



Happy Independence Day!



Independence Day 2010 honors the 234th birthday of the United States of America and the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. It's a day of patriotic celebration and family events throughout the United States. In New Zealand Officials at the Embassy and Consulate hosted NZ government and local leaders in recognition of this important US national day.



Message from the President on Independence Day

Today we celebrate the 234th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the beginning of a great experiment, American democracy. In every corner of our country, we recall the valor and vision of patriots from Thirteen Colonies who declared independence from a powerful empire and gave birth to a new Nation. We gather in town centers and wave flags in parades not only to recall ...

Exciting News.....

The US mission in New Zealand has entered the world of social media! Read Ambassador Huebner's blog, check us out on Facebook, Twitter, or Youtube. Sign up for RSS feeds, or look at photos on Flickr. Here are just some of the ways you can connect with us and keep up to date with what we're doing around the country.



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Information & Communications Technology

Futures Thinking for Academic Librarians: Higher Education in 2025 by David J. Staley and Kara L. Malen. *Association of College & Research Libraries*. June 2010.

"For academic librarians seeking to demonstrate the value of their libraries to their parent institutions, it is important to understand not only the current climate. We must also know what will be valued in the future so that we can begin to take appropriate action now. This document presents 26 scenarios based on an assessment of current trends, which may have an impact on academic and research libraries over the next 15 years."

E-Discovery: Mitigating Risk Through Better Communication. *Deloitte*. June 2010.

As the volume of electronically stored information (ESI) rises rapidly, improving the understanding among the C-suite, legal and IT functions is key to controlling costs and better managing e-discovery risks.

Cybersecurity: Key Challenges Need to be Addressed to Improve Research and Development. *Government Accountability Office*. June 2010.

The Future of Social Relations by Janna Quitney Anderson and Lee Rainie. *Pew Internet & American Life Project*. July 2, 2010. Summary: **"The Future of Online Socializing"**

ECPA Reform and the Revolution in Location Based Technologies and Services. *Hearing before a subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary*. June 24, 2010.

Protecting Cyberspace as a National Asset: Comprehensive Legislation for the 21st Century. Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs*. June 15, 2010.

Facebook Grows Up

Closing the Digital Frontier

Energy & Climate Change – inc. BP Oil Spill

The Oil Spill and American Consumers BP's Other Accomplice by Charles K. Ebinger and Kevin Massy. *Brookings Institution*. June 17, 2010.

As Tony Hayward, BP's beleaguered chief executive, made the trek up to Capitol Hill to appear before the House Energy Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, he faced variations on a familiar line of questioning. What was BP doing in U.S. waters, drilling holes miles beneath the surface without a back-up plan if things went wrong?

How Much of the World's Electricity Supply is Generated from Wind and Who are the Leading Generators? *Energy Information Administration*. June 16, 2010.

Worldwide wind power generation exceeded 200 billion kilowatt hours in 2008; equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of over 18 million households in the U.S. Wind generation increased by about 25% from 2007 to 2008, and has more than tripled since 2003. Despite this growth, the world still generated less than 1% of its total electricity from wind power in 2008.

The Business Case for Climate Legislation. *Pew Center on Global Climate Change*. June 2010.

In recent years, leading businesses have emerged as some of the strongest advocates for passage of national climate and energy legislation that mandates reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The analysis explains why an unprecedented number of businesses are supporting passage of clean energy and climate legislation.

Hearing on "Drilling Down on America's Energy Future: Safety, Security, and Clean Energy". *U.S. House of Representatives*. June 15, 2010.

Deep Horizon Oil Spill: Selected Issues for Congress by Curry L. Hagerty and Jonathan L. Ramseur. *Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress*. June 18, 2010.

Based on estimates from the Flow Rate Technical Group, led by the U.S. Geological Survey, the Gulf spill has become the largest in U.S. waters. The spill has damaged natural resources and had regional economic impacts. In addition, questions have been raised as to whether the regulations and regulators of offshore oil exploration have kept pace with the increasingly complex technologies needed to explore and develop deeper waters.

How to Power the Energy Innovation Lifecycle by Sean Pool. *Center for American Progress*. June 16, 2010.

Sean Pool analyzes the innovation lifecycle to provide insight into how we can get clean energy industries performing at their peak.

2008 Energy Balance for the Corn-Ethanol Industry. *U.S. Department of Agriculture*. June 2010.

The survey indicates the energy gain from converting corn to ethanol is improving in efficiency. The survey asked ethanol producers to answer questions on ethanol yield per bushel of corn and energy used in the plants. The 2008 updates presented in the report recorded the effects of current practices used by corn and ethanol processors.

The Future of Natural Gas. *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*. June 25, 2010.

The report examines the role of various energy sources that may be important for meeting future demand under carbon dioxide emissions constraints. In each case, it explores the steps needed to enable competitiveness in a future marketplace conditioned by a CO2 emissions price.

Growing Challenges of Energy and Environment by Susan Froetschel. *YaleGlobal*. June 22, 2010. **Part II**

The study analyzes what the Gulf oil spill reveals about the global connections and interests of the energy industry. Political leaders can use the entangled nature of such oil operations to evade responsibility or they can use the same complexity to plan for the long term, harnessing global efforts to devise sustainable energy policies.

Growing Opposition to Increased Offshore Drilling: Obama's Ratings Little Affected by Recent Turmoil. *Pew Research Center for the People & the Press*. June 24, 2010.

Since the beginning of 2010, President Obama has signed a health care measure, coped with a high jobless rate, and managed the largest environmental disaster in U.S. history. In that time, Obama's job approval has moved from 49% to 48%. He gets his highest ratings on foreign policy, energy policy, Afghanistan and Iraq; his worst marks on the budget deficit and immigration.

A USDA Regional Roadmap to Meeting the Biofuel Goals of the Renewable Fuels Standard by 2022. *U.S. Department of Agriculture*. June 23, 2010.

The report outlines both the current state of renewable transportation fuels efforts in America and a plan to develop regional strategies to increase the production, marketing and distribution of biofuels. It provides information on current production and consumption capacities as well as projections to meet the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS2) mandate to use 36 billion gallons of biofuel per year in America's fuel supply by 2022.

U.S. Government & International Relations

Obama More Popular Abroad than at Home, Global Images of U.S. Continue to Benefit. *Pew Global Attitudes Project.* June 17, 2010.

U.S. favorability ratings remain high in Western Europe and have increased markedly in China and Russia. But opinions remain negative in many Muslim nations. Mexican views of the U.S. tumbled following passage of Arizona's immigration law. Confidence in Obama is high across much of the world, but support for his handling of specific policies is less widespread. With the exception of China, India and Brazil, people nearly everywhere say their national economy is doing poorly.

Legal Analysis of Solicitor General Elena Kagan's Record on Abortion Rights. *Center for Reproductive Rights.* June 21, 2010.

As the Supreme Court nomination hearings are scheduled to begin, the Center released legal analysis of Kagan's record on abortion rights. The analysis is based on a review of publicly available documents, including her memoranda while serving as a law clerk to Justice Thurgood Marshall, her notes and memoranda while serving in the White House, her academic writings, and her statements upon nomination for the position of Solicitor General.

The Peace Corps: a Comprehensive Agency Assessment. *Peace Corps.* June 2010.

"This is an exciting time to be a part of the Peace Corps as we strengthen and reform agency operations and invest in quality improvements," said Director Williams. "This report will serve as a plan for excellence and represents the Obama Administration's commitment to efficient and effective government while expanding public service opportunities for all Americans."

Report of the American Civil Liberties Union on the Nomination of Elena Kagan to be Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. *American Civil Liberties Union.* June 21, 2010.

The report summarizes the civil liberties and civil rights record of Elena Kagan, who was nominated by President Obama on May 10, 2010, to replace Justice John Paul Stevens as an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Public Opinion on the Supreme Court 2010 by Karlyn H. Bowman and Andrew Rugg. *American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research.* June 28, 2010.

The report looks at confidence in the Court, views of the Court today, knowledge of current Justices, and the kind of nominee people say they would like to see. It also reviews areas where public opinion is not well formed. New and updated sections look at attitudes toward recent nominees, including Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor.

From Solicitor General to Supreme Court Nominee: Responsibilities, History, and the Nomination of Elena Kagan. *Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.* June 23, 2010.

On May 10, 2010, President Obama nominated Elena Kagan to replace Justice John Paul Stevens. If confirmed, she would be the first serving Solicitor General to be appointed to the Court since the elevation of Thurgood Marshall in 1967. She would also be only the fifth of 111 Justices to come to the bench with such experience.

Middle East

Hired Guns: View About Armed Contractors in Operation Iraqi Freedom by Sarah K. Cotton et al. *RAND Corporation.* June 16, 2010.

The use of armed private security contractors (PSCs) in the Iraq war has been unprecedented. Not only government agencies but also journalists, reconstruction contractors, and nongovernmental organizations frequently view them as a logical choice to fill security needs, yet there have been reports of PSCs committing serious, and sometimes fatal, abuses of power in Iraq. The study uses a systematic, empirically based survey of opinions of U.S. military and State Department personnel on the ground in Iraq to shed light on the situation.

"They Took me and Told me Nothing": Female Genital Mutilation in Iraqi Kurdistan. *Human Rights Watch.* June 16, 2010.

While internationally recognized as a form of violence against women and girls, the tragedy is that female genital mutilation is perpetuated by women who love and want the best for their children.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference by Toni Johnson. *Council on Foreign Relations.* June 29, 2010.

The author says that the Obama administration sees the Organization of the Islamic Conference as a venue through which to court Muslims globally, but the group's positions on some issues could pose problems.

The Premiership by Sean Kane. *U.S. Institute of Peace.* June 24, 2010.

The institution of Iraq's prime minister has evolved since the previous national government was formed in 2006. The success of incumbent Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki in building an independent power base around the office and the diminishing U.S. presence in Iraq have transformed the perception and stature of Iraq's chief executive.

Pakistan in the Danger Zone: a Tenuous U.S.-Pakistan Relationship by Shuja Nawaz. *Atlantic Council.* June 28, 2010.

The author says that a year after the Atlantic Council raised a warning flag about the effects of failure in Afghanistan and the need to meet Pakistan's urgent needs in its existential war against militancy and terrorism, the situation in Pakistan remains on edge.

Are Palestinians Building a State? by Nathan J. Brown. *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.* July 1, 2010.

The international community's admiration for Palestinian PM Salam Fayyad obscures a dangerous regression in democracy and human rights. Just back from the West Bank, Nathan J. Brown contends that the United States is once again confusing support for an admirable individual with that of a sound policy.

Uncertain Kyrgyzstan: Rebalancing U.S. Policy by Ross Wilson and Damon Wilson. *Atlantic Council.* June 30, 2010.

According to the authors, the international community is failing to respond in ways commensurate with the crisis.

Endgame for the West in Afghanistan? Explaining the Decline in Support for the War in Afghanistan in the U.S., Great Britain, Canada, Australia, France, and Germany by Charles A. Miller. *Strategic Studies Institute.* June 2010.

The study is an examination of the determinants of domestic support for and opposition to the war in Afghanistan in the United States and in five of its key allies, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Canada, and Australia.

Social Welfare Issues

On the Streets: The Federal Response to Gay and Transgender Homeless Youth by Nico Sifra Quintana et al. *Center for American Progress.* June 2010.

Every child deserves a supportive and loving home. But for many lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender children and youth, that home is not available. Gay and transgender youth are disproportionately represented among homeless youth in our country, experiencing extreme rates of violence, discrimination, and poor health while homeless. This is happening at least partly because gay and transgender people are coming out at younger ages as society becomes increasingly supportive of equality.

Married Fathers: America's Greatest Weapon Against Child Poverty by Robert Rector. *The Heritage Foundation.* June 16, 2010.

The mainstream media, liberal politicians, activists, and academia bewail child poverty in the U.S. But one key fact remains hidden: The principal cause of child poverty in the U.S. is the absence of married fathers in the home. According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate in 2008 for single parents with children was 35.6%. The rate for married couples with children was 6.4%.

The New Dad: Exploring Fatherhood within a Career Context by Brad Harrington et al. *Boston College*. June 2010.

The study focuses on the complex and changing role of fathers in the modern American family. It lends supporting data to some notions of fatherhood and reveals possible new future trends in the work-family conversation.

The Typical Mother: there isn't One by D'Vera Cohn and Gretchen Livingston. *Pew Research Center*. June 11, 2010.

The report shows that from 1990 to 2008 the proportion of new mothers ages 35+ rose to 14% from 9%; that the nonwhite share rose to 47% from 35%; and that the unmarried share rose to 41% from 28%. Thanks to rising educational attainment, 54% of mothers of newborns have some college education, compared with 41% in 1990.

Adults and Cell Phone Distractions by Mary Madden. *Pew Internet & American Life Project*. June 18, 2010.

Adults are just as likely as teens to have texted while driving and are substantially more likely to have talked on the phone while driving, according to the survey.

Childhood Poverty Persistence: Facts and Consequences by Caroline Ratcliffe and Signe-Mary McKernan. *Urban Institute*. June 30, 2010.

The U.S. child poverty rate has fluctuated between 15 and 23% for the past four decades, but far more children, 37%, live in poverty at some point during their childhoods. The study finds that 49% of children who are poor at birth go on to spend at least half their childhoods living in poverty.

Women in Law Enforcement, 1987-2008 by Lynn Langton. *Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice*. June 21, 2010.

The report compares the percent of female law enforcement officers in individual police departments with 2,000 or more sworn officers between 1997 and 2007. The report also provides the percent of female officers in 1998 and 2008 in specific federal agencies with 500 or more sworn officers.

Gender Equality Universally Embraced, but Inequalities Acknowledged. *Pew Global Attitudes Project*. July 1, 2010.

Fifteen years after the UN Fourth World Conference on Women's *Beijing Platform for Action* proclaimed that "shared power and responsibility should be established between women and men at home, in the workplace and in the wider national and international communities," people around the globe embrace the document's key principles.

The Adult Recession by David Rosnick. *Center for Economic and Policy Research*. July 2010.

Since the Depression, the worst episode of unemployment was in 1982-3, when the rate was above 10% from September through June, reaching 10.8% in November and December of 1982. However, the demographics of the labor force have changed significantly over the last quarter century; adjusting for the aging of the population since 1980, the current downturn has resulted in a higher unemployment rate and a longer period when the rate remained over 10%.

Low-Income Fathers Need to get Connected by Joy Moses. *Center for American Progress*. June 25, 2010.

Report from Joy Moses shows how helping low-income fathers will benefit children and families.

Health & Education

Minorities and the Recession-Era College Enrollment Boom by Paul Taylor et al. *Pew Research Center*. June 16, 2010.

The recession-era boom in the size of freshman classes at four-year colleges, community colleges and trade schools has been driven largely by a sharp increase in minority student enrollment, according to a Pew Research Center analysis. Freshman enrollment at post-secondary institutions rose by 144,000 students from 2007-2008. This 6% increase was the largest in 40 years, and almost 75% of it came from minority enrollment growth.

The Race Against Drug Resistance by Rachel Nugent et al. *Center for Global Development*. June 14, 2010.

In an increasingly interconnected world, drug resistance does not stop at a patient's bedside, it threatens global health. The conclusions of the report make it clear the need for urgent action to address this growing crisis.

Malaria Surveillance – United States, 2008 by Sonja Mali et al. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*. June 25, 2010.

A significant decrease in malaria cases occurred from 2007-2008. No change occurred in the proportions of cases caused by the various Plasmodium species. U.S. civilians traveling to countries in West Africa had the highest estimated relative case rates. In the majority of reported cases, U.S. civilians who acquired malaria abroad had not adhered to a chemoprophylaxis regimen that was appropriate for the country in which they acquired the infection.

The Myth of the "Doc Fix" by John R. Graham. *National Center for Policy Analysis*. June 22, 2010.

Congress will solve none of the fundamental Medicare cost problems with the "Doc Fix" extension, according to the report. The House is preparing to vote on a temporary reversal of the 21% cut in doctors' Medicare reimbursement rates, a measure passed earlier by the Senate. "The physician rate cuts, with or without this temporary fix, will make it increasingly difficult for seniors to find doctors who accept Medicare patients," says the author.

The Online Learning Imperative: a Solution to Three Looming Crises in Education by Bob Wise and Robert Rothman. *Alliance for Excellent Education*. June 2010.

The time for merely rethinking and upgrading the role of technology in education has passed, according to the report. Technology can no longer be thought of simply as an "add-on" tool in education, but rather an integral part of the total educational environment.

Bridging the Gap: Improving Clinical Development and the Regulatory Pathways for Health Products for Neglected Diseases by Thomas Bollyky. *Center for Global Development*. June 2010.

There has been tremendous progress over the last decade in the development of health products for neglected diseases, but two substantial bottlenecks threaten our capacity to bring these products to those in need, says Bollyky.

Help Wanted: Projections of Jobs and Education Requirements Through 2018 by Anthony P. Carevale et al. *Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce*. June 2010.

The study forecasts that by 2018, 63 percent of all jobs will require at least some postsecondary education. Employers will need 22 million new workers with postsecondary degrees – and the report shows that we will fall short by three million workers without a dramatic change in course. This translates into a deficit of 300,000 college graduates every year between now and 2018.

The Course of Innovation: Using Technology to Transform Higher Education by Ben Miller. *Education Sector*, May 2010. **Summary**

Asia and Pacific

The Enduring Partnership? The Trans-Atlantic community as a Natural Alliance by Jeremy Ghez. *RAND Corporation*. June 21, 2010.

The dissertation discusses the possibility that states which share a common constructed identity can better coordinate their international agendas.

Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations in San Francisco. *Office of the U.S. Trade Representative*. June 2010.

Australia Trades in Kevin Rudd for First Female Prime Minister—Julia Gillard by Ernest Z. Bower. *Center for Strategic and International Studies*. June 24, 2010.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's moderate-left Labor Party replaced him with the country's first-ever female prime minister today. The intra-party coup d'état came as Rudd's support waned in the face of decisions to backtrack on his commitment to pass climate change legislation and his proposal for a "super tax" on mining companies.

Save the Whale Save the Southern Ocean. *World Wildlife Fund.* June 21, 2010.

According to the report, the Southern Ocean is critical to ensuring the recovery and viability of the great whale populations in the southern hemisphere. It provides the feeding grounds needed to sustain most southern hemisphere great whales, which coastal communities from Australia to Latin America to Africa are reliant upon for livelihoods and income derived from whale watching tourism.

Humanitarian Assistance: Status of North Korean Refugee Resettlement and Asylum in the U.S. *U.S. Government Accountability Office.* June 2010.

Famine killed hundreds of thousands of North Koreans in the 1990s and compelled a large number of others to leave in search of food, economic opportunities, and escape from a repressive regime. This migration continues. To promote a more durable humanitarian solution to North Korean refugees, Congress passed the North Korean Human Rights Act in 2004, in reauthorizing the Act in 2008, Congress found that delays in processing North Korean refugees have led some to abandon their quest for U.S. resettlement.

No Paper Tiger: Subsidies to China's Paper Industry from 2002-2009 by Usha C. V. Haley. *Economic Policy Institute.* June 30, 2010.

China's rapid rise in the global paper industry has been fueled by over \$33.1 billion in government subsidies.

Prosecuting Political Aspiration: Indonesia's Political Prisoners. *Human Rights Watch.* June 22, 2010.

The report is based on more than 50 jailhouse interviews with political prisoners conducted between 2008 and 2010. It describes the arrest and prosecution of activists for peacefully raising banned symbols, such as the Papuan Morning Star and the South Moluccan RMS flags. The report also details torture that many say they have suffered in detention, especially by members of the Detachment 88/Anti-Terror Squad in Ambon, as well as police and prison guards in Papua, and the failure of the government to hold those responsible to account.

Textile and Apparel Imports from China: Statistical Reports. *U.S. Intn'l Trade Commission.* June 2010.

The report was requested by the House Committee on Ways and Means. As requested, the USITC produced an annual compilation of data that has been posted on a bi-weekly basis on their website. The data are shown on an annual and quarterly basis, by category and by Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) 10-digit subheadings.

Beijing: a Global Leader with 'China First' Policy by David Shambaugh. *YaleGlobal.* June 2010.

Observers have long hoped for new openness and cooperation from a confident China. They scan every international event for indications of China's policy direction. If any clear trend is visible, it is that the world's second largest economy largely continues with a narrow, fluctuating foreign-policy approach. "On global issues, Beijing appears to act with an odd combination of hesitancy and truculence," explains David Shambaugh.

Uncertainties in the North Korean Nuclear Threat by Bruce W. Bennett. *RAND Corporation.* June 23, 2010.

The report examines the uncertainties in the North Korean nuclear weapon threat, including the number and nature of North Korean nuclear weapons, their potential delivery means, how they could be used, and what effects they might cause.

Agriculture

Toward Sustainable Agricultural Systems in the 21st Century By a committee of the National Research Council. National Academies Press, June 2010

The Judicious Use of Medically Important Antimicrobial Drugs in Food-Producing Animals U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). June 28, 2010. **News release**

Economics, Finance & Trade

Global Recovery: Asia and the New Financial Landscape. Address by U.S. Under Secretary of the Treasury Lael Brainard to a Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco conference. June 7, 2010.

Trade in Services: The Doha Development Agenda Negotiations and U.S. Goals. *Congressional Research Service.* April 7, 2010

The negotiations on services in the DDA round have two fundamental objectives; to reform the current General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) rules and principles, and for each member country to open more of its service sectors to foreign competition. The WTO services negotiations have been going on for more than 10 years. However, as with the negotiations in agriculture and non-agriculture market access, the services negotiations have proceeded slowly with missed deadlines and few results.

Statement from President Obama on the Passage of Financial Reform. Statement, June 30, 2010

Closing Out the G-20 Summit in Toronto. White House blog, June 28, 2010 (with links to additional material on the outcome of the Summit). **G-20 Summit Declaration**
President Obama's press conference at the conclusion of the Summit

The G20's Twenty Agendas. Backgrounder by Roya Wolverson. Council on Foreign Relations, June 24, 2010

USA Trade Online – statistics from the U.S. Dept of Commerce

Science & Innovation

Innovation in America: Opportunities and Obstacles. Hearing before a subcommittee of the *Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.* June 22, 2010.

Nanotechnology: Nanomaterials Are Widely Used in Commerce, but EPA Faces Challenges in Regulating Risk. U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). May 2010.

Nanotechnology involves the ability to control matter at the scale of a nanometer—one billionth of a meter. The world market for products that contain nanomaterials is expected to reach \$2.6 trillion by 2015.

State of the Coast. Website by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Dept of Commerce; the website's release is announced in a **news release**, June 22, 2010.

Public Sees a Future Full of Promise and Peril: Life in 2050: Amazing Science, Familiar Threats. *Pew Research Center.* June 22, 2010.

The public is divided over whether the quality of the earth's environment will improve over the next 40 years; as many say the environment is not likely to improve (50%) as say it is (47%). There continues to be a belief that the earth will get warmer in the future, though the percentage expressing this view has declined by 10 points, from 76% to 66%, since 1999.

From the Lab Bench to the Marketplace: Improving Technology Transfer. Hearing before a subcommittee of the *U.S. House Committee on Science and Technology.* June 10, 2010.

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