



Books Delivered to Niue from the American Reference Center, Wellington



Embassy Wellington was delighted when Glyn Davies, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs at the U.S. State Department, arrived on Niue with several boxes of new books for the Island’s High School. One of the school teachers has told us the collection of U.S. history, geography, and elections materials will be a valuable addition to the school’s library.

Picture: The Head boy of Niue High School, Lyron Lino, receives the books on the school’s behalf from Mr Davies.

THE PACIFIC [The Secretary of State Visits Auckland and Samoa](#) *U.S. Dept. of State, 26 July.*

Remarks to the U.S.-N.Z. Council by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Auckland War Memorial Museum, N.Z. 26 July.

"New Zealand and the U.S... have a long history of partnership. It is one that is grounded in common interests, but it is elevated by common ideals... defined by the warmth and respect of two nations, but more importantly, of two peoples who are bound together by countless ties of friendship, family, and shared experience. [ARTICLE 557](#)

U.S. Foreign Policy in Korea and the Asia-Pacific Region with Ambassador Christopher R. Hill, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. *Watson Institute, 25 April.* [LISTEN](#)

An Airman’s Perspective: Air, Space, and Cyberspace Strategy for the Pacific by Howie Chandler, in *Strategic Studies Quarterly*, Summer.

Chandler, General, USAF, believes that while the U.S. has always been a Pacific nation, the interests and strategic challenges that concern the country in this vast region are inexorably linked with its air, space, and cyberspace capabilities. Those enduring interests in the Pacific span the entire spectrum of economic, political, and security relations. He argues that engagement in this region has been critical to both regional and global security for many decades and will become increasingly so in the future. Chandler also says that it is in the United States’ interest to support and encourage the free movement of goods and services throughout the Asia-Pacific region - one that encompasses 105 million square miles, 39 countries, over four billion people, and an economic footprint that rivals the European Union. [ARTICLE 558](#)

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

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

A User's Guide to the Century by Jeffrey Sachs in *The National Interest*, July/August.

The scale of human society - in population, level of economic production and resource use, and global reach of production networks - gives rise to enormous hopes and equally momentous challenges. Old models of statecraft and economics will not suffice. [ARTICLE 559](#)

America's New Global Challenge by Ivo Daalder. *Brookings*, 24 July.

The challenge for the next President is to understand how much the world has changed and how America can best pursue its national interests in an international environment. Daalder says it isn't just the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan that have changed the world, nor other aspects of the Bush legacy that have weakened America's power and position. This is an era of global interconnectedness. The fate of the average American is increasingly connected to the fate of people around the world creating unparalleled opportunities but also great dangers from which no nation can be immune. Ours is also an era of increasingly diffuse power, as more powers rise to demand influence and a say over global affairs and more actors affect the course of global politics. [ARTICLE 560](#)

McCain's Choice by Derek Chollet & James Goldgeier in *National Interest*, July/August.

While the future direction of American diplomacy hangs in the balance, neoconservatives and realists are battling on the Republican foreign policy agenda. These senior fellows at the Council on Foreign Relations offer an inside look at the struggle for the foreign policy strategy of the Republican Party. Presidential candidate John McCain describes himself as a "realistic idealist" and would rely on U.S. leadership of a multilateral organization based on a community of values. They say that standing up for values should remain an important part of foreign policy, but a future McCain administration must also be willing to compromise in order to make progress in several areas around the globe. [ARTICLE 561](#)

America's Asia-Pacific Strategy Is Out of Kilter by William Tow in *Current History*, September 2007.

The Asia-Pacific region is shaping up as the most important in the world for the United States' evolving strategic interests and force postures. The U.S. - China relationship has developed into the world's most critical bilateral relationship. Taiwan and North Korea remain volatile flashpoints capable of involving the United States in conflicts that could be far more lethal than Iraq. And Asian economies, generating around 34% of the world's total gross national product, are among the most dynamic and fastest-growing in the world. [ARTICLE 562](#)

False Prophets by Geneive Abdo in *Foreign Policy*, July/August.

Despite the overwhelming evidence of a decline in the West's relationship with the Islamic world, Abdo opines that it still has no effective foreign-policy strategy for engaging Islamist leaders and Muslim societies in any meaningful way. He says that the most immediate crisis at hand - current U.S. foreign policy together with an Islamic world that is growing more conservative, religious, and hostile toward the United States - must be dealt with. He warns also that by glossing over serious differences, the organizations at the forefront of interfaith dialogue confuse discussion with success - and end up leaving everyone at risk. [ARTICLE 563](#)

Battle of the Bulge by Neil Howe & Richard Jackson in *The National Interest*, July/August.

Global demographic explosions are mixing with population busts - and the consequences could be serious. As some countries get older and others younger, the authors posit that demography may be the key to the wars of this century. [ARTICLE 564](#)

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

China's economy will surpass that of the United States by 2035 and be twice its size by mid-century, the report concludes. China's rapid growth is driven by domestic demand, not exports, and will sustain high single-digit growth rates well into this century. The report examines China's likely economic trajectory and its implications for global commercial, institutional, and military leadership. [ARTICLE 565](#)

Appeasing China: Restricting Rights of Tibetans in Nepal *Human Rights Watch*, July 2008. 64p.

The report documents violations of human rights by the Nepali authorities, particularly the police, against Tibetans involved in peaceful demonstrations in Kathmandu, including: unnecessary and excessive use of force; arbitrary arrest; sexual assault of women during arrest; arbitrary and preventive detention; beatings in detention; unlawful threats to deport Tibetans to China; restrictions on freedom of movement in the Kathmandu Valley; harassment of Tibetan and foreign journalists; and harassment of Nepali, Tibetan, and foreign human rights defenders.

ARTICLE 566

Conservative Internationalism by Henry Nau in *Policy Review*, August/September.

Since World War II international relations specialists have debated two main traditions or schools of American foreign policy, realism and liberal internationalism.

ARTICLE 567

A Strategic Engagement: Strengthening U.S.-Chinese Ties by Henry Paulson in *Foreign Affairs*, September/October.

One of the first challenges the next U.S. president will face will be how to respond to China's emergence as a global power. Some suggest that China is a threat that must be countered or contained. Others argue that its growth is an opportunity for the U.S. economy and that Washington should manage this rising power through engagement. Paulson believes that engagement is the only path to success.

ARTICLE 568

The New Arab Diplomacy: Not With the U.S. and Not Against U.S. by Marian Ottaway & Mohammed Herzallah. *CEIP*, July. 24p.

Arab countries are undertaking diplomatic initiatives that clearly contradict U.S. policy, because they no longer trust the U.S. capacity to contend with escalating regional crises. Even Arab countries traditionally aligned with the United States are no longer willing to follow Washington's lead on policies toward Iran, Lebanon, or Hamas. The authors assess the diplomatic efforts of Arab regimes seeking to fill the power vacuum left by the absence of a strong regime in Iraq and U.S. policy.

ARTICLE 569

How to Save Karzai by Seth Jones on *Foreign Policy*, web exclusive, July.

The author, a political scientist at Rand and professor at Georgetown University, writes almost seven years after the coalition's invasion of Afghanistan that the Taliban and other insurgents are gaining ground, there is endemic corruption in the government, the drug trade has never been higher, and that most Afghans are without basic services. This bleak situation has led to calls for the U.S. and its allies to support someone else in the 2009 presidential election. This would be a mistake, says Jones. Karzai, with all his faults, is still "the best Afghanistan's political class has to offer," and that "Giving up on Karzai will only weaken an already weak state. That is in no one's interest, except perhaps the Taliban's."

ARTICLE 570

Feeding Frenzy by Javier Blas in *The National Interest*, July/August.

A recipe for political danger: too many mouths to feed, not enough food to go around. **ARTICLE 571**

Revving Up the Cooperative Nonproliferation Engine by Richard Lugar in *Nonproliferation Review*, July. 14p.

Lugar, Republican Senator from Indiana and co-sponsor of legislation that created the *Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR)* program which helped dismantle nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in the former Soviet Union, says the scope of the program should now be expanded beyond strategic weapons and be used to address the threat from conventional systems. He also says the program should continue to expand geographically, and that the breakthrough disarmament talks with North Korea could pave the way for *CTR* use. **ARTICLE 572**

An Intellectual Genealogy of the Just War: A Survey of Christian Political Thought on the Justification of Warfare by Keith J. Gomes in *Small Wars Journal*, 3 August.

Gomes briefly outlines the development of the just war doctrine, with special emphasis on the developments in Christian thought which ultimately influenced modern international legal documents, such as the *Geneva Conventions* (1864-1948) and the Report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty entitled *Responsibility to Protect* which contain references to "just war." He says the need for "just war" criteria represents the efforts of Western cultures to regulate and restrict violence by establishing rules which specify the situations in which war can be legitimately used as a tool in international statecraft, as well as by setting out rules which govern ethical conduct during combat.

[ARTICLE 573](#)

The Looming Crisis: Displacement and Security in Iraq by Elizabeth Ferris. *Brookings*, August. 53p.

Lost in discussions of the military surge, the pace of troop draw downs, and political benchmarks are millions of displaced Iraqi women, children, and men. Their plight is both a humanitarian tragedy and a strategic crisis that is not being addressed. The U.S. administration officials may acknowledge it as an important issue but lack a serious long-term plan to address the crisis. Present and future Iraqi displacement has the potential to change the Middle East landscape in unpredictably adverse ways. But if the U.S. government, the U.N. system, and the non-governmental world do not think strategically about Iraqi displacement, the implications for security in the region could be equally far-reaching.

[ARTICLE 574](#)

How to Leave a Stable Iraq by Stephen Biddle et al. in *Foreign Affairs*, Sept./October.

The prognosis for positive change in Iraq is much more encouraging these days, the authors say, and the U.S. may be able to start cutting back its troop presence starting in 2010. Sunni insurgents and extremists and the Shiite militias have either suffered crippling military defeat or have stood down and agreed to cease-fires. The Iraqi security forces (ISF) have grown more capable, reliable and credible, as has the Iraqi National Police. Although tensions remain severe, Iraqi political life is changing for the better, and the Iraqi people are rejecting the militias. If no longer a "failed state," Iraq is certainly a fragile one. Immediate challenges, the authors say, remain in integrating the Sons of Iraq into the ISF, dealing with returning refugees and internally displaced people, improving the Iraqi central government's administrative capacity and the country's economic progress, and preventing Kurdish-Arabic upheaval in Kirkuk. Given the hopeful circumstances of today, all-out civil war or a wider regional war can be avoided.

[ARTICLE 575](#)

Pandemic Pandemonium by Josh Ruxin in *The National Interest*, July/August.

When someone ten thousand miles away sneezes, you might indeed catch a cold - or something worse. From the millions of unnecessary deaths in the developing world to the new vulnerabilities of the developed nations, Ruxin looks at why the current approach to stopping fast-spreading disease is all wrong - and offers a way to avert global pandemics.

[ARTICLE 576](#)

Rogue Operators by Daniel Byman in *The National Interest*, July-August.

According to Byman, director of the Center for Peace and Security Studies at Georgetown University and a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, the terrorist threats the U.S. faces are hard to categorize - they are neither traditional terrorist groups nor state sponsors. He notes that the real problem is that "weaknesses within states and their governments' desires to bolster their security often result in an inability to rein in societies' darkest undercurrents." Despite all the talk about non-state actors or networked organizations, states are still at the core of the war on terror; frequently, the problem is passivity or lack of action on the part of governments. Some examples Byman cites of efforts that have backfired are Saudi Arabia's funding of extremist religious institutions; Pakistan's support of the Taliban; Iran funding groups that ended up battling its own favored proxies in Iraq; and jihadist fighters from Yemen returning to Iraq after being arrested and "reeducated". Byman argues that the U.S. has to accept that "state sponsorship" can often be something that occurs at the substate level, and that we need to engage local bureaucracies directly.

[ARTICLE 577](#)

A Look at Terrorist Behavior: How They Prepare, When They Strike by Brent Smith. *National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice*. Web posted July 31, 2008. 5p.

There is very little information available on terrorists' behavioral patterns. Research has shown that traditional criminals are spontaneous, but terrorists seem to go to great lengths preparing for their attacks and may commit other crimes while doing so. The study finds that most terrorists live close to their selected targets, and they engage in a great deal of preparation, some over the course of months or even years, that have the potential of coming to the attention of local law enforcement. [ARTICLE 578](#)

The Failed States Index 2008 *The Fund for Peace and CEIP, in Foreign Policy*, July/August.

As this year's index reveals, unexpected shocks can tip the balance in a growing number of the world's most vulnerable states. [The List / The Rankings](#) [ARTICLE 579](#)

Some International Relations online resources which may be of interest:

[The North Korean Six-Party Talks and Implementation Activities](#) Hearing, *U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services*, 31 July.

[Defining the Military's Role Towards Foreign Policy](#) Hearing, *U.S. Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations*, 31 July.

[The List: The World's Most Powerful Development NGOs](#) in *Foreign Policy*, July/August.

[The Middle East: Evolution of a Broken Regional Order](#) by Paul Salem. *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (CEIP)*, June. 28p. [Summary](#)

[The Navy's Surface Combatant Programs](#) Testimony by Eric J. Labs (CBO) to a *Subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Armed Services*, [other testimony to this hearing](#) - focus is on destroyer acquisition programs.

[Possible Extension of the UN Mandate for Iraq: Options](#) Hearing, *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, 23 July. [Transcripts](#), and scroll down.

[The Russia-Venezuela Axis: Using Energy for Geopolitical Advantage](#) by Ariel Cohen & Ray Walser. *Heritage Foundation*, 21 July.

[UN Peacekeeping: Opportunities and Challenges](#) Hearing, *U.S. Senate Comm. on Foreign Relations*, 23 July.

[Iraq: Positive Change in the Detention System](#) by Elizabeth Detwiler. *U.S. Institute of Peace*, July.

[Killing Friends, Making Enemies: The Impact and Avoidance of Civilian Casualties in Afghanistan](#) by J. Alexander Thier & Azita Ranjbar. *U.S. Institute of Peace*, July.

[Current and Future Trends in Special Operations Warfare](#) Interview with U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Michael G. Vickers. *Council on Foreign Relations*, 24 July.

[Saving the NPT and the Nonproliferation Regime in an Era of Nuclear Renaissance](#) Hearing, *Subcomm. of the U.S. House Comm. on Foreign Affairs*, July 24, 2008. [Transcripts](#), and scroll down.

[U.S.-Iraq Strategic Framework and Status of Forces Agreement: Congressional Response](#) *CRS*, 11 July.

[Iran's Nuclear Program: Status](#) *CRS*, 23 June.

[Securing Pakistan's Tribal Belt](#) by Daniel Markey. *Council on Foreign Relations*, July.

[The Global Nuclear Detection Architecture: Issues for Congress](#) *CRS*, 16 July.

Terrorism and Homeland Security:

Reassessing the Threat: The Future of Al Qaeda and its Implications for Homeland Security Hearing, *Subcomm. of the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security*, 30 July.

How Terrorist Groups End: Lessons for Countering al Qa'ida RAND, 2008. 9p.

The Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Hearing, *Subcomm. of the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security*, 30 July.

A Morphing al-Qaeda Analysis by Greg Bruno. *Council on Foreign Relations*, 20 August.

Speech by U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff at USC National Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events, 13 August. (re management of personal identification issues in the U.S. in the context of identity fraud and of homeland security efforts)

Laptop Inspections Legal, Rare, Essential Statement by Jayson Ahern, Deputy Commissioner, *U.S. Customs and Border Protection*, 11 August.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act: A Sketch of Selected Issues CRS, 7 July.

Aviation Security: An Update Hearing, *Subcommittee on Aviation, U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, 24 July.

Information Sharing: Connecting the Dots at the Federal, State, and Local Levels Hearing, *U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs*, 23 July.

The Roots of Violent Islamist Extremism and Efforts to Counter It Hearing, *U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs*, 10 July.

Project BioShield Annual Report to Congress, August 2006-July 2007 *U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services*, July 2008. 68p. **News Release**

Avoiding Transfers to Torture by Ashley S. Deeks. *CFR*, June. 56p. **News Release** 17 July.

Boumediene v. Bush. Guantanamo Detainees' Right to Habeas Corpus CRS, 16 June.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act: An Overview of Selected Issues CRS, 7 July.

Foreign Aid:

Foreign Aid and the Fight Against Terrorism and Proliferation: Leveraging Foreign Aid to Achieve U.S. Policy Goals Hearing, *Subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, 31 July. **Transcripts** and scroll down.

A Reliance on Smart Power: Reforming the Foreign Assistance Bureaucracy Hearing, *Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs*, 31 July.

Emergency Preparedness and Humanitarian Response:

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

Disaster Preparedness in Urban Immigrant Communities Report by *Tomas Rivera Policy Institute and Asian Pacific American Legal Center*, 2008. 36p. **Press Release**

ELECTIONS 2008

The Democrats' Dilemma by Joel Kotkin in *The American*, July/August.

A major shift in the composition of the American economy has transformed the Democratic Party and poses deep challenges to its future. [ARTICLE 580](#)

A Fork in the Road: Obama, McCain, and Health Care by Michael Tanner. *Cato Institute*, 29 July. 28p.

Senator Obama's approach to health care reform relies heavily on government mandates, regulations, and subsidies. He would mandate that employers provide health care coverage for their workers and parents purchase health insurance for their children. He would significantly increase regulation of the insurance industry, establishing a standard minimum benefits package, and requiring insurers to accept all applicants regardless of their health. In contrast, John McCain emphasizes consumer choice and greater competition in the health care industry. He would move away from the current employment-based insurance system by replacing the current tax exclusion for employer-provided insurance with a refundable tax credit for individuals. At the same time he would sharply deregulate the insurance industry to increase competition. [ARTICLE 581](#)

[Daily Presidential Tracking Poll](#)

[Presidential Debates, 1960-2008](#) - links to transcripts.

[Latest '08 Videos](#)

[The Purpose Driven Campaign: The Candidates' Forum](#)

[Men or Women: Who's the Better Leader?](#) - Americans believe women have the right stuff to be political leaders. When it comes to honesty, intelligence and a handful of other character traits they value highly in leaders, the public rates women superior to men, according to a new nationwide Pew Research Center Social and Demographic Trends survey.

[Presidential Nomination Acceptance Speeches, Past and Present](#) – links to texts.

[Voters' Trust for McCain on Key Issues Growing](#) - John McCain is now trusted more than Barack Obama on nine out of 14 electoral issues tracked by Rasmussen Reports. The latest national telephone surveys find that McCain has the biggest advantage on the war in Iraq, by a 51% to 39% margin.

[Voters Not Strongly Backing Incumbents for Congress](#) - In a year when approval of Congress has reached a new low, just 36% of U.S. registered voters say most members of Congress deserve re-election. This is among the lowest ratings Gallup has measured in a recent presidential or congressional election year.

[Obama's Travels: Some Good News and Some Risks](#) - The positive is that Obama appeared "presidential" and that Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki seemed to parrot Obama's ideas on a timeline for U.S. troop withdrawal. But Senor worries that tying U.S. troops to a timetable will undermine progress made over the past year.

[Candidates Focus on Energy, Spar Over Oil Resources](#) - Sen. Barack Obama delivered a major speech on energy, which included a call to open the nation's strategic oil reserves, while his rival, GOP Sen. John McCain, urged Congress to call off its August recess and pass new energy legislation. Advisers to both campaigns discuss the two views.

[CLOSE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS: Not the American norm](#) - For those voters who have come of age in the 21st century, the extremely close presidential elections of 2000 and 2004 must seem like the norm. But that is hardly the case. Over the course of American history, there have been more presidential elections decided by landslide margins than have been determined by narrow margins.

[Urban America: The New Solid South](#) - Today, America's urban areas have evolved into a political monoculture that increasingly resembles the "solid South" that provided a base for Democrats from the late 19th century to the 1960s. Race and income levels do not explain the emerging urban monoculture, because the cause lies elsewhere: in the evolution of cities over the past four decades.

[Getting More Out of the Polls](#) - Political observers have become more sophisticated in their reading of polls in recent years. They know enough now not to read too much into summer polls. Poll leaders in June are not any more likely to win than their opponents who trail them in the summer polls. By the time of the conventions, though, polls become more meaningful.

TRADE / ECONOMY

The Next Asian Miracle by Yasheng Huang in *Foreign Policy*, July/August.

Huang argues that the Indian economic miracle, which now regularly registers at 8-9% a year, should shatter false beliefs that democracy is bad for GDP. Rather, he says it was not until India truly began to act like a democracy that its economic engine began to purr. He says the results should make China and the rest of Asia's economic tigers sit up and take notice. [ARTICLE 582](#)

Mo' Money, Mo' Problems by Daniel Altman in *The National Interest*, July/August.

A host of countries are making great economic strides, which means the burgeoning global middle class is demanding an ever-growing piece of the pie. While that is good news, it is also causing higher prices for just about everything you could want. Thankfully though, the status quo doesn't have to be permanent. [ARTICLE 583](#)

Slow-Motion Recession: What Congress Can Do to Help? by Eileen Appelbaum et al. *Center for Economic and Policy Research*, July. 14p.

The report presents several proposals designed to address the nation's current economic slowdown. The authors suggest a second stimulus package, which includes an expanded tax credit for homes and businesses to make energy conserving renovations, subsidies for state and local governments to reduce fares on public transportation, and additional payments to low- and moderate-income households through programs such as Food Stamps, School Lunches and the Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program to make it easier for families to cope with rising food and energy prices. [ARTICLE 584](#)

Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's Financial Problems: FAQs by N. Eric Weiss. CRS, 21 July. 6p.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are chartered by Congress as government sponsored enterprises (*GSEs*) and are widely believed to have an implicit guarantee from the federal government. Questions about their roles are covered by the report in light of the current economic environment. [ARTICLE 585](#)

What's Driving Food Prices? *Farm Foundation*. July 2008. 84p.

Understanding the complex and multiple factors influencing food prices today is important as future policy options are debated, according to the study. Economic growth and rising human aspirations are putting greater pressure on the global resource base. The Farm Foundation study identifies three broad sets of forces driving food price increases: global changes in production and consumption of key commodities, the depreciation of the U.S. dollar, and growth in the production of bio-fuels. [ARTICLE 586](#)

Retirement Vulnerability of New Retirees: The Likelihood of Outliving Their Assets. *Ernst & Young, LLP. & Americans for Secure Retirement*, July 2008. 26p.

Almost three out of five new middle-class retirees will outlive their financial assets if they attempt to maintain their pre-retirement standard of living, according to this study. It also finds that middle-income Americans entering retirement now will have to reduce their standard of living by an average of 24% to minimize the likelihood of outliving their financial assets. Those Americans seven years out from retirement are even less prepared and the study estimates that they will have to reduce their standard of living by an average of 37%. [ARTICLE 587](#)

The State as Strategic Manager? A Dynamic Capabilities Framework by Dan Breznitz & Carsten Zimmermann in *Challenge*, July/August.

Breznitz and Zimmermann look at the guidelines that can be established for a government policy to promote economic growth, arguing that management theory may provide a useful model for state interventions. They are not talking about picking corporate winners, but about establishing broad sets of capabilities, something which a government can do by acting like a strategic manager in a conglomerate. [ARTICLE 588](#)

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

Marginal Thought An economics blog of the *Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago*.

The Beige Book *U.S. Federal Reserve Board*, July 23, 2008. Report issued 8 times a year; its formal title is *Summary of Commentary on Current Economic Conditions by Federal Reserve District*. **Issues since 1970**
Issues of the Beige Book during 2008

Economic Growth or the Environment? When Cornered, Americans Believe Economic Growth is More Important *Harris Poll*, 30 July.

Reinforcing Market Stability and Confidence Address by U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson Jr at the New York Public Library, 22 July.

Systemic Risk and the Financial Markets Hearing, *U.S. House Committee on Financial Services*, 24 July. Witnesses at this hearing are SEC chairman Christopher Cox and Federal Reserve Bank of New York President and CEO Timothy F. Geithner.

Implications of a Weaker Dollar for Oil Prices and the U.S. Economy Hearing, *U.S. House Committee on Financial Services*, 24 July.

Mortgage Markets and the Enterprises in 2007 *Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight*, July 2008. 107p. **Press Release** (mortgage markets and the financial performance of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in 2007)

Perspectives on the Economy, Inflation, and Monetary Policy Speech by Charles I. Plosser, President and CEO, *Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia*, 22 July.

How Much More Can American Families be Squeezed by Stagnant Wages, Skyrocketing Household Costs, and Falling Home Prices? Hearing before the *Joint Economic Committee, U.S. Congress*, 23 July.

The Final Frontier: The Integration of Banking and Commerce Part 1: The Likely Outcome of Eliminating the Barrier. *Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Economic Review*, No.1, 2008 (July 2008). **Summary of this article** which looks at the implications of any removal of the legal barriers between banks and commercial firms.

U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson Jr announces GSE initiatives 13 July.
(GSE = government sponsored enterprise)

Systemic Risk and the Financial Markets Hearing, *U.S. House Committee on Financial Services*, July 10, 2008. The witnesses - U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Henry Paulson Jr & U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben S. Bernanke.

Risks and Prospects for the U.S. Economy Speech by Janet L. Yellen, president and CEO, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, July 10, 2008

Update to the Subprime Mortgage Market Crisis Timeline *Joint Economic Committee, U.S. Congress*, July 2008.

Effective Capital Markets and Market Discipline Remarks by U.S. Acting Under Secretary of the Treasury for Domestic Finance Anthony Ryan, 21 July.

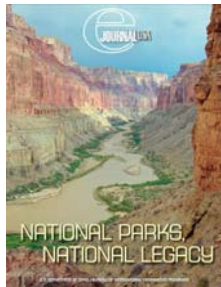
Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's Financial Problems: Frequently Asked Questions *CRS*, 15 July.

The Future of U.S. Trade Policy: An Overview *CRS*, 24 July.

Economic Indicators and Releases A hyperlinked calendar of U.S. economic data releases, compiled and updated by National Bureau of Economic Research (a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization)

The Impact of the Housing Crash on Family Wealth by Dean Baker and David Rosnick. *Center for Economic Policy and Research*, July. 15p. **Press Release**

ENERGY / ENVIRONMENT



National Parks, National Legacy - *eJournal USA*, July 2008 - an electronic journal of the U.S. Dept of State, Office of International Information Programs.

The people of the United States own and protect a sprawling system of national parks, including seashores, trails, monuments, and battlefields. All American citizens are, in a sense, stewards of sites where history unfolded, where mountains soar, and where rivers run. They keep these parks for the future, and they treasure them today. As former President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said, "There is nothing so American as our national parks. The scenery and wildlife are native. The fundamental idea behind the parks is native. It is, in brief, that the country belongs to the people." This eJournalUSA presents glorious views of the national parks, the history of this vast system, and its mission of conservation and public access. [Inside this publication](#) / [View PDF \(1.83 MB\)](#)

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

The former Chair of Intel outlines a bold new energy policy.

[ARTICLE 589](#)

Threats From Above: Air Pollution Impacts on Ecosystems and Biological Diversity in the Eastern United States by Gary Lovett & Timothy Tear. *Nature Conservancy and Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies*, web posted 21 July. 32p.

No ecosystem type in the eastern United States is free of the effects of air pollution, according to the report. From streams and rivers to forests and wetlands, air pollution reduces the benefits these ecosystems provide to society, and damages human health and economies. Sulfur, nitrogen, mercury and ground-level ozone not only contaminate the air we breathe, they also enter the soil and water, causing a complex set of problems, which is widespread.

[ARTICLE 590](#)

Progress on Drinking Water & Sanitation: Special Focus - Sanitation. *WHO, UN*. Web posted 20 July. 58p.

Every day, over 2.5 billion people suffer from a lack of access to reliable sanitation and nearly 1.2 billion practice open defecation, the riskiest sanitary practice of all, according to the report which assesses global, regional and country progress using an innovative "ladder" concept. This shows sanitation practices in greater detail, enabling experts to highlight trends which include the fact that the number of people who lack access to an improved drinking water source has fallen below one billion for the 1st time since data were first compiled in 1990.

[ARTICLE 591](#)

Forest Carbon Markets: Potential and Drawbacks by Ross Gorte & Jonathan Ramseur. *CRS*, 29 July. 22p.

Forests are major carbon storehouses and activities that alter forests can release or sequester carbon dioxide (CO₂), the most common greenhouse gas (GHG). Some carbon markets have been formed under mandatory GHG reduction regimes, such as the Kyoto Protocol and various regional and state initiatives in the United States. Other markets have formed for voluntary efforts to reduce GHG emissions. Forestry activities are among the largest-volume and lowest-cost opportunities for generating offsets. Afforestation, planting trees on open sites, and reforestation, planting trees on recently cleared sites, are the activities most commonly included for offsets.

[ARTICLE 592](#)

Some environmental online resources which may be of interest:

Mountain Megas: America's Newest Metropolitan Places and a Federal Partnership to Help Them Prosper *Brookings*, July. Looks at the fast population growth in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah.

Climate Change and Water: IPCC Technical Paper VI *Intergov. Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)*, June. 214p.

Fisheries of the United States 2007 *National Marine Fisheries Service*, July 2008. 118p. [Summary](#)

Energy Security: An American Imperative Hearing, *U.S. Senate Comm. on Homeland Sec and Gov. Affairs*, 22 July.

Interim Report on Crude Oil *Interagency Task Force on Commodity Markets*, July. 45p.

Western Oil Shale Potential: 800 Billion Barrels of Recoverable Oil *U.S. Dept of the Interior*, 22 July. **The proposed regulations**

Deploying Oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Hearing, *U.S. House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming*, 23 July.

Hearing on Federal Programs to Reduce Gasoline Demand Hearing, *U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources*, 23 July.

Threats from Above: Air Pollution Impacts on Ecosystems and Biological Diversity in the Eastern U.S. *The Nature Conservancy and the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies*, June. 32p. **Press Release** 21 July.

An Update on the Science of Global Warming and its Implications Hearing, *U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works*, 22 July.

Remarks by U.S. Under Secretary of State Paula J. Dobriansky at a breakfast briefing on the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate 17 July. The U.S. Gov. website - **Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate**

Clean Energy Exporter Guides Released *International Trade Administration, U.S. Dept of Commerce*, 17 July. Guides help American clean energy technology equipment exporters navigate **Chinese** & **Indian** energy markets.

Speculation and Energy Prices: Legislative Responses *CRS*, 8 July.

Gasoline Prices: Causes of Increases and Congressional Response *CRS*, 3 July.

Running on Fumes: Rising Gas Prices Add to the Strain on Families' Already Squeezed Budgets *Center for American Progress*, June 2008. 20p.

California Adopts Nation's First Statewide "Green" Building Code News release, *California Building Standards Commission*, 17 July.

Analyses and Effects of Global Change on Human Health and Welfare and Human Systems *EPA National Center for Environmental Assessment*, July 2008.

Forest Carbon Markets: Potential and Drawbacks *CRS*, 3 July.

Confronting Climate Change: A Strategy for U.S. Foreign Policy Independent task force report, *Council on Foreign Relations*, 13 June 2008. Note: 142p. **Summary and related material**

Heavy Rainfall and Increased Flooding Risk: Global Warming's Wakeup Call for the Central U.S. *National Wildlife Federation*, July 2008. 4p.

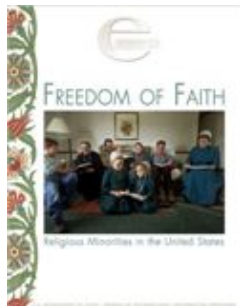
Earth's Water Cycle and Climate Change: Reading List *Science Reference Serv. Library of Congress*, 1 July.

H.R. 6066, the Extractive Industries Transparency Disclosure Act Hearing, *U.S. House Committee on Financial Services*, 26 June. This bill, if enacted, "would require oil, gas, and mining companies listed on U.S. exchanges to publicly disclose the payments they make to the governments of the countries from which those resources are extracted."

Transportation Infrastructure: Issues and Options Hearing, *U.S. Senate Committee on Finance*, 10 July.

Efficiency: The Hidden Secret to Solving Our Energy Crisis Hearing, *JEC., U.S. Congress*, 30 July.

AMERICAN SOCIETY



Freedom of Faith – *eJournalUSA*, August. 33p.

The principle of religious freedom is a cherished right in the United States, one that has historical roots older than the formation of the nation itself. In the 21st century, the country pulses with a unique cultural chemistry brought on by a wave of immigration which has brought followers of more diverse faiths to many communities. This eJournal examines how the nation adjusts to these demographic changes to remain true to the principles of freedom of faith.

America's Other Immigration Crisis by Vivek Wadhwa in *The American*, July/August.

The United States is bringing the world's smartest people to its shores, training them, and then making them leave.

See Also

ARTICLE 593

Naturalization in the United States: 2007 by Nancy Rytina & Selena Caldera. *Office of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Department of Homeland Security*. July 2008. 4p.

Looks at the number and characteristics of foreign nationals who became American citizens during FY'07.

ARTICLE 594

Homeward Bound: Recent Immigration Enforcement and the Decline in the Illegal Alien Population by Steven A. Camarota & Karen Jensenius. *Center for Immigration Studies*, web posted 31 July. 12p.

Monthly data collected by the Census Bureau through May 2008 shows a significant decline in the number of less-educated, young Hispanic immigrants in the country. The evidence indicates that the illegal immigrant population may have declined by over one million in the past year. There are indications that immigration enforcement is responsible for at least part of the decline along with the state of the economy.

ARTICLE 595

Medical Tourism: Consumers in Search of Value. *Deloitte Center for Health Solutions*, 8 August. 32p.

The impact of rising U.S. health care costs is prompting increasing numbers of consumers to consider outbound medical tourism as a viable care option. In 2007, an estimated 750,000 Americans traveled abroad for medical care; this number is anticipated to increase to 6 million by 2010. Concurrently, inbound medical tourism and medical tourism across state lines continue to present opportunities for specialty hubs offering treatments unavailable elsewhere in the world or in a community setting.

ARTICLE 596

Is Dietary Knowledge Enough?: Hunger, Stress, and Other Roadblocks to Healthy Eating by Lisa Mancino & Jean Kinsey. *Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture*, August. 29p.

Poor diets and rising obesity rates among Americans persist despite increased public awareness of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. This report presents a consumer demand model to illustrate how both long-term health objectives and immediate visceral influences, long intervals between meals and eating away from home, can drive individuals' food choices.

ARTICLE 597

Getting in Sync: State-Local Fiscal Partnerships for Public Safety by Mary Shilton et al. *Pew Center on the States*, July. 8p.

Some offenders need to be put in prison while others can be managed safely on probation in the community. But judges and prosecutors often face the difficult task of figuring out what to do with defendants who don't fit cleanly into either group. When the right choice isn't clear, many court officers say they feel compelled to send offenders to prison because of a lack of confidence or capacity in their community corrections programs. Escalating state prison populations and costs are spurring fresh interest in partnerships that align state and local finances with policy goals.

ARTICLE 598

Enhancing Law Enforcement Response to Victims: A 21st Century Strategy *International Association of Chiefs of Police*. Web posted 20 July. 48p.

The study introduces state, local, and tribal law enforcement leaders to the benefits, challenges, methods, and responsibilities for enhancing their response to victims of crime. It discusses the evolution of enhanced victim response, summarizes key principles, identifies the critical needs of victims, and illustrates the potential of community partnerships in the implementation of the strategy, one which has been successfully pilot tested by three police agencies: Charlotte-Mecklenburg, NC, Beaverton, OR, and Mundelein, IL. [**ARTICLE 599**](#)

End-of-Life Care: Into the Sunset in the *Economist*, 31 July.

The hospice movement is dedicated to caring for, rather than trying to cure, the terminally ill. This idea of limiting care to physical and emotional pain relief for people with identifiably fatal diseases is widely accepted. But there are questions about the appropriate way to deal with elderly people who will never be well, but have no idea when they will die. In American nursing homes, residents are still all too likely to be rushed off to hospital as they begin to die. Some reasons for this are legal, but all too often nursing home staff do not share “the live-and-let-die convictions of the hospice movement.” What is needed, the author says, is honest, extensive discussions on palliative care for the elderly - both among health care workers and the general public. [**ARTICLE 600**](#)

Some related online resources which may be of interest:

[**International Drug Control Policy**](#) *CRS*, 23 June.

[**Marijuana: The Greatest Cause of Illegal Drug Abuse**](#) 2008 Marijuana Sourcebook. *White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)*, July 2008. 28p. Press Release: [**White House Releases Its Largest-Ever Compilation of Data Relating to Marijuana Abuse in the United States**](#)

[**Childhood Obesity: The Declining Health of America’s Next Generation - Part I**](#) Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions*, 16 July.
[**Part II of the Hearing**](#) 17 July.

[**Financing the U.S. Health System: Issues and Options for Change & here**](#) *Bipartisan Policy Center*, June 2008. 36p.

[**Global Health: Appropriations to USAID Programs from FY2001 Through FY2008**](#) *CRS*, 8 July.

[**International HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria: Key Changes to U.S. Programs and Funding**](#) *CRS*, 14 July.

[**Assisted Reproductive Technology Surveillance – United States, 2005**](#) *CDC, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 20 June. (includes statistics)

[**The FBI: A Centennial History, 1908-2008**](#) *FBI*, 2008 (book, full text available online)

[**Money Laundering in Digital Currencies**](#) *National Drug Intelligence Center, U.S. Dept of Justice*, 3 June.

[**Establishing a Modern Poverty Measure**](#) Hearing, *subcomm. of U.S. House Comm.on Ways and Means*, 17 July.

[**Unequal America: Causes and Consequences of the Wide – and Growing – Gap Between Rich and Poor**](#) by Elizabeth Gudrais. *Harvard Magazine*, July-August 2008.

[**U.S. Supreme Court: Landmark Decisions of the 2007-08 Term**](#) Panel discussion, *Brookings*, 27 June.

[**From Nuremberg to Darfur: Accountability for Crimes Against Humanity**](#) Hearing, *subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary*, 24 June.

[**Courting History: The Landmark International Criminal Court’s First Five Years**](#) *Human Rights Watch*, July 2008. [**Full text**](#) (252 pages) [**News Release**](#)

EDUCATION

Colleges Should Plan – And Teach – For an Oil-Scarce World by Scott Carlson in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 10 July.

The looming global energy crisis will affect all facets of modern life - including colleges, says the author. As with most large institutions, modern colleges are very energy-intensive, are not always closely connected with the local community in which they are located, and draw students from a wide geographic area, resulting in long commutes. Most colleges plan to be around in the next several decades so Carlson says that they need to fundamentally rethink all aspects of their operations - how buildings are heated and cooled, how food is delivered and prepared, what courses are offered. Coming generations may live in a world vastly different from the present day, so "colleges that offer an education that equips students to live in that world will remain relevant." [ARTICLE 601](#)

Technology's Edge: The Educational Benefits of Computer-Aided Instruction *National Bureau of Economic Research*, August. 62p.

Results from a randomized study of a well-defined use of computers in schools: a popular instructional computer program for pre-algebra and algebra. The program is assessed using a test designed to target pre-algebra and algebra skills. Students randomly assigned to computer-aided instruction score 0.17 of a standard deviation higher on pre-algebra/algebra tests than students randomly assigned to traditional instruction. The study hypothesized that the effectiveness arises from increased individualized instruction as the effects appeared larger for students in larger classes and in classes with high student absentee rates. [Brief Summary ARTICLE 602](#)

How America Pays for College: A Study by Gallup and Sallie Mae *Sallie Mae Inc.*, August 2008. 62p.

College students and their parents see higher education as a critical investment in the future, but according to a national study of college-going families released today by Sallie Mae and Gallup, many overlook the cost of college as they select their school and do not consider post-graduation income as they decide whether and how much to borrow to pay for college. [ARTICLE 603](#)

Community Colleges: Special Supplement to *The Condition of Education 2008* *National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Dept of Education*, August. 75p.

The Condition of Education summarizes important developments and trends in education using the latest available data. The report, which is required by law, is an indicator report intended for a general audience of readers who are interested in education. The indicators represent a consensus of professional judgment on the most significant national measures of the condition and progress of education for which accurate data are available. For the 2008 edition, a special analysis was prepared to take a closer look at community colleges in the United States. This Special Supplement examines the characteristics of students who entered community college directly from high school, and looks at rates of postsecondary persistence and attainment among community college students in general. It also compares the characteristics of these institutions and of the students who enroll in them with those of public and private 4-year colleges and universities. [Summary and access by chapter ARTICLE 604](#)

Gaining Momentum, Losing Ground: Tapping America's Potential: Progress Report 2008 A report by the *Tapping America's Potential* coalition, July. 24p. [One-page summary](#) The goal of the *Tapping America's Potential* coalition is to "double the number of science, technology, engineering and mathematics graduates with bachelor's degrees by 2015".

Has Student Achievement Increased Since 2002? State Test Score Trends Through 2006-07 *Center on Education Policy*, June 2008. 164p.

Evaluating Online Learning: Challenges and Strategies for Success *U.S. Dept of Education*, July. 80p.

Redesigned website of ERIC – Education Resources Information Center (ERIC) Improved features in this redesigned website

BUSINESS

Emerging Leaders by Francis Hesselbein in *Leader to Leader Journal*, Summer.

With all the dissonance and the lack of consensus in our turbulent society, there is one clear area of agreement - emerging leaders are in the spotlight. Great authorities are writing and speaking about emerging leaders. Theories abound: Generation X, Y, and Z. Corporations, organizations, agencies - enterprises large and small - are working intensely to identify their own emerging leaders and design learning opportunities and other programs for them. While not all agree on a description of emerging leaders, there is agreement on the significance of young leaders in redefining the future of the organization, of the society, says Hesselbein. [ARTICLE 605](#)

Lessons From Living by Charles Handy in *Leader to Leader Journal*, Summer.

On consideration, Handy opines that leaders, in particular, need to devote time and intellectual energy to reflecting on their experiences in order to crystallize what they have learned and then add to their stack of knowledge. [ARTICLE 606](#)

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

The authors outline a pro-growth, entrepreneurial agenda that reflects America's new economic realities. [ARTICLE 607](#)

Will Employers Want Aging Boomers? by Gordon Mermin et al. *Urban Institute*, July 2008. 71p.

Boomers will probably want to work longer than earlier cohorts, but their continued work requires that employers hire and retain them. Employers value older workers for their maturity, experience and work ethic, but worry about out of date skills and high costs. Slower overall labor supply growth will increase demand for older workers and occupations with higher shares of older workers will increase modestly as a share of all jobs. Future jobs will require less physical demands and more cognitive and interpersonal skills, trends that favor educated older workers, but job opportunities for less educated older workers may remain limited. [ARTICLE 608](#)

Summary

Some related online resources which may be of interest:

[10 Best Leadership Quotes](#)

[New features on the Bureau of Labor Statistics website, July 2008](#)

[Can Young Americans Compete in a Global Economy?](#) Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, *FRBSF Economic Letter*, 18 July.

[Equality in Job Loss: Women are Increasingly Vulnerable to Layoffs during Recessions](#) *JEC* report, 22 July.

[Facts about Labor Day and the U.S. Workforce](#) – *Census Bureau*, 1 July, 2008.

[In Brief: How is the Age Discrimination in Employment Act Working?](#) *AARP* report, June. Includes full report

[A Balancing Act: State Long-Term Care Reform](#) *AARP*, July 2008.

[Your Money, Your Future: Public Pension Plans and the Need to Strengthen Retirement Security and Economic Growth](#) Hearing, *Joint Economic Committee*, U.S. Congress, 10 July.

[Individual Retirement Accounts \(IRAs\) and Their Role in Our Retirement System](#) Hearing, *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means*, 26 June.

MEDIA

The Changing Newsroom on *Journalism.org*, posted 21 July.

In all aspects, ranging from staffing to content, American newspapers are changing at a dizzying rate. In a survey of more than 250 local and national papers, the Project for Excellence in Journalism details developments such as the decline of independent foreign and national news coverage and the rise of mobile journalists deployed to send in video footage for the paper's web site. The analysis of its survey results gives a comprehensive look at the state of U.S. newspapers today and a glimpse into their uncertain future. [ARTICLE 609](#)

A Journalist in China by Rebecca White on *The National Interest Online*, 7 August.

In the lead-up to the Olympics, seasoned correspondents Andrea Koppel and John Pomfret discuss the party-state's influence on the media in China. [ARTICLE 610](#)

Key News Audiences Now Blend Online and Traditional Sources *Pew Research*, 17 August.

For more than a decade, the audiences for most traditional news sources have steadily declined, as the number of people getting news online has surged. However, today it is not a choice between traditional sources and the Internet for the core elements of today's news audiences. [ARTICLE 611](#)

The 15,000 by Justin Peters in *CJR*, 27 August.

What these people, 14,000 in terrible suits, are all doing at the convention. Peters many of them aren't doing much at all. And only a small number of reporters actually have a reason to be here. The rest are conventioning—seeing old friends, eating Democratic-themed menu items in pandering local restaurants, brandishing their press passes at all comers, or experiencing Denver with their friends. [ARTICLE 612](#)

Blog Binge compiled by Melanie Lidman in *American Journalism Review*, August/September.

More than 70% of the political journalists surveyed said they spent at least an hour every day reading blogs and other online media. Here's what they are looking at... [ARTICLE 613](#)

Handheld Headlines by Arielle Emmett in *American Journalism Review*, August/September.

Welcome to the age of mobile news and entertainment. All your digitally hip friends will assure you that having news flashes and traffic alerts and the inevitable Lindsay Lohan and Amy Winehouse updates pushed to your iPhone or BlackBerry is the natural extension of electronic life. [ARTICLE 614](#)

Disconnected by Will Bunch in *American Journalism Review*, August/September.

Philadelphia Daily News' Bunch opines that as embattled news organizations try to safeguard their futures with local coverage, there is often a wide gulf between journalists and the communities they cover. [ARTICLE 615](#)

Some related online resources which may be of interest:

Media Metrics: The True State of the Modern Media Marketplace *Progress & Freedom Foundation*, Summer 2008. 99p. [News Release](#) 15 July.

Unmasking the Myths Behind the Fairness Doctrine by Brian Fitzpatrick. *Media Research Center*, June 2008.

The Changing Newsroom: Meet the American Daily Newspaper of 2008 *Project for Excellence in Journalism*, 21 July.

Key News Audiences Now Blend Online and Traditional Sources: Audience Segments in a Changing News Environment *Pew Research Center for the People and the Press*, 17 August. 129p. [Summary](#)

Journalists' Privilege: Overview of the Law and Legislation in 109th & 110th Congresses *CRS*, 29 July.

COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Improving Technology Utilization in Electronic Government Around the World by Darrell M. West. *Brookings*, 17 August. 32p.

Electronic government offers the promise of utilizing technology to improve public sector performance as well as employing new advances for democracy itself. Unlike traditional bricks and mortar agencies, digital delivery systems are non-hierarchical, non-linear, interactive and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. [ARTICLE 616](#)

Risks at Home: Privacy and Security Risks in Telecommuting *Ernst & Young and Center for Democracy & Technology*. Web posted July 29, 2008. 26p.

According to the report, personal and private information related to both employees and their employers may be compromised by telecommuting staff unless privacy risks are not dealt with effectively. It identifies such issues in work-from-home arrangements. It covers the effective approaches and areas in need of improvement in how organizations protect personal and other sensitive company-related information. [ARTICLE 617](#)

Department of Justice Efforts to Combat Cybercrimes: Fact Sheet *U.S. Dept of Justice*, 5 August. 3p.

President Bush created an interagency Identity Theft Task Force. After examining government and private sector efforts in the identity theft area, the Task Force issued a report with 31 recommendations to improve efforts to combat identity theft. These recommendations include protecting personal data in the private and public sector, investigating and prosecuting data breaches and related identity theft, and assisting victims of identity theft. The Task Force has worked to implement the recommendations over the last year across the government and with its private sector and international partners. [ARTICLE 618](#)

The Trolls Among Us: The World of Web Trolling by Matthias Schwartz in *NYT Magazine*, 3 August.

The author explores one of the unfortunate side effects of the Internet, a growing subculture of "trolls" who intentionally disrupt online communities. Incidents of Web trolling increasingly involve harassing strangers and hacking into web sites of nonprofit organizations. To help counter this, U.S. Congresswoman Linda Sanchez (D-Calif.) introduced the *Megan Meier Cyberbullying Prevention Act*, which would make it a federal crime to send any communications with intent to cause "substantial emotional distress." [ARTICLE 619](#)

The Internet Economy Remarks by Richard C. Beird, U.S. Dept of State, to American Bar Association Section of Business Law meeting, in New York, 9 August.

Focuses on the role of the Internet in shaping the Internet Economy. In doing so Beird looks at the recent OECD Ministerial on the Internet Economy held in Seoul from 17-18 June. This was the first OECD Ministerial ever held in Asia. [ARTICLE 620](#)

Online Consumers at Risk and the Role of State Attorneys General *Center for Democracy and Technology*, August. 44p.

State attorneys general received thousands of consumer complaints of online fraud and abuse in 2006 and 2007 and yet, with the exception of several notable standouts, brought few significant cases in response, according to this new report. [Press Release](#) [ARTICLE 621](#)

Some online resources which may be of interest:

[CBP's IPR seizure statistics](#) *Customs and Border Protection (CBP)*, 18 July.

[Intellectual Property Rights Protection & Enforcement: Section 337, Tariff Act of 1930](#) *CRS*, 16 May.

[Bioinformatics: A Brief Review of Resources on the Web](#) *C&RL News*, July-August.

THE ARTS & CULTURE

The Innovation Initiative by Tara Bracco in *American Theatre*, July/August.6p.

American theater is looking for innovative methods to increase their attendance and solvency. In November '07, the *Theatre Communications Group (TCG)* held a two-day event called "Cultivating Innovation: From the Board Room to the Box Office", focusing on new ideas to help non-profit theaters. Bracco focused on NY's Metropolitan Opera, which is increasing opera's audience in ways such as advertising on New York buses and doing telecasts on screens in Times Square and Lincoln Center. Another area ripe for reconsideration is the traditional expectation that 50-70% of a theater's budget should be derived from ticket sales; this is changing as endowments have grown in size, allowing some theaters to cut ticket prices to attract a younger audience and increase attendance. Ultimately, each theater company must find its own innovative way to financial stability. [ARTICLE 622](#)

Promoting Film and Media to Enhance State Economic Development *Center for Best Practices, National Governors Association*. 15 July. 30p.

As governors continue exploring innovative strategies to grow their economies, states are increasingly looking to film, television and related media arts productions as a means of attracting high-paying jobs and related high-tech businesses, according to the report. The state and local economic benefits brought by hosting a major motion picture production are numerous. Film, TV and media arts productions help create local jobs by using residents to staff the production, as well as boost local economies by purchasing goods and services from local vendors. [ARTICLE 623](#)

Some online resources which may be of interest:

Libraries Adapted to Digital Age *USA Today* online, 29 July.

Climate Resilient Cities: 2008 Primer: Reducing Vulnerabilities to Climate Change Impacts and Strengthening Disaster Risk Management in East Asian Cities *World Bank*, July. 176p. [Press Release](#)

NASA at 50: Past Accomplishments and Future Opportunities and Challenges Hearing, *U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology*, 30 July.

Condition of Our Nation's Infrastructure: Local Perspectives from Mayors Hearing, *U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs*, 12 June.

Infrastructure and Public Works Bibliography by Science Reference Services, *Library of Congress*, 1 July.

Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice at Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact Signing Ceremony with Burkina Faso, 14 July.

Need and the Need for Favors Motivate Foreign Aid Decisions by Howard J. Wall. Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis, *The Regional Economist*, July 2008.

The Food Aid Dilemma Daily Analysis by Toni Johnson. *Council on Foreign Relations*, 14 July.

A Community Guide to Environmental Health *Hesperian.org*, 2008. [News Release](#)

Reforming Retirement-Income Systems: Lessons from the Recent Experiences of OECD Countries by John P. Martin & Edward Whitehouse. *OECD*, 30 June. 27p.

Fast Facts - 2008 Summer Olympics - *Information Please*

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