aid practice. Forty-eight aid agencies are compared along these dimensions, distinguishing between bilateral and multilateral ones. The rankings are presented as an illustrative exercise to move the aid discussion forward. [ARTICLE 498](#)

**Are Sanctions Working on Iran?** on *SpiegelOnline*, 30 June.

The international community is hoping that new sanctions on Iran will turn the country away from its nuclear program. An economic embargo is perhaps the last chance for peace. But can it work? [ARTICLE 499](#)

**Assessing U.S. Policy Toward Iran.** *CSIS*, 28 June. 30p.

Moderated by *CBS* Chief Washington Correspondent and *Face the Nation* anchor Bob Schieffer, an expert panel comprised of top journalists and current and former government officials discuss U.S. policy towards Iran. [ARTICLE 500](#)

**Critical Questions: North Korea's Nuclear Decision** by Jon Wolfsthal. *CSIS*, 26 June.

Includes questions such as "How far does North Korea's declaration bring us toward a nuclear-free Korean peninsula?" [ARTICLE 501](#)

**The Impending Water Crisis in Central Asia: An Immediate Threat** by Johannes Lind. *Brookings*, 19 June.

Senior Fellow and Executive Director of the Wolfensohn Center for Development at Brookings, Johannes Linn, has argued that the region's stability and prosperity will be a key factor in determining how effectively the Eurasian economic space can integrate in the coming decades. Based on a recent visit to the region, he will over the next five weeks provide a series of assessments on key issues facing the region. [ARTICLE 502](#)

**Possible Federal Revenue from Oil Development of ANWR and Nearby Areas** by Salvatore Lazzare. *CRS*, 23 June. 12p.

Recent high petroleum prices, and the economic burden on consumers and energy-intensive industries has raised the issue of stimulating domestic supplies of crude oil. One possible source is the coastal plain of the *Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)*, which is estimated to contain significant quantities of oil and gas. This report estimates the potential revenues to the United States Treasury from *ANWR* oil development should Congress approve such development.

**ARTICLE 503**

**EU-Russia Relations: Toward a Way Out of Depression** by Thomas Gomart. *CSIS*, July. 23p.

Having undergone a period of stagnation (2003–2006), relations between the European Union and Russia are now going through a period of depression (2006-present) that is rooted in a series of misunderstandings and frustration. Is this a profound depression or a temporary one?

**ARTICLE 504**

**U.S. - Russia Strategic Partnership Against Nuclear Proliferation** by Pierre Goldschmidt. *CSIS*, July. 29p.

The present analysis has identified five areas (among many others) where the United States, Russia, and the European Union should closely cooperate in order to strengthen the nonproliferation regime: enforcing *UNSC* resolutions on Iran, addressing cases of noncompliance, improving security of supply and discouraging the spread of sensitive technologies, strengthening NSG export criteria; and preparing the 2010 *NPT* review conference.

**ARTICLE 505**

**Globalization Anxiety as Mass Hysteria?** on Dan Rodrick's weblog, 10 June.

Those who are puzzled by globalization anxiety and attribute it to collective irrationality (see Tyler Cowen's [piece](#) in the *NYT*) overlook a fundamental aspect of markets - their "embeddedness"- the idea that successful markets need to be embedded in a larger set of man-made rules and governance structures. Rodrick says it is important to understand that markets need regulation, stabilization, and legitimation because they are not self-regulating, self-stabilizing, or self-legitimizing. The success of modern capitalism is due as much to the institutions that govern markets--political democracy above all--as it is to the power of markets themselves. **ARTICLE 506**

**A Partnership of Equals: How Washington Should Respond to China's Economic Challenge** by C. Fred Bergsten in *Foreign Affairs*, July-August.

To be an economic superpower, a country must be sufficiently large, dynamic, and globally integrated to have a major impact on the world economy. Three political entities currently qualify: the United States, the European Union, and China. Inducing China to become a responsible pillar of the global economic system (as the other two are) will be one of the great challenges of coming decades. Particularly since, at the moment, China seems uninterested in playing such a role. Adapted from Bergsten's forthcoming book [China's Rise: Challenges and Opportunities](#)

**ARTICLE 507**

**The Rise of Middle East Peacemakers** by Hady Amr. *Brookings*, 2 June.

Amidst all the attention poured on the US presidential race, a powerful new trend is rapidly emerging in the Middle East, says Amr, as the region's governments increasingly take a hands-on role in solving their own problems. After 7 years of the Bush Administration's activities in Iraq, Lebanon, and Israel-Palestine, Middle East leaders feel that in the interest of security they must solve their own problems, because they realize the international community will no longer solve them properly. Ironically, the massive US military deployment in Iraq has created a sort of US power vacuum in the Middle East.

**ARTICLE 508**

**The Friend of My Enemy** by Thomas E. Graham in the *National Interest*, May/June.

There are few issues that cause greater friction in U.S.- Russian relations than Iran's nuclear-weapons program. Graham sees the road to a solution for America's Iran problem running through Moscow. How to think about the costs and benefits...

**ARTICLE 509**

**All the World's A Stage: America's Image in the Muslim World** by Andrew Kohut & Richard Wike in the *National Interest*, 5 June.

And the audience is judging the star – the United States. What an analysis of the polling numbers says about America's reputation. **ARTICLE 510**

***Some International Relations online resources which may be of interest:***

**Iraq: Positive Change in the Detention System** by Elizabeth Detwiler. *USIP*, July.

**Killing Friends, Making Enemies: The Impact and Avoidance of Civilian Casualties in Afghanistan** by J. Alexander Thier & Azita Ranjbar. *USIP*, July.

**Current and Future Trends in Special Operations Warfare** Interview with U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Michael G. Vickers. *CFR*, 24 July.

**China on the Eve of the Olympics** Hearing, *U.S. House Comm. on For.Aff.* 23 July. **Transcripts** scroll down.

**The U.S. & East Asia and the Pacific: Assisting in Disaster Preparedness** *U.S. Dept of State*, 21 July.

**France's New Military Vision** Backgrounder by Michael Moran. *CFR*, 24 June.

**Meeting the Iranian Challenge** Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations*, 9 July.

**U.S. Policy Toward Iran** Hearing before the *U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, 9 July. **Transcripts** and scroll down. **Statement by U.S. Under Secretary of State William J. Burns**

**Europe and Israel: Strengthening the Partnership** Hearing before *subcommittees of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, 9 July. **Transcripts** and scroll down.

**U.S. Government Nonproliferation Priorities and Asia** Address, U.S. Principal Dep. Asst. Secretary of State Patricia A. McNerney in Sydney, 1 July.

**National War Powers Commission Report** Co-chaired by James A. Baker III and Warren Christopher. *Miller Center for Public Affairs, University of Virginia*, July. 72p. **Commission website**

**Israel, the West, and a Nuclear Iran** Daily analysis by Greg Bruno. *Council on Foreign Relations*, 8 July.

**U.S. Treasury Designates Iranian Proliferation Individuals, Entities** 8 July.

**Statement by the President on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons** *The White House*, 1 July.

**NATO in Afghanistan** Special address by General Bantz John Craddock, Commander, U.S. European Command, and Supreme Allied Commander Europe, *Heritage Foundation*, 30 June.

**U.S. Should Defy Chinese-Russian Attack on Missile Defense** by Baker Spring. *Heritage*, 30 June.

**North Korea: Presidential Action on State Sponsor of Terrorism (SST) and the Trading with the Enemy Act (TWEA)** Fact sheet, *U.S. Dept of State*, 26 June. **Announcement by President Bush** on this action. **An op-ed article by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice** in the *Wall Street Journal*.

**American Australian Education Leadership Foundation** Remarks by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John D. Negroponte at Leadership Dialogue Dinner, Washington DC, 24 June.

**Peacekeeping: Thousands Trained but United States is Unlikely to Complete All Activities by 2010 and Some Improvements Are Needed** *GAO*, June.

[\*\*U.S.- Pakistan Military Cooperation\*\*](#) Backgrounder by Greg Bruno & Jayshree Bajoria. *CFR*, 26 June.

[\*\*France's New Military Vision\*\*](#) Backgrounder by Michael Moran. *CFR*, 24 June.

[\*\*Update on Recent Events in Zimbabwe\*\*](#) Remarks by U.S. Ambassador to Zimbabwe James McGee, via teleconference call, 24 June.

[\*\*The Army's Future Combat System \(FCS\): Background and Issues for Congress\*\*](#) *CRS*, 12 May.

[\*\*Global Biological-Chemical Training Event\*\*](#) Remarks, U.S. Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Patricia A. McNerney, in Bangkok, 24 June.

[\*\*More Than Just the 123 Agreement: The Future of U.S.-Indo Relations\*\*](#) Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, 25 June. [\*\*Transcripts\*\*](#) and scroll down.

[\*\*A New Strategy for Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan\*\*](#) Hearing, *U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations*, 25 June.

[\*\*Why NATO Must Win in Afghanistan: A Central Front in the War on Terrorism\*\*](#) by Sally McNamara. *Heritage Foundation*, 23 June.

[\*\*Invigorating the U.S.-Turkey Strategic Partnership\*\*](#) Speech, U.S. Dep. Asst. Sec. of State Matt Bryza, 24 June.

[\*\*Asia: Shaping the Future\*\*](#) by Douglas H. Paal. *CEIP*, June. 8p. [\*\*Summary\*\*](#)

[\*\*U.S., Japan, and China Conference on Trilateral Security Cooperation\*\*](#) by Carl W. Baker. *Pacific Forum CSIS, Issues & Insights*, June. 32p. [\*\*Summary\*\*](#)

[\*\*Transforming the U.S.-South Korean Alliance\*\*](#) by Bruce Klingner. *Heritage*, 30 June. 10p.

[\*\*U.S.-Vietnam Joint Statement\*\*](#) 25 June.

[\*\*The United States and Vietnam: Expanding Relations\*\*](#) Fact sheet, *U.S. Dept of State*, 24 June.

[\*\*U.S.-Vietnam Cooperation on Economic Development, Trade and Investment\*\*](#) Fact sheet, *U.S. Dept of State*, 24 June.

[\*\*The Malay-Muslim Insurgency in Southern Thailand: Understanding the Conflict's Evolving Dynamic\*\*](#) by Peter Chalk. *RAND*, 2008. 39p.

[\*\*Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice at Conference in Support of Palestinian Civil Security and Rule of Law\*\*](#), in Berlin, 24 June.

[\*\*Securing, Stabilizing, and Rebuilding Iraq: Progress Report: Some Gains Made, Updated Strategy Needed\*\*](#) *GAO*, June.

[\*\*Status of Forces Agreement \(SOFA\): What Is It, and How Might One Be Utilized in Iraq?\*\*](#) *CRS*, 16 June.

[\*\*Attacks in Iraq Down 80 Percent from Last Year\*\*](#) *American Forces Press Service*, 25 June.

[\*\*U.S. Deputy Secretary of Commerce John J. Sullivan leads a U.S. business development delegation to northern Iraq\*\*](#) 22-25 June.

[\*\*Update on IDP and USAID Mission Activities in Iraq\*\*](#) Briefing, Denise Herbol, *USAID* Iraq Dep. Director, June.

[\*\*Iraqi Refugee Processing\*\*](#) Fact sheet, U.S. Cit. & Immigration Serv., 23 June. [\*\*Related Fact Sheet\*\*](#) 4 June.

**Iran's Economy** CRS, 12 June.

**Iran Sanctions Act of 2008** CBO cost estimate, 26 June.

**Are We Going to War With Iran?** by James Fallows on *The Atlantic.com*

**The Food Price Crisis in the Arab Countries: Short Term Responses to a Lasting Challenge** by Ibrahim Saif. CEIP, June. **Full text** 5p.

**U.S. – Latin America Relations: A New Direction for a New Reality** Report of an independent task force chaired by Charlene Barshefsky and James T. Hill. *Council on Foreign Relations*, May. 110p. **Overview**

**Saudi Arabia: Background and U.S. Relations** CRS, 22 May.

**Assessing U.S. Policy Toward Iran** Panel discussion, CSIS, 26 June.

**The Taliban in Afghanistan** Backgrounder by Eben Kaplan and Greg Bruno. CFR, 2 July.

**The Impending Water Crisis in Central Asia: An Immediate Threat** by J. Linn. *Brookings*, 19 June.

**Cluster Munitions: Background and Issues for Congress** CRS, 27 June.

**Opposition Alliances and Democratization in Egypt** Briefing, Hesham Sallam. USIP, June.

**The Israeli and Syrian Conventional Military Balance: An Overview** by Anthony Cordesman. CSIS, 11 June. 33p. **Summary**

**Terrorism Havens: Philippines** Backgrounder by Preeti Bhattacharji. CFR, 30 June.

**From the Department of Justice to Guantanamo Bay: Administration Lawyers and Administration Interrogation Rules, Part III Hearing**, *Subcom. of U.S. House Comm. on the Judiciary*, 26 June. **Part V**.

**Laptop Searches and Other Violations of Privacy Faced by Americans Returning from Overseas Travel** Hearing, subcommittee of the *U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary*, 25 June.

**The ISI and Terrorism: Behind the Accusations** Backgrounder by Eben Kaplan & Jayshree Bajoria. CFR, 9 July.

**Joint Announcement Concerning Megaports Initiative between the Government of the United States and the Government of Japan** Text, 3 July.

**Border Security: Key Agencies and Their Missions** CRS, 13 May.

**The Challenge of Protecting Mass Gatherings in a Post-9/11 World** Hearing, *U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security*, 9 July.

**Addressing the 2009 Presidential Transition at the Department of Homeland Security** *National Academy of Public Administration*, June. 135p.

**Terrorism and Other Public Health Emergencies: A Field Guide for Media** *U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services*. **Full text** 80p.

**The Federal Protective Service: An Agency in Need of Rebuilding** Hearing, *Subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, 18 June.

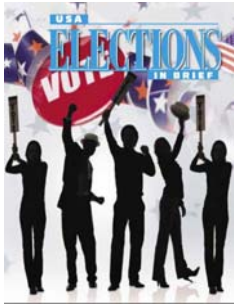
**G8 - Japan: Selected Statements – 8 July:**

**G8 Leaders Statement on Counter-Terrorism**

**G8 Leaders Statement on Global Food Security**

**G8 Leaders Statement on Zimbabwe**

## ELECTIONS 2008



### [USA Elections in Brief](#)

A background guide to the entire U.S. electoral system, from federal, state, local, and primary elections to related topics such as polling and the role of the parties and the media.

### [Inside this publication](#)

**Obama Runs First True Campaign of 21st Century** by William Galston. *Brookings*, 4 June.

Capping an improbably meteoric rise from the Illinois Senate, Barack Obama rode an insurgent campaign to victory last night in the Democratic presidential nominating contest. Obama won in much the same way as Jimmy Carter had done in 1976: with a disciplined team that understood the mood of the country and the implications of changing political circumstances. By exploiting the potential of the internet as a tool for organizing, mobilizing, and fundraising, he ran the first true campaign of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. **[ARTICLE 511](#)**

**Let Us By All Means Have an Honest Discussion About Race** by Linda Chavez in *Commentary*, June.

Was Jeremiah Wright's March 18 Philadelphia speech an effort to open up an honest national conversation on race? **[ARTICLE 512](#)**

**The Map: the Crystal Ball's First Look at November's Electoral College** by Larry Sabato, *Center for Politics*, 10 July.

Except for the guessing game about the vice presidential nominations, there's no greater fun to be had in July. So the *Crystal Ball* is pleased to unveil our best estimates more than four months before the balloting. As always, we'll be revising the map all the way up to the campaign's end. **[ARTICLE 513](#)**

### [Daily Presidential Tracking Poll](#)

### [Candidates By Numbers](#)

### [Candidate Issue Index: Fiscal Responsibility](#)

### [Electoral Map Predictions – 18 June](#)

**[Senate Sensibilities: The Update: The '08 Battles for the U.S. Senate](#)** by Larry J. Sabato. 19 June.

**[Presidential Nominating Process: Current Issues](#)** *CRS*, 11 April.

**[Presidential Transitions](#)** *CRS*, 3 April.

**[Media Heat Wave](#)** - If we are in the summer doldrums -- the period when campaign-weary Americans tend to choose the beach and fireworks and tune out politics and campaigns -- that might be good news for Barack Obama and John McCain. Because early July's campaign narrative sure didn't offer much that was positive.

**[A Fork in the Road: Obama, McCain, and Health Care](#)** - Healthcare reform will be one of the top issues of the 2008 presidential election. In the face of widespread public demand for changes in the U.S. health care system, both Barack Obama and John McCain have offered detailed proposals for reform.

**America's Four Middle Classes** - There isn't one American middle class; there are four. Each is different from the others in its attitudes, outlook and financial circumstance.

**Who Are Likely Voters and When Do They Matter?** - This difference between registered and likely voters indicates that now McCain voters are disproportionately represented among the estimate of those most likely to vote if the election were held today.

**Most Americans Say Balanced Budget Good for Economy but Question if McCain Can Achieve it by 2013** - Seven out of 10 Americans (70%) think a balanced budget is good for the economy, but nearly as many (64%) believe it unlikely that John McCain can achieve such a budget by 2013 as he has promised.

**Obama, McCain Look West as Political Battlegrounds Shift** - Sen. Barack Obama hopes to win four Western states -- Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada and Montana - in November, but Sen. John McCain is campaigning hard to hold on to the GOP strongholds. Pollsters offer insight.

**McCain's Speech to United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Convention Washington, D.C.** - It is a terrible mistake to raise taxes during an economic downturn. Increasing the tax burden on Americans impedes job growth, discourages innovation and makes us less competitive. Small businesses are the biggest job creators in our economy. Keeping individual rates low isn't intended as a favor to wealthy Americans...

**Obama's Agenda for Middle-Class Success** - The first step is to offer immediate relief to families who are struggling right now while helping to jumpstart economic growth and create jobs. Between a sluggish economy and gas prices rising above \$4 a gallon, the American people cannot wait another six months for help.

**Voting and Turnout in the Election of November 2006** Census Bureau, June. 21p. **Tables News Release** "Voter Turnout Up 7 Million in 2006."

**Obama's Fundraising Success May Herald a Whole New Model** by Norman J. Ornstein. *AEI*, 30 June.

**Time Is On My Side: The Nomination Gap** - Political observers, including your *Crystal Ball*, are virtually unanimous in their assessment that the prevailing conditions this fall are ideal for sending a Democrat to the Oval Office. We have, however, argued here that McCain can still win, and he has one built-in advantage over his eventual opponent that bears noting--time.

**Americans Worry McCain Would Be Too Similar to Bush: About half are concerned Obama would go too far in changing Bush policies**

**Why Polls Sometimes Show Different Results** - At the core of this flap is a polling industry disagreement about the best way to deal with partisan identification in constructing a poll.

**The America We Love** - It is worth considering the meaning of patriotism because the question of who is - or is not - a patriot all too often poisons our political debates in ways that divide us rather than bringing us together.

**Candidates Fight to Disprove Smears, Set Record Straight to Voters** - This presidential campaign is different than previous years - it's the first in which campaigns are forced to confront nearly constant Web attacks and rumors from both amateurs and organized partisans. Media experts discuss the trend.

**Time for a Global Town-Hall Meeting?** - If Americans could watch the two candidates respond to the concerns of a broader international audience, the voters could make a finer judgment about each nominee's possible approach to an array of international challenges, which are largely overlooked during the heat of short-term electoral politics.

**A Report on the 2008 Presidential Nomination Ads: Ads More Negative than Previous Years** - According to an analysis of prominent nomination ads, 61 percent of the 2008 Democratic ads were negative, compared to 43 percent of the Republican ads. Both rates are higher than the average ad negativity of 31 percent for Democrats and 36 percent for Republicans in nominating contests from 1972-2008.

## TRADE / ECONOMY

**Americans Worry How They View Their Lives in an Economic Downturn** by Robert Blendon & John Benson in *Challenge*, May-June.

It has become clear that the economy is now weighing heavily on Americans. But they cite different reasons for their concerns. Some are affected more by a lack of jobs, others by rising prices, still others by higher medical costs. The authors conclude that these varying worries make it difficult to find a politically effective solution to alleviate Americans' economic anxieties. [ARTICLE 514](#)

**Are Low Food Prices Pro-Poor? Net Food Buyers and Sellers in Low-Income Countries** by M. Ataman Aksoy and Aylin Isik-Dikmelik. *World Bank*. June. 32p.

The study examines the characteristics of food sellers and buyers in nine low-income countries. Three of the nine countries examined showed a substantial proportion of vulnerable households affected by the food price increases. The average incomes of food buyers were found to be higher than food sellers in eight of the nine countries examined. Thus, food price increases would transfer income from generally higher income food buyers to poorer food sellers. The analysis also finds that the occupations and income sources of sellers and buyers in rural areas are significantly different. In rural areas where food production is the main activity and where there are limited non-food activities, the incomes of buyers might depend on the incomes and farming activities of food sellers. [ARTICLE 515](#)

**Bolstering the Buck** by John Chapman in *The American*, 9 July.

Just six years ago, one U.S. dollar could purchase one euro. Today, it takes \$1.57 to get a euro. The dollar has also fallen dramatically against the Japanese yen and many other major currencies. As Chapman asks just how much we should be worried, he advocates the strengthening of the greenback as being a top priority. [ARTICLE 516](#)

**Trends in Sustainable Development 2008-2009** *Economics & Social Affairs, United Nations*. June. 42p.

Efforts to reduce poverty and improve food security in developing countries are hampered by declining support for strong agricultural growth, long considered a hallmark of successful poverty reduction strategies, according to the study. The report highlights recent trends in agriculture, rural development, land, desertification and drought – five of the six themes being considered by the Commission on Sustainable Development. While many developing countries have posted gains in agricultural production, distribution and exports, people living in areas of high inequality and in isolation from the broader economy typically benefit little from them. [ARTICLE 517](#)

**Policy and Risk Processes of Trade-Related Biological Invasions** by Michael Springborn et al. *Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture*, June. 24p.

The report summarizes the insights on the risk involved in trade-related introduction of non-indigenous species (NIS), and analyzes the relationships between trade, trade policy, and NIS-related damage. [ARTICLE 518](#)

**Credibility Crunch: Food, Poverty, and Climate Change: An Agenda for Rich-Country Leaders** *Oxfam International*, June. 38p.

2008 is the halfway point towards the deadline for reaching the *Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*, agreed by 147 nations in the year 2000. They focus on tackling poverty, hunger, gender inequality, education, health, water, sanitation, and the environment. The goals are to achieve safe births, provide medicine for curable diseases, educate girls, provide clean water, and eliminate hunger. These are seen as realistic targets that, with concerted action, can be reached in order to banish extreme poverty. [ARTICLE 519](#)

***Some Trade/Economics online resources which may be of interest:***

**Treasury's Changing Role in a Global Economy** Address, by U.S. Under Secretary of the Treasury David H. McCormick at *CSIS*, 9 July.

**China's Economic Rise: Fact and Fiction** by Albert Keidel. *CEIP*, July. 16p. **Summary**

**Recent Developments in U.S.-Japan Economic Relations** Fact sheet, *U.S. Dept of State*, 8 July.

**International Trade: Rules of Origin** *CRS*, 10 June.

**Foreign Assistance Reform: Rebuilding U.S. Civilian Development and Diplomatic Capacity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** Hearing, *U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, 25 June. **Transcripts** and scroll down.

**Recent Trends in the Variability of Individual Earnings and Household Income** *CBO*, June. 32p.

**Accountability and Oversight of U.S. Exchange Rate Policy** by C. Randall Henning. *Peterson Institute for International Economics*, June. 122p.

**Assessing Globalization: Benefits and Drawbacks of Trade and Integration** by Andrew Kohut & Richard Wike. *Pew Research Center*, 24 June.

**Global FDI Policy: Correcting a Protectionist Drift** by David M. Marchick & Matthew J. Slaughter. *CFR*, June. 56p. **Summary**

**EU and U.S. Free Trade Agreements in the Middle East and North Africa** by Riad al Khouri. *CEIP*, June. 32p. **Summary**

**U.S.-China Trade Growth and America's Transportation System** Special report, *Bureau of Transportation Statistics, U.S. Dept of Transportation*, April. 8p.

**The U.S., the World Economy and Markets** address by U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr before the Chatham House, London, 2 July.

**Recent Trends in U.S. Services Trade: 2008 Report** *USITC*, June. 138p.

**Speech by U.S. Under Secretary of the Treasury Robert K. Steel on hedge funds and their regulation**, 23 June.

**High-Impact Firms: Gazelles Revisited** *U.S. Small Business Administration*, June. 92p. **Summary**

**The Budget for Fiscal Year 2009** *CRS*, 30 June.

**The Foundation of International Tax Reform: Worldwide, Territorial, and Something in Between** Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Finance*, 26 June.

**United States-Japan Investment Initiative 2008 Report** *U.S. Dept of State*, July.

**Seventh Report to Leaders on the U.S.-Japan Reg. Reform and Comp. Initiative** 5 July. 92p. **Factsheet**

**China's Holdings of U.S. Securities: Implications for the U.S. Economy** *CRS*, 19 May.

**Food Security Assessment 2007** *USDA Economic Research Service*, July. 55p.

**Food Prices. Backgrounder** by Lee Hudson Teslik *Council on Foreign Relations*, 30 June.

## **ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY RESOURCES**

**Bush Praises Progress on Climate Change** on *America.gov* 9 July.

President Bush praised the major world economies for making significant progress on the final day of the Group of Eight forum by agreeing there must be a substantial reduction in greenhouse gas emissions if there is to be any hope of reining in global warming by mid-century. [ARTICLE 520](#)

**What's Your Consumption Factor?** by Jared Diamond. *NYTimes*, Op-Ed. 2 January.

If most of the world's 6.5 billion people were in cold storage and not metabolizing or consuming, they would create no resource problem. What really matters is total world consumption, the sum of all local consumptions, which is the product of local population times the local per capita consumption rate. [ARTICLE 521](#)

**T. Boone Pickens Wind Vision Can Rapidly Become a Reality: American Wind Energy Assoc.** on *AWAE.org*

Wind power has become a key option for our country," said AWEA Executive Director Randall Swisher. "Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Energy, in a major technical report, confirmed that wind can generate 20% of U.S. electricity supply by 2030 while providing benefits that far outweigh the cost. And today, one of the nation's leading energy businessmen is stating that wind power is not only serious business, but perhaps the single most important strategic investment the nation can make today to strengthen our economy and energy security. [ARTICLE 522](#)

**Our Electric Future** by Andy Grove in *The American*, July/August.

The former *CEO* of *INTEL* opines that a policy that favors sticky energy with multiple sources and that aggressively moves vehicles first toward dual-fuel mode and ultimately to running on just electricity provides the answer. [ARTICLE 523](#)

**No-Till: The Quiet Revolution** by David Huggins & John Reganold in *Scientific American*, July.

Because plowing degrades the land, farmers are increasingly turning to a more sustainable alternative. [ARTICLE 524](#)

**Confronting Climate Change: A Strategy for U.S. Foreign Policy.** *CFR*, June. 137p.

The report recommends that the United States leverage ambitious, comprehensive, and equitable action at home to advance an effective policy abroad. It lays out a U.S. negotiating strategy for a global climate accord, outlining what the U.S. should be willing to offer and what it should expect others, including the rapidly emerging economies, to do in return. However, it also cautions that a comprehensive post-Kyoto climate deal will not be easy to conclude, noting: "Even as the United States pursues ambitious and mandatory policies at home, it should not sign on to an emissions cap as part of any global deal that does not include strong commitments to actions from the major emerging economies." It recommends creating a Partnership for Climate Cooperation that would focus the world's largest emitters, including India and China, on implementing aggressive emissions reductions. [ARTICLE 525](#)

**Plug-In Electric Vehicles 2008** *Brookings*, 11 July.

On June 11 and 12, the Brookings Institution and Google.org hosted "Plug-in Electric Vehicles 2008: What Role for Washington?" The conference placed a spotlight on plug-in electric vehicles, examining their potential, their viability and the pros and cons of different federal policies to promote them. A live webcast of the conference in its entirety is available here. [ARTICLE 526](#)

***Some environmental online resources which may be of interest:***

**Distribution of Natural Gas: The Final Step in the Transmission Process** *U.S. Dept of Energy, Energy Information Administration*, June. 14p. (focus is 1996-2006)

**Wind Power in the United States: Technology, Economic, and Policy Issues** *CRS*, 20 June.

**U.S. and New Zealand Launch International Partnership to Develop Clean Energy on Island Nations** 25 July.

**Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy** – Resources

**Green Buildings - California**

**Leveling the Carbon Playing Field: International Competition and U.S. Climate Policy Design** by Trevor Houser et al., *Peterson Institute for International Economics*, May. 112p.

**Green Pricing and Net Metering Programs 2006** *U.S. Dept of Energy, Energy Info. Administration*, July.

**Impacts on U.S. Energy Expenditures and Greenhouse-Gas Emissions of Increasing Renewable-Energy Use** *RAND*, 2008. 74p.

**Climate Change: Costs of Inaction** Hearing, *Subcomm. of the U.S. House Comm. on Energy and Comm.* 26 June.

**Climate Change Impacts on the Transportation Sector** Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation*, 24 June.

**Opening Remarks at 2008 Water Sciences Forum** Remarks, U.S. Under Sec. of State Paula J. Dobriansky, 27 June.

**Comparing Price and Non-Price Approaches to Urban Water Conservation** by Sheila Olmstead & Robert Stavins. Faculty research working paper, *JFK School of Government, Harvard University*, June. 27p.

**Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning** Hearing, *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, 24 June.

**Costly Returns: How Corporations Could Profit from Inflating the Already High Cost of Repairing the Nation's Crumbing Water and Sewage Infrastructure** Food & Water Watch, June.

**Protecting and Restoring America's Great Waters – Part 1: Coasts and Estuaries** Hearing, *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, 26 June.

**UN Convention on the Law of the Sea: Living Resources Provisions** *CRS*, 12 February.

**Energy Tax Policy: History and Current Issues** *CRS*, 10 June.

**\$4 Gasoline and Fuel Economy: Auto Industry at a Crossroads** Hearing, *U.S. House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming*, 26 June.

**Ethanol: Economic Gain or Drain?** Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis, *The Regional Economist*, July.

**Energy Generation from Concentrating Solar Power** Field hearing of the *U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources*, held at *Sandia Science and Technology Park*, 2 July.

**Is the Skyrocketing Price of Oil a Bubble or a New Reality for the U.S. Economy?** Hearing, *Joint Economic Committee*, U.S. Congress, 25 June.

**Energy Speculation: Is Greater Regulation Necessary to Prevent Price Manipulation? Part II** Hearing, *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce*, 23 June.

**Challenges to Meeting Future Energy Needs and to Developing the Technologies for Meeting Increased Global Energy Demand in the Context of the Need to Address Global Climate Change** Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources*, 25 June.

**Sustainable, Energy-Efficient Transportation Infrastructure** Hearing before a *Subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology*, 24 June.

## AMERICAN SOCIETY

**Generations of Struggle** by Deborah Thorne et al. *AARP Public Policy Institute*, June. 16p.

With more than a million people filing for bankruptcy in 2007, the study shows that the rate of bankruptcy filings among those 65 and older has more than doubled since 1991. While the bulk of bankruptcy filers are in their 30s and 40s, the financial landscape for the oldest and youngest generations has changed. Americans age 55 or older have experienced the sharpest increase in bankruptcy filings, jumping from 8.2% of debtors in 1991 to 22.3% in 2007. Those ages 34 or younger experienced the greatest decrease in bankruptcy filings, comprising nearly half (45.5%) in 1991 to just over a quarter (26.1%) in 2007 of all bankrupt debtors. [ARTICLE 527](#)

**Ecological Predictors and Development Outcomes of Persistent Childhood Overweight** by Sara Gable et al. *Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture*, 13 June. 42p.

Child obesity poses short- and long-term health risks and may have negative social and economic consequences in adulthood. The study uses data on 8,000 children followed from kindergarten through third grade as part of the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study-Kindergarten Class to examine predictors of persistent childhood overweight and associated academic and socio emotional outcomes. Results show that socioeconomic status, gender, race, and behavioral and environmental factors influence risk of persistent overweight. The odds of children being overweight increased 3 percent for each additional hour of television that they watched per week and 9 percent for each family meal per week that they did not experience. [ARTICLE 528](#)

**Welfare Payments and Crime** by C. Fritz Foley. *National Bureau of Economic Research*, June. 44p.

Analysis of major crime incidents in twelve U.S. cities reveals an increase in crime over the course of monthly welfare payment cycles. This increase reflects an increase in crimes that are likely to have a direct financial motivation like burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and robbery, as opposed to other kinds of crime like arson, assault, homicide, and rape. Temporal patterns in crime are observed in jurisdictions in which disbursements are focused at the beginning of monthly welfare payment cycles. [ARTICLE 529](#)

### ***Some related online resources which may be of interest:***

[Social Security Reform: Strategies for Progressive Benefit Adjustments](#) *U.S. Treasury*, June. 12p.

[Present Law and Analysis Relating to Individual Retirement Arrangements](#) *Joint Committee on Taxation, U.S. Congress*, 24 June. 56p.

[The Housing Crash and the Retirement Prospects of Late Baby Boomers](#) by Dean Baker & David Rosnick. *Center for Economic and Policy Research*, June. 11p.

[How Much is Your State Spending on Corrections?](#) Pew Research, 13 May.

[Dept. of Justice Comprehensive Efforts to Fight Gang Violence](#) Fact sheet, U.S. Dept of Justice, 24 June.

[Identity Theft: The Aftermath 2007](#) *Identity Theft Resource Center*, June.

[Kids' Share 2008: How Children Fare in the Federal Budget](#) *Urban Institute*, June. **Full report** 40p.

[Protecting Children, Strengthening Families: Reauthorizing CAPTA](#) Hearing, *subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions*, 26 June. (CAPTA -Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act)

[The U.S. Housing Market](#) Remarks, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson Jr before the *FDIC Forum on Mortgage Lending to Low and Moderate Income Households*, 8 July.

[Current Challenges in Housing and Home Loans](#) Speech, Eric Rosengren, President and CEO, *Federal Reserve Bank of Boston*, 30 May.

## EDUCATION

**The High Cost of High School Dropouts** *Alliance for Excellent Education*, June. 6p.

If the high school dropouts from the Class of 2008 had instead earned diplomas along with their classmates, the nation's economy could have benefited from an additional \$320 billion in wages, taxes, and productivity over these students' lifetimes, according to the calculations by the Alliance for Excellent Education. The average annual income for a high school dropout in 2005, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, was almost \$10,000 less than for a high school graduate. Raising the numbers of students who graduate, therefore, increases overall earnings potential, which, in turn, benefits each state and the nation with increased purchasing power and higher tax receipts.

[ARTICLE 530](#)

**The Teaching Penalty** by Sylvia A. Allegretto et al. *EPI*, March.

The ability to effectively educate the nation's children hinges on the quality of our teachers. And to recruit and retain quality teachers requires that they receive pay commensurate with that offered in other career opportunities available to them. Unfortunately, teachers' pay increasingly lags significantly behind that found in comparable occupations or those requiring similar levels of education and experience. This study provides new insights on the erosion of relative teacher pay, and a new analysis that takes into account seniority levels.

[ARTICLE 531](#)

**Higher Education and Colleges: A Comparison Between England and the USA** by Madeleine King et al. *Council for Industry and Higher Education*, 16 June. 28p.

United Kingdom and United States colleges play distinctive roles in delivering higher level learning that reaches students from diverse backgrounds, focuses on meeting local needs and is vocational in its emphasis. In the U.S., this distinctiveness is lauded and forms part of an integrated approach across many States. The success of U.S. Community Colleges is a system of funding by transferable credit which is responsive to local need and which facilitates roll-on roll-off participation. In the U.K., these inherent strengths are less appreciated. In England, this non-linear progression is still viewed as 'dropping out' rather than 'dropping in'.

[ARTICLE 532](#)

**Colleges Should Go Beyond the Rhetoric of Accountability** by Richard Venner. *AEI*, 26 June.

A growing chorus of critics - legislators, governors, alumni, students, parents, trustees, and others - is pressuring colleges to increase "accountability" and "transparency." The critics want colleges to measure whether they are actually achieving their core missions, especially educating undergraduates, and to give people the facts about what they find.

[ARTICLE 533](#)

**Explaining the English Language Learner Achievement Gap** by Richard Fry. *Pew Research*, 26 June.

A Pew Hispanic Center analysis of public school data from key states finds that English language learner (*ELL*) students tend to go to public schools that have low standardized test scores. However, these low levels of assessed proficiency are not solely attributable to poor achievement by *ELL* students.

[ARTICLE 534](#)

**Trends Among High School Seniors 1972-2004** *National Center for Education Statistics*, May. 126p.  
[Summary](#)

**Restoring America's Leadership Through Scholarships for Undergraduates from Developing Countries: The Uniting Students in America (USA) Proposal** Hearing, *Subcommittees of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor*, 19 June.  
[Transcripts](#), and scroll down.

**United States Education Cooperation with Vietnam** Fact sheet, *U.S. Dept of State*, 25 June.

**Higher Education: United States and Other Countries' Strategies for Attracting and Funding International Students** Statement of George A. Scott (*GAO*) to Congressional committees, 19 June.

## **BUSINESS**

**The Growth Solution** by Carl Schramm & Robert Litan in *The American*, July/August.

A quick look back through American history reveals that many of the most important radical innovations in the past have been introduced and commercialized first by entrepreneurs. What all of us, regardless of our political affiliation, should want in our next president and in our other governmental officials, therefore, is an understanding of the need to promote policies that will best foster the entrepreneurial spirit that drives radical innovation.

[ARTICLE 535](#)

**How Are We Doing?** by Michael Cox & Richard Alm in *The American*, July/August.

Offering a sound case against economic pessimism, the authors remind that faith lies in gaining some perspective - getting out of the short-term rut, casting off the blinders that focus us on what will turn out to be mere footnotes in a longer-term march of progress. Once we do that, we see the U.S. economy, a \$14 trillion behemoth, is doing quite well.

[ARTICLE 536](#)

**Earnings Inequality Within the Urban United States 2000 to 2006** by Christopher H. Wheeler. *Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis*, July. 32p.

This report examines inequality in hourly labor earnings for a set of nearly 300 U.S. metropolitan areas between 2000 and 2006. On the whole, the data indicate that the dramatic rise in inequality seen in the United States between 1980 and 2000 continued through 2006.

[ARTICLE 537](#)

**American Decline or Renewal? (Part 2) The Past and Future of Skilled Work** Hearing, *Subcommittee of the US. House Committee on Science and Technology*, 24 June.

Focuses on how the United States can maintain and expand high-skilled, high-paying jobs domestically.

[ARTICLE 538](#)

**Subcommittee Discusses Ways to Increase the High-Skilled, High-Paying Workforce in America.** Hearing, *Subcommittee of the US. House Committee on Science and Technology*, 24 June.

How to maintain and expand the market for high-skilled, high-paying jobs here in the United States. Subcommittee Members reviewed the nation's competitiveness in a global economy by surveying the efficacy of past and current efforts to assist dislocated workers and communities.

[ARTICLE 539](#)

**Leave Benefits in the United States** by Linda Levine. *CRS*, 7 May.

In addition to their jobs, workers have obligations - civic, familial, and personal - to fulfill that sometimes require them to be absent from the workplace (e.g., to serve on a jury, retrieve a sick child from day care, or attend a funeral). The U.S. government generally has allowed individual employers to decide whether to accommodate the nonwork activities of employees by granting them leave, with or without pay, rather than firing them. Levine reviews these policies, including the Pregnancy Discrimination Act and the Family and Medical Leave Act; the Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) programs, which five states have established to compensate for lost wages while workers are recovering from nonoccupational illnesses and injuries; the incidence of different types of paid leave that U.S. employers voluntarily provide as part of an employee's total compensation (wages and benefits); and the results from a survey of the average direct cost to businesses of different types of leave.

[ARTICLE 540](#)

**How to be an Effective Leader** on *EffectiveMeetings.com*

Supporting and motivating your team.

[ARTICLE 541](#)

**Quick Tips for Leading Your Next Meeting** on *EffectiveMeetings.com*

A crash course in directing an effective meeting. Do you only have a minute to spare? Need a few quick tips for leading your next meeting? Check out these tips.

[ARTICLE 542](#)

## **MEDIA**

**Field Trip** by Melanie Lidman in *AJR*, July.

A growing number of journalism schools lead students on reporting trips abroad. University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism has one such program. It is two years old and is sending students abroad for an immersion course in what it's like to be a foreign correspondent. [\*\*ARTICLE 543\*\*](#)

**Wiring Journalism 2.0** by Curtis Brainhead in *CJR*, July/August.

How are the media adapting to the new digital technologies that power blogs, interactive graphics, and social networks? "Quickly" is one answer, but the advent of digital (what used to be called "new") journalism is more complicated than that. [\*\*ARTICLE 544\*\*](#)

**Second Life** by Mariah Blake in *CJR*, July/August.

A storied German-language newspaper, founded in 1934, Aufbau's mission was to help Jewish refugees and their children shed their European past and rebuild their lives in the United States. It was, in the words of longtime editor Manfred George, "an American paper, written and published in America" and "firmly faced toward our American future." Not anymore. Aufbau has traded in its storied newsprint and remade itself as a glossy monthly magazine based not in America, but in Europe. [\*\*ARTICLE 545\*\*](#)

**Crossing Lines** by Megan Garber in *CJR*, July/August.

Fletcher lies at the heart of what is perhaps the most dangerous section of what is perhaps the most dangerous city in America. This is the story of a bombed-out Detroit neighborhood, where a new blog works to rekindle a community. Although some of the students aspire to report abroad professionally, the trend comes at a time when foreign correspondent jobs are disappearing. Still, professors argue that teaching their students the skills for international reporting is more important than ever. [\*\*ARTICLE 546\*\*](#)

## **SCIENCE / SPACE**

***Some related online resources which may be of interest:***

**Safer Water, Better Health** WHO, 2008. 60p. [\*\*Summary\*\*](#)

**Emergence of the Superbug: Antimicrobial Resistance in the U.S.** – Hearing, U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, 24 June.

**Online Pharmacies and the Problem of Internet Drug Use** Committee on the Judiciary, 24 June.

**Young Adults with Serious Mental Illness: Some States and Federal Agencies are Taking Steps to Address Their Transition Challenges** GAO, June.

**Genetics and Other Human Modification Technologies: Sensible International Regulation or a New Kind of Arms Race** Hearing, Subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, 19 June. [\*\*Transcripts\*\*](#) and scroll down.

**Massachusetts Maintains Lead as Nation's Top State in Technology and Science, According to Milken** Milken Institute, 19 June.

**China's Space Program: Options for U.S.-China Cooperation** CRS, 21 May.

**Reconsidering the Rules for Space Security** by Nancy Gallagher & John D. Steinbruner. *American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, June. 98p.

## COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**Shaping Policies for the Future of the Internet Economy** *OECD*, June. 39p.

The OECD Ministerial seeks to promote the Internet economy, a concept inclusive of the full range of economic, social, and cultural activities supported by the Internet and related information and communication technologies. The report provides policy directions and guidance in 20 areas aimed at facilitating convergence, stimulating creativity, strengthening confidence, and expanding the opportunities for global economic, social and cultural development. It integrates work from five OECD Committees responsible for information and communication technologies, consumer policy, education, public governance, health and development. [ARTICLE 547](#)

**Hands-on Computing: How Multi-touch Screens Could Change the Way We Interact With Computers and Each Other** by Stuart F. Brown in *Scientific American*, July.

Rather than responding to the presence of a single finger, multi-touch computer screens can follow the instructions of many fingers simultaneously. A wall-size screen developed by Perceptive Pixel can respond to as many as 10 fingers or multiple hands. Multi-touch computing could one day free us from the mouse as our primary computer interface the way the mouse freed us from keyboards. [ARTICLE 548](#)

**Bridging the Global Digital Divide, One Laptop at a Time** *Wharton School, Univ. of Penn.* 11 June. 4p.

The non-profit *One Laptop per Child (OLPC)* program unveiled the second version of its XO laptop, which is designed to bring affordable, modern technology to children in developing countries. The researchers of the study say that the focus on third world countries is promising, but they question whether these efforts will be effective. Non-profits see technology as a way to improve education. Meanwhile, technology companies see a good cause and billions of potential customers. [ARTICLE 549](#)

**Cybercrime in the Year 2025** by Gene Stephens on *Redorbit.com*, 2 July.

In 1981, criminal-justice scholar Gene Stephens wrote an article for *The Futurist* on "Crime in the Year 2000," and in 1995, an article on "Crime in Cyberspace." In both he suggested the role the computer and Internet would play in crime and crime fighting in the future. Here, he reviews what he got right, what he got wrong, and why, and suggests the types of cybercrimes and cybercrime fighting that will occur by the year 2025. [ARTICLE 550](#)

***Some online resources which may be of interest:***

**Home Broadband Adoption 2008** *Pew Internet and American Life Project*, July. [Summary](#)

**"Spam": An Overview of Issues Concerning Commercial Electronic Mail** *CRS*, 14 May.

**Remarks by Federal Communications Commission chairman Kevin Martin at plenary session of OECD Ministerial Meeting on the Future of the Internet Economy** in Seoul, 17 June.

**New York Times rolls out social network** *Red Herring*, 19 June. [social network](#)

**100 Useful Niche Search Engines You've Never Heard of** *College at Home*, 19 June.

**The Future of Universal Service: To Who, by Whom, for What, and How Much?** Hearing, *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce*, 24 June.

**Review of Mark Bauerlein** in *Los Angeles Times*, 5 July - ***The Dumbest Generation: How the Digital Age Stupefies Young Americans and Jeopardizes Our Future...*** (2008).

**How Facebook Works** *Technology Review*, July-August.

**Agencies Get Pushy with Web 2.0** *Federal Computer Week*, 9 June.

## THE ARTS & CULTURE

**Revitalizing Arts Education Through Community-wide Coordination** by Susan J. Bodilly et al. *RAND*, June. 109p.

Arts education has been a low priority in the nation's public schools for more than 30 years. Severe fiscal crises in America's urban centers in those years exacerbated the situation as schools responded by cutting teaching positions, especially in core subject areas. More recently the general education reforms, such as the *No Child Left Behind Act*, that hold schools accountable for standardized test scores in mathematics and reading, led to neglect of arts education. In a countermovement, some urban centers have developed initiatives aimed at coordinating schools, cultural institutions, community-based organizations, foundations, and/ or government agencies to promote access to arts learning for children in and outside of school. [ARTICLE 551](#)

**The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Writer** by Patrick Tucker in *The Futurist*, July/August.

As the publisher of an extremely popular series of computer manuals, O'Reilly is a bright star in a field of drab. Dubbed the "guru of the participation age" by Steven Levy in a 2005 *Wired* profile and a "graying hippie" with a "hostility toward traditional media" by author Andrew Keen, O'Reilly makes millions of dollars promoting open source at his conferences and selling do-it-yourself know-how to anyone who browses the computer aisle at Barnes and Noble. His message to the world's publishing elite exudes a Wizard of Oz simplicity: Give more product away on your Web site, thereby attracting more people to sell on something pricier than a book - like a bunch of books or a conference ticket. [ARTICLE 552](#)

**The Ultimate Literary Portrait** by Henrik Bering in *Policy Review*, June/July.

Among the great literary encounters of literature Bering believes that none ranks higher than the one that took place between James Boswell and Samuel Johnson in Tom Davis's bookstore in Russell Street, Covent Garden on Monday, May 16, 1763. Boswell, a 22-year-old Scot with literary ambitions, had long been desiring to meet the great man of English letters, but without success, and was sitting in the back parlor of the shop having tea when Johnson suddenly entered the store. [ARTICLE 553](#)

**The Neuroscience of Dance** by Steven Brown & Lawrence Parsons in *Scientific American*, July.

Recent brain-imaging studies reveal some of the complex neural choreography behind our ability to dance.

[ARTICLE 554](#)

**Top Ten Forecasts for 2008 and Beyond** in *The Futurist*

The magazine's editors selected the most thought-provoking ideas and forecasts appearing in the magazine to go into their annual **Outlook** report. These include such facts as the world will have a billion millionaires by 2025. Counterfeiting of currency will proliferate, driving the move toward a cashless society; Water will be in the twenty-first century what oil was in the twentieth century; Rising prices for natural resources could lead to a full-scale rush to develop the Arctic, etc. [ARTICLE 555](#)

**Hollywood's Hero Deficit** by James Bowman in *The American*, July/August.

Bowman posits that there have not been any real movie heroes for a generation.

[ARTICLE 556](#)

**Artists in the Workforce 1990-2005** Research report, *National Endowment for the Arts*, May. 150p.

"The first nationwide look at artists' demographic and employment patterns in the 21<sup>st</sup> century." [Summary](#) – 12 June. 8p.

**Revitalizing Arts Education Through Community-Wide Coordination** *RAND*, 2008. 109p.

**The Newseum – The World's Most Interactive Museum**

**Some online resources which may be of interest:**

**Boom in international travel to the United States: U.S. International Trade Administration** News release, 23 June. **2008 monthly tourism statistics**

**Climate Change and Tourism's Winners and Losers** by Eric Heymann. *YaleGlobal*, 2 May.

**Managing the Next Domestic Catastrophe: Ready (or Not)?** by Christine E. Wormuth. *CSIS*, June. 103p.

**Wildfire Damages to Homes and Resources: Understanding Causes and Reducing Losses** *CRS*, 2 June.

**Flooding in the Midwest, June 2008** – online resources compiled by *U.S. Geological Survey*.

**The Library of Congress Wise Guide – June issue**

**Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee** Click on the bear to visit the site.

**International Organizations:**

**Iraq: Angry Hearts and Angry Minds** *The Sentis Council* (Brussels), June 2008. **Full text** 68p.

**The Basel Committee has issued for public comment revised principles for sound liquidity risk management supervision** June.

**World Trade Indicators 2008** *World Bank*, June.

**World Drug Report 2008** *UN Office on Drugs and Crime*, June.

**Guidelines - National Bibliographies in Electronic Age** Working group draft paper, *IFLA*, 2008.

**Food and Fuel Prices: Recent Developments, Macroeconomic Impact, and Policy Responses** *IMF*, 30 June. 58p. **Summary**: "Price Surge Driving Some Countries Close to Tipping Point – IMF."

**Reinventing Humanitarian Intervention: Two Cheers for the Responsibility to Protect?** Research paper by the *UK House of Commons Library*, 17 June. 62p.

**Land Degradation on the Rise** News release, Food and Agriculture Organization, July 2, 2008. There is a link to the publication *Global Assessment of Land Degradation and Improvement*.

**Global Trends in Sustainable Energy Investment 2008 Report** *UNEP Sust. Energy Finance Initiative*, July.

**Toward a Global View of Alcohol, Tobacco, Cannabis, and Cocaine Use: Findings from the WHO World Mental Health Surveys** Public Library of Science, *PLoS Medicine*, (June).

**Spreadsheets to the Max** by Joab Jackson, *Government Computer News*, 23 June.

**The Internet in Transition: A Platform to Keep the Internet Open, Innovative and Free** *Center for Democracy and Technology*, 2008. (context: the 2008 U.S. presidential election)

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