



# STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

## “An America Built to Last”



**President Barack Obama**  
**U.S. Congress, Washington, DC**  
**Tuesday, January 24th, 2012 at 9:10 P.M. EST**

**[Full Text of Address](#)**- as prepared for delivery / **[Watch / Listen](#)** / **[Getting the Most Out of the State of the Union](#)**

**[Analysis of President Obama's 2012 State of the Union Address](#)** by William A. Galston. *Brookings*, January 24, 2012.  
*"When we act together there is nothing the U.S. cannot achieve."* President Obama, 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2012

William Galston examines President Obama's 2012 State of the Union address, discussing the specifics of the President's message as it related to the economy, President Obama's record, and Congressional politics.

"The President issued a ringing call for government to take the lead in rebuilding an economy that works for all Americans and to revive the promise of a more cooperative politics that carried him to the White House in 2008. While many of the specific measures he urged are likely to resonate with the public, it remains to be seen whether he can persuade the majority of Americans to set aside their mistrust of government and give him a mandate to pursue an aggressive policy agenda."

**[Jobs and the Economy: Putting America Back to Work](#)** / **[Campaign 2012: Twelve Issues Facing the Next President](#)**

**Media Reaction to *The State of the Union* Address included:**

**[Huffington Post](#)** / **[USA Today: Fact Check - Live Blog](#)** - **[President Obama's State of the Union](#)**

**[The Atlantic: Live Blog](#)** - "The best commentary and analysis from across the web." *The Atlantic*

**[The Washington Post: Wonkblog](#)** - **[SOTU 2012: Just the Policy](#)** / **[The National Journal](#)** - "**[I am Not a Class Warrior](#)**"

**SPOTLIGHT is produced monthly by the American Reference Center,  
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## THE IMPACT OF DIGITAL MEDIA ON CIVIL SOCIETY

**Civil Society 2.0: U.S. Department of State** - Civil Society 2.0 is an initiative announced by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton in her 2009 speech in Marrakesh, Morocco to assist non-governmental (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) in using new digital tools and technologies to increase the reach and impact of their work.

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Statecraft** - To meet these 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges, we need to use the tools, the new 21<sup>st</sup> century statecraft. ...we find ourselves living at a moment in human history when we have the potential to engage in these new and innovative forms of diplomacy and to also use them to help individuals be empowered for their own development." **Overview/Policy**

- Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton

**Educating the Digital Citizen in the 21st Century** by Nicola Marae Martinez in *All About Mentoring*, Spring 2011. 7p.

The author, an academic area coordinator for humanities and digital media at the Center for Distance Learning, State University of New York Empire State College, discusses the importance of educating for digital media literacy, focusing on implications of living in a world within digitally mediated surveillance, technology tracking tools, dataveillance, and a wide range of threats to privacy, security and civil liberties.

**Folk Media Meets Digital Technology for Sustainable Social Change: A Case Study of the Center for Digital Storytelling** by Emily Polk in *Global Media Journal*, Fall 2010. 26p.

Polk, a fellow at the Center for the Communication of Sustainable Social Change, analyzes the movement of oral and written storytelling practices to online digital storytelling, focusing on how these stories can be used to give a voice to the voiceless, raise awareness, increase education, and promote democracy.

**Political Change in the Digital Age: The Fragility and Promise of Online Organizing** by Bruce Etling et al. in *SAIS Review*, December 2010. 14p.

The authors discuss the possible impact of digital technologies on social and political changes in an increasingly digital geopolitical environment, and distinguish between the role these tools play in facilitating the flow of information and in offering digital tools for social organizing by activist groups.

**All the World's a Stage: How Globalization of Media and Civil Society Are Affecting Contentious Politics** by Edward Crenshaw et al. *Working Paper # 03/2011*, January 2011. 60p.

Using pooled cross-sectional time-series analyses with data from roughly 140 countries (1984-2001), the authors examine the effects of global media and "global civil society" on four major forms of political contention: anti-government protest; terrorist attacks on civilians; guerrilla attacks; and full-scale civil wars.

**The Dictators' Digital Dilemma: When Do States Disconnect Their Digital Networks?** by Philip Howard et al. in *Issues in Technology Innovation No. 13*, October 2011. 11p.

When and why governments decide to interfere with citizens' access to the Internet and disconnect digital networks.

### POLITICS / GOVERNMENT

**Readout of the Iowa Caucuses: Latest Polls on the Upcoming New Hampshire Primary; and the State of the Obama Re-Election Campaign** Briefing by John Zogby, pollster and chief executive officer of Zogby International; at the Foreign Press Center, U.S. Dept of State, January 5, 2012.

**How 2013 Could Play Out** by Major Garrett in the *National Journal*, October 29, 2011.

This congressional correspondent discusses why the reconciliation process will be a key to advancing Republican objectives in U.S. Congress, regardless of whether a Republican or Democrat is in the White House in 2012.

**One Year To Go: President Barack Obama's Uphill Battle for Reelection in 2012** by William Galston. *Brookings*, November 7, 2011.

An analysis of the 2012 U.S. presidential election and President Obama's political challenges.

**Iowa Has Spoken. Does It Matter?** *IIP Digital*, January 4, 2012.

Iowa is important in the U.S. election process because it is the first political referendum on presidential candidates. It tests the candidates' stamina, poise, fundraising ability and organizational skills, but success in Iowa is no guarantee of future success. In fact, In the past four decades, four candidates who lost in Iowa became president: Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

**Recess Appointments: Frequently Asked Questions** CRS, December 12, 2011.

Under the Constitution (Article II, §2, clause 2), the President and the Senate share the power to make appointments to high-level policy-making positions in federal departments, agencies, boards, and commissions. Generally, the President nominates individuals to these positions, and the Senate must confirm them before he can appoint them to office. But there are exceptions to this rule...

***Some politics/government resources which may be of interest:***

**Competitiveness and the State of the Union** by Edward Allen CFR, January 18, 2012.

**Lessons Learned: John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address** by James M. Lindsay CFR, January 2012.

**State-by-State Primary Results** - *New York Times* website

**2012 Gubernatorial Elections** - Fact sheet. National Governors Association. **See also map & links to resources**

**Election 2012: An Unusually Clear Policy Choice** by Jay Cost in *Policy Review*, December/January.

**Six Small But Significant Iowa Indicators** *Pew Research Center*, January 4, 2012.

**In Iowa Polls, Eyeing Economic Signals** by Toni Johnson, *Council on Foreign Relations*, January 3, 2012.

**Kicking off the 2012 GOP Contest** Interview with James M. Lindsay. CFR, December 30, 2011.

**U.S. Elections: 2012 Primary Schedule** *IIP Digital*, December 28, 2011.

**Glossary of U.S. Election Terms** *IIP Digital*, December 28, 2011.

**Campaign 2012: The Candidates on Homeland Security** Backgrounder. CFR, December 23, 2011.

**The Role of Foreign Policy in the 2012 U.S. Presidential Elections** Briefing by James M. Lindsay, fellow, CFR, U.S. Dept of State, December 16, 2011.

**Presidential Candidates Step Up Campaigns in Critical States** *IIP Digital*, December 16, 2011.

**One-Word Reactions to GOP Front Runners** *Pew Research Center*, December 14, 2011.

**Twitter and the Campaign: How the Discussion on Twitter Varies from Blogs and News Coverage and Ron Paul's Twitter Triumph** *Pew Research Center*, December 8, 2011. 55p. **See also & Summary**

**"Super PACs" in Federal Elections: Overview and Issues for Congress** CRS, December 2, 2011.

**The Road to the White House is Paved With Delegates** by Bridget Hunter. *IIP Digital*, November 1, 2011.

**"SuperPACS" in Federal Elections: Overview and Issues for Congress** CRS, December 2, 2011.

**2012 Elections: How the Candidates Compare**

**Campaign 2012 – Resources on the Foreign Policy Dimensions of the 2012 U.S. Presidential Race - Issue Trackers**

**The Cook Political Report: Dashboard / Updates**

**Political Insiders Polls** – National Journal

**See also our e-Spotlite - Elections 2012**

**Clinton Hosts International Women's Business Leadership Council** *IIP Digital*, January 24, 2012. **Welcoming Remarks - U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton:** Listen/Watch

**Keynote Address at the International Crisis Group's "In Pursuit of Peace" Award Dinner** Address by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, in New York, December 16, 2011. On the role of women in the pursuit of peace worldwide.

**Women, Peace, and Security** Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, December 19, 2011. **Fact sheet**

**The Women in Public Service Colloquium** Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, December 15, 2011.

See also: **International Exchanges and the Women in Public Service Project** Fact sheet. **See also / Media Note** U.S. Dept of State, December 6, 2011.

**Establishment of the Office of the Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights** Special briefing by Maria Otero, U.S. Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, January 5, 2012.

**Women in the U.S. Military: Growing Share, Distinctive Profile** by Eileen Patten & Kim Parker. *Pew Research Center*, December 22, 2011. **Overview / Brief Summary**

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**Iran's Declining Interest in Iraq** by Babak Rahimi in the *Washington Quarterly*, Winter 2012.

Any assessment of Iran's influence in Iraq must, first and foremost, focus on Tehran's changing factional politics and their impact on Iran's regional policy, says Babak Rahimi.

**A North Korean Spring?** by Victor Cha in the *Washington Quarterly*, Winter 2012.

In this article, written before the death of Kim Jong-il, Cha wrote that we should pay less attention to scholars and experts who dismiss the Arab Spring's relevance, and more attention to Kim Jong-il's actions in the aftermath of the Middle East tumult, which do not look like the actions of a leader confident that his worst days were left behind 20 plus years ago. He says that Kim appears to fear the Arab Spring, and ponders what this might mean for the future of his regime.

**The Last Kim of Pyongyang?** by Daniel Klyman in *Foreign Policy*, January 19, 2012.

Can North Korea take a leaf out of Myanmar's book at consider a u-turn to democracy?

**Is There a Proper Sequence in Democratic Transitions?** by Francis Fukuyama in *Current History*, November 2011.

Stable democracy does not depend on a rigid set of preconditions, and has emerged in many surprising circumstances.

**The New World of Democracy Promotion** by Lincoln Mitchell in *Current History*, November 2011.

"The 1990s were the period when democracy promotion in the form we think of it today began to take shape. But that global political environment was unique. . . . Things have changed since then," says Mitchell.

**The Transnational Challenge to Arab Freedom** by Jason Brownlee in *Current History*, November 2011.

The White House has not repealed the doctrines that in the Middle East prioritize the stability of allied autocracies over democratization.

**Democracy and Reconfigured Power in Africa** by Richard Joseph in *Current History*, November 2011.

The third wave of democracy did sweep across much of sub-Saharan Africa in the 1990s, but has now subsided, except for ripples and eddies.

**Perspective: Could China Be the Next Wave?** by Bruce Gilley in *Current History*, November 2011.

China's one-party state is here to stay, many observers agree. Then again, Samuel Huntington in 1984 assessed the odds of regime change in the communist world as "virtually nil".

**China: Big Changes Coming Soon** by Henry S. Rowen in *Policy Review*, December/January, 2011.

Rowen predicts economic growth and political upheaval.

***Some international relations resources which may be of interest:***

**President Obama on the Defense Strategic Review** Remarks, January 5, 2012. **Watch/Listen** See also the **White House blog post, "President Obama Outlines a New Global Military Strategy** and **Obama Announces New Defense Strategy** *IIP Digital*, January 5, 2012. **American Forces Press Serv. Story: Future Force Will Be Small, Active & Ready**

**In New Strategy, Panetta Plans Even Smaller Army** *New York Times* online, January 4, 2012.

**Devaluing the Think Tank** by Tevi Troy. *National Affairs*, Winter 2012.

**State Department Contributes an Initial \$125 Million to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees** Media note, U.S. Dept of State, December 29, 2011.

**Passage of the Fifth Committee Regular Budget for the 2012-2013 Biennium** Fact sheet. U.S. Mission to the United Nations, December 29, 2011.

**Successful Conclusion of the Seventh Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention** Fact Sheet. *White House*, December 23, 2011. **Briefing by U.S. Asst. Secretary of State Thomas Countryman - Outcomes**

**North Korea after Kim** Backgrounder by Jayshree Bajoria. *CFR*, December 19, 2011.

**Lifting Sanctions on the Government of Libya** Fact sheet. *U.S. Dept of the Treasury*, December 16, 2011.

**U.S. Arms Sales: Agreements With and Deliveries to Major Clients, 2003-2010** CRS, December 16, 2011.

**To Walk the Earth in Safety: Tenth Annual Report Showcases U.S. Global Leadership in Landmine Clearance and Conventional Weapons Destruction** Media note, U.S. Dept of State, December 19, 2011. **Full Report** 60p. / **See also / Remarks by Secretary Clinton** – Listen also.

**Competitive Intelligence: A Selective Resource Guide** on LLRX.com, December 2011.

**New Security Beat - The Blog of the Environmental Change and Security Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars**

#### **LAW OF THE SEA:**

**Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to the Pew Business Roundtable on Law of the Sea Convention** Video December 16, 2011. **Listen**

**Clinton Working to Win U.S. Senate Approval of Oceans Treaty** IIP Digital, December 19, 2011.

**Multilateral Political Missions and Preventive Diplomacy** by Richard Gowan. U.S. Institute of Peace, December 2011.

#### **East Asia/ Pacific:**

**Pacific Island Nations: How Viable Are Their Economies?** by Francis X. Hezel, East-West Center, 2012.

Development economists frequently argue that with the right policies in place and necessary reforms implemented, any nation, whatever its limitations, can develop a successful economy. In this report, Hezel looks at the record to find out how the Pacific Island nations have fared since independence. Having abundant exports doesn't always translate into a strong economy, he finds, since the two most richly endowed countries in the region are among the poorest in quantified per capita income. He sees most of the countries nations in the region as being resource-poor and so have had to turn to other strategies for economic development. Hezel considers that the pathways to economic development for small island nations, which are remote and have limited resources, are few and steep. Hezel asks what this somber but realistic view of the limits of economic growth in the Pacific might mean for larger nations with a stake in the Pacific, such as Australia, Japan, the United States, and China. Foreign aid, he suggests, may not be just a stopgap to achieve economic self-sufficiency, but a permanent requirement for nations that will always come up short of this goal.

**Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell Visits China, South Korea, Japan** IIP Digital, January 4, 2012.

**The Trans-Pacific Partnership** Hearing, subcommittee of U.S. House Committee on Ways & Means, December 14, 2011.

**The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement** CRS, December 12, 2011.

**U.S.-Japan-India Trilateral** Media note, U.S. Dept of State, December 19, 2011.

**Ambassador Locke Presents One Millionth Visa in China** Media note, U.S. Dept of State, December 15, 2011.

**U.S.-Indonesia Commercial Dialogue Helping to Expand Trade** IIP Digital, December 15, 2011.

**The United States, Malaysia, and the Asia Pacific** Speech by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State William J. Burns, in Kuala Lumpur, December 15, 2011. **See also**

**Remarks by Special Representative Davies in Beijing** U.S. Dept. of State, December 15, 2011 (regarding North Korea).

**Ten Years in the WTO: Has China Kept its Promises?** Hearing before the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, December 13, 2011. **Testimony by Assistant U.S. Trade Representative Claire Reade**

**The United States and China in Power Transition** by David Lai. Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College, December 2011. Note: 284p.

**U.S.-Japan Economic Relations: Significance, Prospects, and Policy Options** CRS, December 5, 2011.

**2011 Report to Congress on China's WTO Compliance** Office of the USTR, December 2011. Note: 127p.

**Going Global: Chinese Oil and Mining Companies and the Governance of Resource Wealth** by Jill Shankleman. Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, (December?) 2011. Note: 122p.

**Obama: Asia Pacific Will Shape U.S. Economic Future** IIP Digital, November 14, 2011.

**U.S.-South Korean Relations** CRS, November 28, 2011.

## **Middle East**

**Persian Gulf Storm Clouds** Analysis brief by Robert McMahon. *CFR*, January 4, 2012.

**The Strait of Hormuz is the World's Most Important Oil Transit Chokepoint** *Energy Information Administration, U.S. Dept of Energy*, January 4, 2012.

**Stakeholders of Libya's February 17 Revolution** *U.S. Institute of Peace*, January 2012.

**Jordan Hosts Israeli, Palestinian, and Quartet Envoys Meetings** Statement by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, January 1, 2012.

**U.S. Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia** Special joint press briefing by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Andrew J. Shapiro & Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy James N. Miller, December 29, 2011. [See also](#)

**Political Transition in Tunisia** *CRS*, December 16, 2011.

**Pakistan: U.S. Foreign Aid Conditions, Restrictions, and Reporting Requirements** *CRS*, December 15, 2011. 16p.

**Remarks by the President and First Lady on the End of the War in Iraq** *The White House*, December 14, 2011.

**Iraq and Public Opinion: The Troops Come Home** *Pew Research Center*, December 14, 2011.

**Panetta Says U.S. Has Edge on Taliban** *New York Times* online, December 14, 2011.

**Confronting Damascus: U.S. Policy toward the Evolving Situation in Syria** Hearing before a subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, December 14, 2011. Webcast.

**Launch of the Joint Coordination Committee** Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton & Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari, December 12, 2011. [Listen also](#)

**Past Time for UN Action on Syria, U.S. Says** *IIP Digital*, December 13, 2011.

**Yemeni National Consensus** *Government Statement, U.S. Dept of State*, December 13, 2011.

**The Saudi-Arabian Rivalry and the Future of Middle East Security** by W. Andrew Terrill. *Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College*, December 2011. Note: 95p.

**As Last Troops Depart, U.S. and Iraq Foresee Equal Partnership** *IIP Digital*, December 12, 2011.

**Remarks by President Obama and Prime Minister al-Maliki of Iraq** Joint press conference. *The White House*, December 12, 2011.

**Camp Ashraf: Iraqi Obligations and State Department Accountability** Hearing before subcommittees of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, December 7, 2011. [For transcripts](#) and scroll to date.

**Was the Iraq War Worth It?** Views of four experts. *CFR*, December 15, 2011.

**Overtures to Islamists Reverses Long-Time U.S. Policy** *New York Times* online, January 3, 2012. Reference is to Egypt.

**Remarks by the President and First Lady on the End of the War in Iraq** *The White House*, December 14, 2011.

**Iraq and Public Opinion: The Troops Come Home** *Pew Research Center*, December 14, 2011.

**Confronting Damascus: U.S. Policy toward the Evolving Situation in Syria** Hearing before a subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs, December 14, 2011. Scroll to date. Webcast also.

**Regime Violence in Syria** Statement, *U.S. Dept of State*, December 27, 2011.

**Violence in Damascus** Statement, *U.S. Dept of State*, December 23, 2011. [White House Press Statement](#) December 21'11.

**Saudis' New Mideast Challenges** Interview with F. Gregory Gause III. *CFR*, December 9, 2011.

**Revolution in the Arab World: The Long View** by Laleh Khalili et al. *Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University*, December 2011. 28p.

**Libya: Transition and U.S. Policy** *CRS*, December 8, 2011.

## **Iran:**

**How Serious Are Iran's Threats?** Interview with Michael Elleman. *CFR*, January 5, 2012.

**Iran's Nuclear Program: History and Eight Questions** by Micah Zenko *CFR*, January 3, 2012.

**Doubling Down on Iran** by Ken Pollack & Ken Takeyh in the *Washington Quarterly*, Fall 2011.

**Iran: U.S. Concerns and Policy Responses** *CRS*, December 15, 2011.

## **Europe and Russia:**

**Russia's December 2011 Legislative Election: Outcome and Implications** *CRS*, December 13, 2011.

**The State of Human Rights and the Rule of Law in Russia: U.S. Policy Options** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations*, December 14, 2011. **See also**

**U.S. Leaders Applaud Russia's Steps toward WTO Accession** *IIP Digital*, December 9, 2011.

**Why Russian Protests Matter** Interview with Stephen Sestanovich. *CFR*, December 13, 2011.

## **India:**

**U.S.-India Partnership in an Asia-Pacific Century** Address by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State William J. Burns at the University of Pune, December 16, 2011.

**U.S. Nuclear Cooperation with India: Issues for Congress** *CRS*, December 15, 2011.

**American India Foundation Dinner** Address by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert O. Blake, Jr., December 13, 2011. Remarks on U.S.-India business and economic development cooperation.

## **Africa:**

**ICTR Judgment Against Former MRND Officials Statement** *U.S. Dept of State*, December 27, 2011. Relating to war crimes in Rwanda in the mid-1990s.

**President Obama on the Horn of Africa Famine** Statement *The White House*, December 22, 2011.

**Darfur and the International Criminal Court** Remarks by Jeffrey de Laurentis, U.S. Alternate Representative to the United Nations for Special Political Affairs, at a UN Security Council meeting on Darfur and the International Criminal Court, December 15, 2011.

**Improving Governance in the Democratic Republic of Congo** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations*, December 15, 2011. **Listen/Watch also**

**International Engagement Conference for South Sudan** Remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, December 14, 2011. **See also**

**Zimbabwe: The Transitional Government and Implications for U.S. Policy** *CRS*, October 27, 2011. 34p.

## **Drug Trafficking:**

**The U.S.-Caribbean Shared Security Partnership: Responding to the Growth of Trafficking and Narcotics in the Caribbean** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations*, December 15, 2011.

**Mexico's Drug War** Backgrounder by Aimee Rawlins. *CFR*, December 13, 2011.

## **Terrorism & Homeland Security:**

**New Bureau Established Within the U.S. Department of State** A briefing by Daniel Benjamin, Coordinator, Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism. **Bureau of Counterterrorism** Fact sheet. *U.S. Dept of State*, January 4, 2012.

**Homegrown Terrorism: The Threat to Military Communities inside the United States** Joint hearing of the *U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security and U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs*, December 7, 2011. See also **A majority investigative report of the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security**

**Jihadist Use of Social Media: How to Prevent Terrorism and Preserve Innovation** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security*, December 6, 2011. View also.

## ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

**Think Again: Nuclear Power** by Charles Ferguson in *Foreign Policy*, November 2011. 7p.

The author, president of the Federation of American Scientists, examines the future of global nuclear power after the Japan meltdown and the great energy challenges to the immediate future.

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

**World Oil Transit Chokepoints** *Energy Information Administration, U.S. Dept of Energy*, December 30, 2011.

**Smart Grid Legislative and Regulatory Policies & Case Studies** *EIA, U.S. Dept of Energy*, December 2011. Note: 299p.

**Rush for Gas Rights Ignites Battles for Control of Land** *New York Times* online, December 14, 2011.

**Alternative Energy Tax Incentives** Hearing, *subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance*, December 14'11.

**Uranium Mining in Virginia: Scientific, Technical, Environmental, Human Health and Safety, and Regulatory Aspects of Uranium Mining and Processing in Virginia** *National Academies Press*, 2011. Note: 370p.

**Our Nation's Water Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works*, December 13, 2011.

**U.S. National Science Foundation: An Overview** CRS, December 20, 2011.

### Cities & Urban Planning

**Urban-Development Legends**  
by Mario Polese. *City Journal*,  
Autumn 2011.

Polese debunks some theories  
...

**Opportunities and Challenges  
Facing New England's Smaller  
Industrial Cities** Speech by Eric  
S. Rosengren, president and chief  
executive officer, Federal Reserve  
Bank of Boston, July 13, 2011.

**Center for an Urban Future** A  
think tank with focus on the  
social, economic and educational  
aspects of New York City.

**Urban Growth and Decline:  
The Role of Population Density  
at the City Core** by Kyle Fee and  
Daniel Hartley. Federal Reserve  
Bank of Cleveland, *Economic  
Commentary*, December 21,  
2011.

**2011 Best-Performing Cities**  
*Milken Institute*, December  
2011 Study covers U.S. cities  
only. The **full report** (free  
registration required for access)

**State of the Climate – Global Analysis National Climatic Data Center** updated  
monthly.

**U.S. Satisfied with Outcome of Climate Talks** *IIP Digital*, December 13, 2011.  
The **transcript of a briefing by Todd Stern, U.S. Special Envoy for Climate  
Change**

**International Climate Change Financing: The Green Climate Fund (GCF)** *CRS*,  
December 12, 2011. 15p.

**Keystone XL Pipeline Project: Key Issues** *CRS*, December 12, 2011.

**Residual Fuel Consumption in the U.S. Continues to Decline** *Energy  
Information Administration, U.S. Dept of Energy*, December 9, 2011.

**Opportunities and Challenges to Address Domestic and Global Water Supply  
Issues** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy  
and Natural Resources*, December 8, 2011.

**Energy Critical Elements: Identifying Research Needs and Strategic  
Priorities** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Science,  
Space and Technology*, December 7, 2011.

**The Federal Railroad Administration's High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail  
Program: Mistakes and Lessons Learned**

Hearing before the *U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*,  
December 6, 2011.

**Arctic Report Card Shows Higher Temperatures, Less Ice** *IIP Digital*,  
December 8, 2011.

**Pesticide Use and Water Quality: Are the Laws Complementary or in  
Conflict?** *CRS*, November 8, 2011.

### Agriculture and Food:

**7,125 Markets and Counting: Farmers Markets at Your Fingertips** *USDA Blog*, December 28, 2011.

**The Changing Organization of U.S. Farming** *Economic Res. Service, U.S. Dept of Agriculture*, December 2011. Note: 83p.

**U.S. Food Safety Policy Enters a New Era** *Economic Res. Service, U.S. Dept of Agriculture*, December 2011.

## **ECONOMY / TRADE**

**Let There be Growth and/or Inflation** by James Pethokoukis in *Commentary*, January 2012.

The American Enterprise Institute's Pethokoukis believes that failed efforts to boost the U.S. economy over the past three years could be reversed simply by a mere utterance from Bernanke: "Let there be growth."

***Some economics/trade resources which may be of interest:***

**The Trans-Pacific Partnership** Hearing, *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means*, December 14'11.

**What Do Financial Market Indicators Tell Us?** Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis, *Liber8 Economic Information Newsletter*, January 2012.

**Five Economic Trends to Watch in 2012** Views of five experts. *CFR*, December 27, 2011.

**USTR Cites Concerns Over China's Trade Policies** *IIP Digital*, December 14, 2011.

**President Obama Names Commerce Secretary John Bryson and National Economic Council chair Gene Sperling as co-chairs of White House Office of Manufacturing Policy** *The White House*, December 12, 2011.

**Make: An American Manufacturing Movement** *U.S. Manufacturing Competitiveness Initiative*. Report. Dec'11. Note: 88p.

**U.S. Announces New Initiatives to Boost Trade, Investment for Least-Developed Country Members of World Trade Organization** News release, *Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR)*, December 14, 2011. **USTR fact sheet** and see also **U.S. Announces Support for WTO's Least Developed Countries** *IIP Digital*, December 14, 2011.

**Report to Congress on International Economic and Exchange Rate Policies** *U.S. Dept of the Treasury*, December 27, 2011. 33p. Latest of a semiannual series of reports. **Earlier reports / See also**

**USTR Announces Outcome of Generalized System of Preferences Review** News release, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), December 29, 2011. **See also**

**World Trade Organization Negotiations: The Doha Development Agenda** *CRS*, December 12, 2011.

**Enhanced Supervision: A New Regime for Regulating Large, Complex Financial Institutions** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs*, December 7, 2011.

**Insurance Regulation** Remarks, U.S. Deputy Sec. Treasury Neal Wolin at Federal Insurance Office conference, December 9'11.

**Some Observations on Fiscal Imbalances and Monetary Policy** Speech by Charles I. Plosser, president and chief executive officer, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, December 2, 2011.

**Why Some European Countries and Not the U.S.?** by Pedra Amaral and Margaret Jacobson. Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, *Economic Trends*, December 2, 2011.

**Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States: Annual Report to Congress** December 2011. 48p.

**Who Should Bear the Cost of China's Carbon Emissions Embodied in Goods for Exports?** by ZhongXiang Zhang *East-West Center*, November 2011.

**Long-Term Fiscal Sustainability in Major Economies** by Alan J. Auerbach. *Bank for International Settlements (BIS)*, November 2011. 53p.

## **Taxation**

**The U.S. Federal Budget** Infographic. *CBO*, December 2011. **See also**

**Corporate Tax Dodging in Fifty States, 2008-2010** *Inst. Taxation and Econ. Policy & Citizens for Tax Justice*, December'11.

**Present Law and Background Relating to the Federal Tax Treatment of Charitable Contributions** Staff report of the *Joint Committee on Taxation, U.S. Congress*, October 14, 2011 44p.

**Changes in the Distribution of Income among Tax Filers between 1996 and 2006: The Role of Labor Income, Capital Income, and Tax Policy** *CRS*, December 29, 2011.

## BUSINESS /LABOR

**The Case for Optimism** by John Podhoretz in *Commentary*, November 2011. 5p.

The editor of *Commentary*, explores the economic future of the United States in light of the global financial crisis of 2008 and 2009, focusing on the effects of economic bubbles, shifts in political discourse and control in the U.S. Congress, and the American work ethics.

**How Great Companies Think Differently** by Rosabeth Moss Kanter in *Harvard Business Review*, November 2011. 12p.

The author, the Ernest L. Arbuckle Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School, discusses an institutional logic -- the practices of most high-performing and sustainable companies -- at great companies that radically alter leadership and corporate behavior and form the building blocks of a more sustainable competitive advantage.

**Transformative Times: New Opportunities for Business in an Era of Upheaval Knowledge@Wharton** January 3, 2012. **20 articles** 89p.

## U.S. SOCIETY & CULTURE

**Innovating the Future: From Ideas to Adoption** by Peter Denning in *The Futurist*, January/February.

Futurists and innovators can teach each other lessons on how to help their ideas succeed. Denning also believes that Futurists collaborating with innovators can convert scenarios into vision stories.

**Native North American Languages Spoken at Home in the U.S. 2006-2010** *Census Bureau*, December 2011 .

Persons Obtaining U.S. Legal Permanent Resident Status by Region and Selected Country of Last Residence: 1820-2010. U.S. Dept of Homeland Security, 2011 (11 pages; maps, graphs).

**America's Youth: Transitions to Adulthood** *National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Dept of Education*, December 2011. Note: 191p.

**Child Maltreatment 2010** Report of the Administration for Children and Families, *U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services*, 2011. Note: 246p.

**Aging in Place: A State Survey of Livability Policies and Practices** Report of the National Conference of State Legislatures and the AARP Public Policy Institute, December 2011. Note: 84p.

**Barely Half of U.S. Adults Are Married – a Record Low** *Pew Research Center*, December 14, 2011.

**Ready or Not? Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism** Report of Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, December 2011. Note: 92p. **News Release**

**Fighting Malaria: Progress and Challenges** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, December 5, 2011. **For transcripts** and scroll down to date.

**HIV Study Named 2011 Breakthrough of the Year by Science** News release, *National Institutes of Health*, Dec. 22, 2011.

## Children and Youth:

**Cigarette and Alcohol Use at Historic Low among Teens** News release, *National Institutes of Health*, December 14, 2011.

**Breaking the Silence on Child Abuse: Protection, Prevention, Intervention, and Deterrence** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions*, December 13, 2011. Listen also.

## **The Spirit of Volunteerism**

*eJournalUSA, U.S. Department of State*  
January 2012 Volume 16, Number 5

Who gives blood in the United States? Who leads Boy Scout troops? Who sings carols in hospitals during the holidays? Who puts out fires and rescues people in medical emergencies? They are volunteers, so woven into the fabric of U.S. life that they often go unnoticed. This issue of *eJournalUSA* is dedicated to the unheralded citizens who collectively contribute some \$173 billion annually through their unpaid labor. They are part of a tradition of volunteerism that has.

## **Table of Contents**

**Volunteering: An American Tradition**  
by Susan J. Ellis & Katherine H. Campbell

American volunteering began when North America was a wilderness and continues today.

**America's Volunteer Firefighters** by Rick J. Markley

Volunteer firefighting began in the American colonies and the tradition remains strong now.

**It Takes a Grandfather** by Jeanne Holden

Volunteer "grandfathers" mentor fatherless boys.

**Partners in Health: Listening Builds a Community**

by Lisa J. Armstrong  
Listening to Haitians' needs builds a clinic and a community.

**Resettling in Seattle** by Charlotte West  
The International Rescue Committee helps refugees build new lives in a new land.

**IBM's Corporate Volunteers** by Kathryn McConnell.

One of the world's largest computer companies encourages staff to share their skills in developing countries.

## **Additional Resources**

## **Arab-Americans:**

**Arab-American Politician Succeeds through Community Service** *IIP Digital*, December 27, 2011. A profile of Rashida Tlaib.

**Joseph Haiek: Documenting Arab-American Achievements** *IIP Digital*, December 30, 2011.

**Kahlil Gibran in the U.S.: A Symbol of Unity** *IIP Digital*, December 30, 2011.

**Arab-American Comedian is Serious about Bridging Cultures** *IIP Digital*, December 30, 2011 A profile of comedian Ahmed Ahmed.

**Saudi-American Woman Champions Democracy** *IIP Digital*, December 30, 2011. A profile of Ferial Masry.

## **Housing:**

**The Housing Market: Current Conditions and Policy Considerations** Report by the *U.S. Federal Reserve to the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs*, January 4, 2012. 28p.

**The U.S. Housing System in the Global Context: Structure, Capital Sources, and Housing Dynamics** Hearing before a subcommittee of the *U.S. House Committee on Financial Services*, October 13, 2011. Listen also.

## **Substance Abuse:**

**Drug Poisoning Deaths in the United States, 1980-2008** *National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services*, December 2011. 8p.

**Adult Drug Courts** Report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), December 2011. 62p.

## **Justice and Legal Issues:**

**"Notorious Markets" Infringe on Property Rights** *IIP Digital*, December 22, 2011. **See also / The Report**

**Judicial Reliance on Foreign Law** Hearing, *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary*, December 14'11.

**The Costs and Burden of Civil Discovery** Hearing before a subcommittee of the *U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary*, December 13, 2011. Note: 124p.

**Turning the Investigation on the Science of Forensics** Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation*, December 7, 2011.

**Access to the Court: Televising the Supreme Court** Hearing before a subcommittee of the *U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary*, December 6, 2011. Watch / Listen also

**2011 Year-End Report on the Federal Judiciary** *U.S. Supreme Court*, December 2011. 16p.

**Federal Justice Statistics, 2009** *Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Dept of Justice*, December 2011. 22p. **Tables** 62p.

**Prison and Jail Deaths in Custody, 2000-2009: Statistical Tables** *Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Dept of Justice*, December 2011. 34p.

**National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Summary Report** *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services*, November, 2011.

## **Border Protection:**

**CBP's 2011 Fiscal Year in Review** News release, *U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)*, December 12, 2011.

**National Illegal Alien Apprehensions Fiscal Years 1925-2011** Table. *U.S. Border Patrol*, December 2011.

## **Emergency Preparedness & Response:**

**The Effectiveness of Our Nation's Public Alert System** Hearing before a subcommittee of the *U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, December 13, 2011.

**Ensuring Effective Preparedness and Response: Lessons Learned from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee** Field hearing of a subcommittee of the *U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security*, November 29, 2011.

## EDUCATION

**College for All?** by Kevin Carey in *The Wilson Quarterly*, Autumn 2011.

In his first speech to Congress, Barack Obama made a bold declaration: By 2020, America would regain its historical international lead in college attainment. But effecting a major increase in college attainment is a daunting task, especially when students need to get a decent high school education. And then there is the question as to whether the economy can absorb a huge influx of degree holders.

**Do Sports Build Character or Damage It?** by Mark Edmundson in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, January 15, 2012.

Edmundson posits that sports are a complex issue, and that we as a culture don't really know how to think about them. Public confusion about performance-enhancing drugs, the dangers of concussions in football and of fighting in hockey suggest that while it often seems that neither the boosters nor the bashers want to go too far in examining their assumptions about sports, it might be good to pull back and consider the question of athletics and education - of sports and character-building - a bit more closely than we generally do.

**Using Handheld Technologies Entering the Classroom** on *whyscience.com*

It's amazing - everything is quickly going "mobile" and suddenly students are able to walk around with the full curriculum in their pockets! In addition we are seeing all kinds of wonderful uses for the iPad (see here an article highlighting some really great examples of the iPad in the classroom) led in large part by a faster and smarter internet, and a market place to help support these new platforms. Even going beyond the iPad, the world of educational Apps is exploding. With the help of a smart phone students not only in America, but across the entire globe are suddenly able to access massive amounts of educational materials.

**Tablet Wars and the Implications for Higher Education** by Xanadu, February 1, 2011.

The iPad's promise for higher education has been well documented, with numerous universities and companies putting the device through its paces in the classroom. There are several important trends that higher ed professionals should be thinking about.

**From Distraction to Engagement: Wireless Devices in the Classroom** by Berlin Fang in *Educause Quarterly*, 2009.

Key Takeaways: Wireless devices in the classroom threaten to distract student attention but also offer opportunities for student engagement; faculty use different methods to reduce in-class distractions, up to mandating no use of wireless devices during class sessions; to increase student engagement using wireless devices, faculty employ creative options for making wireless devices part of instruction, from cell phones as clickers to laptops for on-the-fly web research.

**With Cheating Only a Click Away. Professors Reduce the Incentive** by Jie Jenny Zou in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, September 9, 2011. 3p.

The author, a contributing writer for *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, discusses the increased use of clickers, or student response systems, in college classes in the United States and examines ways in which professors, lecturers, and universities are implementing guidelines to prevent students from cheating through the use of these devices.

**Evolving Technologies: A View to Tomorrow** by Molly Tamatkin et al. in *Educause Review*, November/December, 2011.

The authors of the Report, the Evolving Technologies Committee, found that technology leaders must participate in strategy creation as well as operational delivery within higher education institutions. They believe the future of higher education – the view of tomorrow – is irrevocably integrated and intertwined with evolving technologies such as alternative IT sourcing and mobility.

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

**Education and the American Jobs Act: Creating Jobs through Investments in Our Nation's Schools** Report. *The White House*, December 2011. **See also** and the **White House announcement**

**Distance Education Courses for Public Elementary and Secondary School Students: 2009-2010: First Look** *National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Dept of Education*, November 2011. 66p.

**Higher Education: Student Outcomes Vary at For-Profit, Nonprofit, and Public Schools** GAO, December 2011. Note: 97p.

**The Federal Role in Education Research: Providing Relevant Information to Students, Parents, and Educators** by Grover J. "Russ" Whitehurst. *Brookings*, November 16, 2011.

## **MEDIA, INTERNET & SOCIAL NETWORKING**

**Will Dailies Stay Daily?** By Caitlin Johnston in *American Journalism Review*, Winter 2011.

A number of papers nationwide, mostly in smaller markets, have dropped their Monday editions in the past year or so, says Randy Bennett, senior vice president of business development at the Newspaper Association of America. Monday has traditionally been a weak day for advertising. Is this the shape of things to come?

**New Approaches for a New Era** by Morgan Gibson in *American Journalism Review*, Winter 2011.

Newsrooms across the country have responded to the digital age by revamping their looks with makeovers, losing a few pounds and nipping and tucking here and there. *The Seattle Times* had more work done. The Times' newsroom recently underwent an extensive renovation that brought its local community to the forefront of the newsgathering process and shook up the traditional newsroom hierarchy.

**Do Women Lead Differently?** by Sherry Ricchiardi in *American Journalism Review*, Winter 2011.

A woman smashes the glass ceiling as she becomes executive editor of the *New York Times*. Time to ponder whether women journalists will bring a different taste to its stories.

**Generations and Their Gadgets** by Kathryn Zickuhr *Pew Internet & American Life Project*, February 3, 2011. 20p.

Many devices have become popular across generations, with a majority now owning cell phones, laptops and desktop computers. But younger adults are leading the way in increased mobility, preferring laptops to desktops and using their cell phones for a variety of functions, including internet, email, music, games, and video.

### ***Other online resources which may be of interest:***

**Global Digital Communication: Texting, Social Networking Popular Worldwide** *Pew Research Center*, December 20, 2011. 30p. [Overview](#) / [Brief Summary](#)

**LiveAtState: Internet Freedom and U.S. Foreign Policy** Remarks by U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Baer, December 13, 2011.

**Launch of Internet Freedom Coalition at "Freedom Online" Conference** Media note, *U.S. Dept of State*, December 13, 2011.

**U.S. Government Cloud Computing Technology Roadmap, Volume II, Release 1.0 (Draft): Useful Information for Cloud Adopters** *National Institute of Standards and Technology*, November 2011. Note: 85p. [Volume I](#)

**State of the Federal Web** Report on *.gov Reform Task Force*, December 16, 2011. 61p.

**ICANN's Top-Level Domain Name Program** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce*, December 14, 2011.

**Opening Remarks on Internet Freedom** by U.S. Under Secretary of State Maria Otero at a Newseum event co-hosted by the Netherlands and Google, December 8, 2011.

**Promoting Global Internet Freedom** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, December 8, 2011. For [transcripts](#), and scroll down to date.

**Ten Facts about Mobile Broadband** by Darrell M. West. *Brookings*, December 8, 2011. "It's reshaping society, communications, and the global economy."

**ICANN's Expansion of Top-Level Domains** Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation*, December 8, 2011. Webcast also.

**Draft Legislative Proposal on Cybersecurity** Hearing before a *subcommittee of the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security*, December 6, 2011. Webcast. Listen/Watch

**The New, Convoluted Life of a Newspaper Story** [in the online world] by Lauren Rabaino, November 18, 2011.

**Mapping the Mal Web: The World's Riskiest Domains** *McAfee*, November 2011.

[Twitter Blog](#) / [Facebook Blog](#)



## The ARTS / CULTURE

**How the United States Funds the Arts** NEA, 2007. 29p.

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the diverse network of public and private funders that directly and indirectly support the arts in the U.S. It explains the role of the National Endowment for the Arts and other public partners at the federal, state, and local levels as well as that of private partners, such as foundations, corporations, and individuals.

**The Arts and Human Development: Framing a National Agenda for the Arts, Life-Long Learning and Individual Well-Being** *The National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*, March 14, 2011. 38p.

Increasingly in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, U.S. policy leaders in health and education have recognized a need for strategies and interventions to address “the whole person.” They have urged a more integrated approach to policy development - one that can reach Americans at various stages of their lives, across generations, and in multiple learning contexts. This report reinforces that the arts are ideally suited to promote this integrated approach.

**Going Mad for Charles Dickens** by Joshua Hamer in *Smithsonian*, February 2012.

Two centuries after his birth, the novelist is still wildly popular, as a theme park, a new movie and countless festivals attest. [Dickens Museum \(London\) Video](#)

**Before and After Disasters: Federal Funding for Cultural Institutions** NEA, 2005. 36p.

An updated and expanded version of Resources for Recovery: Post-Disaster Aid for Cultural Institutions. Includes summary descriptions and contact information for 15 federal grant and loan programs and covers sources of federal assistance for preparedness, mitigation, and response, as well as for recovery. Sample projects in disaster planning, training, treatment research, and restoration illustrate the funding guidelines.

**How the Arts Can Enhance After-School Programs** *the Arts Endowment in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education*, 2002 24p.

Focuses on the role of the arts in after-school activities in neighborhood schools. Summaries of recent research, key elements of successful programs, and highlights of effective partnerships between schools and community-based organizations are also provided.

**Predicting Future War: What H.G. Wells Got Right and Wrong** by Micah Zenko. *CFR*, December 27, 2011.

In researching the history of war prediction, Zenko ran across the most imaginative such effort from the pacifist science fiction writer, H.G. Wells.

## SPACE / SCIENCE

**Quest for Anti-Aging Drugs Transitions from Flaky to Mainstream** A Guest Blog by David Stipp on *Scientific American.com*, December 20, 2011.

Science writer Stipp says when he give talks on aging research someone usually asks, “When will scientists develop true anti-aging drugs?” His answer has little to do with what’s happening in the lab, though - it’s about politics, perceptions and money.

**Resistance Is Futile** by Megan McArdle in *The Atlantic*, October 2011.

McArdle examines the inevitably loss of effectiveness of antibiotics and how infections such as tuberculosis, staphalococcus, pneumococcus and E. coli could become common causes for death.

**New Scientific Integrity Policy Should Contribute to Public Trust** *IIP Digital*, December 9, 2011.

The new scientific integrity policy for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the U.S. Dept of Commerce.

**NASA’s Rovers Serve as Human Proxies in Mars Missions** *IIP Digital*, December 15, 2011.

**Assessing the James Webb Space Telescope** Hearing before the *U.S. House Committee on Science, Space and Technology*, December 6, 2011.

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