



MUSICAL DIPLOMACY

1 [New York Philharmonic Hopes to Hit the Right Note in N. Korea](#) in *L.A. Times*, 23 February.

The New York Philharmonic Orchestra enters one of the world's most secretive countries - to play in a Pyongyang concert hall, which fits 1500 people. Not since 1950 when the U.S. Army briefly captured Pyongyang during the Korean War have so many Americans descended on the world's most reclusive, anti-U.S. capital. This time, though, the invasion is not military, but musical.

A 747 jumbo jet from Beijing is scheduled to arrive Monday in Pyongyang carrying a full symphony orchestra -- 130 members of the New York Philharmonic and their instruments, minus only the piano. A couple of hundred people are accompanying the musicians, an entourage that includes journalists, diplomats, assorted Korea experts, technicians and well-wishers.



Bloomberg: The New York Philharmonic Orchestra performs in North Korea today, bringing one of the largest groups of American citizens to Pyongyang since the 1950-53 Korean War as the U.S. presses the country to dismantle its nuclear program.

The orchestra arrived in Pyongyang yesterday and was welcomed at a banquet, the official Korea Central News Agency said. North Korea has also invited rock guitarist Eric Clapton, whose hits include "Cocaine," to perform next year, the Financial Times reported.

The orchestra's visit "is way up the scale" from China's 1971 "ping-pong" diplomacy, former U.S. ambassador to South Korea Donald Gregg, who will be in Pyongyang for the concert, said. "I call it a 16-inch broadside of soft power fired by the Philharmonic." The U.S. table tennis team's visit to Beijing was followed by a trip to China by then-President Richard Nixon.

[New York Philharmonic Performs in North Korea](#) in *The Washington File*, 26 February.

Hill Awarded Diplomatic Service Medal on U.S.-Korea Relations website, 20 February.

Christopher R. Hill, Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs and U.S. lead in the Six-Party Talks has been awarded the Order of Diplomatic Service Merit Gwanghwa Medal from South Korean government. [ARTICLE 104](#)

North Korea Now: Will the Clock Be Turned Back? *Brookings*, 28 February. [ARTICLE 105](#)

Responses to North Korea's Nuclear Test: Capitulation or Collective Action? in *The Washington Quarterly*, Autumn, 2007. [ARTICLE 106](#)

Enhancing U.S. Engagement with North Korea in *The Washington Quarterly*, Spring. [ARTICLE 107](#)

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Global Challenges for the Next U.S. President by Strobe Talbott. *Brookings*, 4 February.

The President of the Brookings Institution believes that the next President of the United States will face significant domestic and international challenges. Talbott, author of *The Great Experiment: The Story of Ancient Empires, Modern States, and the Quest for a Global Nation*, reminds his readers that nuclear proliferation and climate change are two of the most critical issues the next administration will have to address.

[ARTICLE 108](#)

The Palmerstonian Moment by Richard Haas in *The National Interest*, January/February.

Following Lord Palmerston's dictum, the U.S. may have neither permanent friends nor permanent enemies in the 21st Century. We are left with a world of uncertainty – and opportunity, says Haas.

[ARTICLE 109](#)

NATO's Big Mission: The United States, Europe and the Challenge of Afghanistan. *Brookings*, 13 November.

Pakistan's current political crisis is only the latest challenge to Western efforts to help stabilize Afghanistan. Rising violence, the resurgent Taliban, overstretched U.S. and European forces, and a record opium crop have come together to raise serious questions about the future of the *NATO* mission. On November 13, the Brookings Institution hosted a discussion to analyze the current political and security situation in Afghanistan, as well as U.S. and European policies and options. Panelists included Rory Stewart, author of *The Places in Between* and CEO of the Kabul-based Turquoise Mountain Foundation; James Dobbins, former U.S. envoy to Afghanistan; and Kori Schake, former director for Defense Strategy and Requirements on the National Security Council.

[ARTICLE 110](#)

Inside Gaza: The Challenge of Clans and Families. *Middle East Report, International Crisis Group*, 20 December. 32p.

Throughout Gaza's history, clans and families have played an important role. Today, clans and families are one of the "significant obstacles Hamas faces in trying to consolidate its authority and reinstate stability in the territory . . ." A history of Gaza and its clans and families, this paper also relates how Hamas has learned to work within the families in an attempt to bring stability to the area.

[ARTICLE 111](#)

The Rise of China and the Future of the West by John Ikenberry in *Foreign Affairs*, January/February.

China's rise will inevitably bring the United States' unipolar moment to an end. But that does not necessarily mean a violent power struggle or the overthrow of the Western system. The U.S.-led international order can remain dominant even while integrating a more powerful China - but only if Washington sets about strengthening that liberal order now.

[ARTICLE 112](#)

Strengthening Freedom in Asia: A 21st Century Agenda for the U.S.-Taiwan Partnership by Dan Blumenthal & Randall Shriver. *AEI*, 22 February.

The United States has an interest in a free, democratic, prosperous, and strong Taiwan.

[ARTICLE 113](#)

Disarming Rogues: Deterring First-Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction by David Szabo in *Parameters*, Winter.

Examines the potential for intra-conflict deterrence when a state confronts an enemy that possesses WMD - most likely chemical weapons (CW) or biological weapons (BW).

[ARTICLE 114](#)

Stabilization and Democratization: Renewing the Transatlantic Alliance by Zachary Selden in *Parameters*, Winter.

In an effort to address a more balanced *NATO* alliance with a common purpose, Selden explores why and how this could be accomplished by focusing on the interests and capabilities of the member states, by comparing the European and American strategy documents, and finding points of commonality that indicate broad agreement on the challenges and necessary responses. He also examines how European and American strengths could be combined to produce robust long-term stabilization and democratization missions, and argues that it is in the interests of both the U.S. and Europe to reconstitute the alliance around stabilization and democratization missions within *NATO's* institutional framework.

[ARTICLE 115](#)

Afghanistan: Regaining Momentum by Ali Jalali in *Parameters*, Winter.

On the sixth anniversary of the US-led military invasion, Afghanistan is faced with its worst crisis since the ousting of the Taliban, and the country faces the distinct possibility of sliding back into instability and chaos, as it is challenged by a revitalized Taliban-led insurgency, record rise in drug production, deterioration of the rule of law, and weakening national government in the regions outside the major cities. These troubles come amidst a changing political and military environment in and around Afghanistan compounding effective responses to the emerging challenges.

[ARTICLE 116](#)

The Coming Revolution in Africa by Pascal Zachary in *Wilson Quarterly*, Winter.

Even as daily headlines bring grim news of misery, disease, and death in Africa, an agricultural transformation is lifting tens of millions of people out of poverty. A rising generation of small farmers promises not only to put food on the African table but to fundamentally change the continent's economic and political life. [ARTICLE 117](#)

Islam and the West: Annual Report on the State of Dialogue. *World Economic Forum*, 21 January. 156p.

The World Economic Forum and Georgetown University together have produced this report, "a systematic and thorough look at how Muslim and Western societies perceive and relate to each other..." [ARTICLE 118](#)

Serbia: Current Issues and U.S. Policy by Stephen Woehrek. *CRS*, 7 February. 6p.

Serbia currently is seeking integration into the European Union but is stymied by its failure to arrest four indicted war criminals. Its leadership is divided on whether to seek admission to NATO. Kosovo remains a thorny issue as well. This report examines the current status and problems of Serbia. [ARTICLE 119](#)

South Africa and the Arab World: Facing Common Challenges by Marcus Noland, et. al. *Peterson Institute for International Economics*. Web posted 16 January. 9p.

This report evaluates social and economic problems common to South Africa and the Arab world. It identifies specific areas of concern like private sector employment among foreign nationals in the two regions and how this might become problematic as large numbers of local youth reach working age. It calls for the expansion of "labor-intensive manufacturing or services exports" while stating that neither region has done well in this regard. [ARTICLE 120](#)

Trafficking in Persons: U.S. Policy and Issues For Congress by Clare Ribando Seelke. *CRS*, 10 January. 56p.

Trafficking in people for prostitution and forced labor is one of the most prolific areas of international criminal activity and is of significant concern to the United States and the international community. The overwhelming majority of those trafficked are women and children. Official U.S. estimates are that some 2 to 4 million people are trafficked annually. Congress is currently considering several bills that address various aspects of the problem. [ARTICLE 121](#)

Exit Polls: Refugee Assessments of North Korea's Transition by Yoonuk Chang, et. al., Working Paper Series, *Peterson Institute for International Economics*. Web posted 9 January. 22p.

Results from a survey of more than 1,300 North Korean refugees to China provide insight into changing economic conditions in North Korea. [ARTICLE 122](#)

Applying the Lessons of Bosnia in Iraq: Whatever the Solution, Property Rights Should Be Secured by Rhodri C. Williams. *Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement, Brookings Institution*. 8 January.

Recent proposals have been made for "soft partition" of Iraq through a process of decentralization rather than the creation of separate national entities. The U.S. Senate passed a non-binding resolution to this effect in September, 2007. This document looks at the proposals and compares them to the similar effort made in Bosnia in the early 1990's. [ARTICLE 123](#)

Higher Education and the Future of Iraq by Imad Harb. *USIP*, January.

In this special report on education and conflict, Harb examines the past record, current condition, and potential of Iraq's higher education sector. Iraqis have traditionally valued intellectual achievement, but the legacy of Baathist rule and the current tide of instability are crippling the universities' ability to function effectively. The future, however, could see those universities playing a leading role in securing long-term peace. He argues that if the security environment improves, Iraqi universities could become leading actors in the country's civil society, providing opportunities for faculty and students to resolve social and political conflicts, promote political stability and economic growth, and build an institutional infrastructure able to safeguard human rights. [ARTICLE 124](#)

Latin America: Terrorism Issues by Mark P. Sullivan. *CRS*, 9 January. 6p.

U.S. attention to terrorism in Latin America intensified in the aftermath of the September 2001 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, through increased bilateral and regional cooperation. In its April 2007 Country Reports on Terrorism, the State Department highlighted threats in Colombia, Peru, and the tri-border area of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay ... In May 2007, for the second year in a row, the Department of State, pursuant to the *Arms Export Control Act*, included Venezuela on the list of countries not cooperating on anti-terrorism efforts. [ARTICLE 125](#)

The Gulf Security Dialogue and Related Arms Sale Proposals by Christopher M. Blanchard, et. al., *CRS*, 14 January. 16p.

The structure and objectives of the Gulf Security Dialogue; briefly assesses its regional implications; summarizes proposed arms sales and evaluates the Congressional notification and review procedures. [ARTICLE 126](#)

How Does it Stack Up? The Anti-Personnel Mine Convention at 10 by Peter Herby & Eve La Haye in *Arms Control Today*, December.

Herby and La Haye describe the 1997 Ottawa Convention to ban anti-personnel landmines as “one of the most successful multilateral arms treaties of recent times,” and grew from a simple dream to a commitment by 156 nations. It has provided a model for cooperative engagement among states, international agencies, civil society organizations, and specialist NGOs in achieving results that none could have achieved alone. The authors have also included a chart listing anti-personnel mine stockpiles for eight countries, describing the convention as “a living process” with a humanitarian program of action that has successfully mobilized thousands of individuals worldwide. [ARTICLE 127](#)

Nuclear Nonproliferation: DOE’s Program to Assist Weapons Scientists in Russia and Other Countries Needs to be Reassessed. *General Accountability Office (GAO)*. Web posted 11 January . 84p.

GAO evaluates the impact and effectiveness of the Initiatives for Proliferation Prevention directed by the Department of Energy. *GAO* criticizes the *DOE*, claiming that it has “overstated accomplishments for 2 critical measures it uses to assess the IPP program’s progress and performance.” [ARTICLE 128](#)

Iran Sanctions: Impact in Furthering U.S. Objectives is Unclear and Should Be Reviewed. *General Accountability Office (GAO)*. Web posted 16 January. 66p.

U.S. officials report that U.S. sanctions have slowed foreign investment in Iran’s petroleum sector, denied parties involved in Iran’s proliferation and terrorism activities access to the U.S. financial system, and provided a clear statement of U.S. concerns to the rest of the world. However, other evidence raises questions about the extent of reported impacts. [ARTICLE 129](#)

Peacekeeping Best Practices: Report of the Secretary General. *United Nations*, 18 December.

This report provides an overview of best practices in peacekeeping including mission planning and efficiency. It explains the methodology and tools used for managing best practices, and it describes improvement gains as a result of these practices, while also offering an initial assessment of the impact of the new system, which was introduced in 2005, highlighting improvements in efficiency and effectiveness. [ARTICLE 130](#)

National Aviation Security Policy, Strategy, and Mode-Specific Plans: Background and Considerations for Congress by Bart Elias. *CRS*, 2 January. 27p.

Prior to 9/11, the U.S. lacked a comprehensive national policy and strategy for aviation security. After the attack, Congress passed the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (ATSA, P.L. 107-71) that called for sweeping changes to passenger airline security operations. In 2006, President Bush directed the Department of Homeland Security to establish and implement a new security strategy and supporting plans. However, Congress has concerns whether these plans are comprehensive, adaptable, sustainable, and within budget and resource allocation. Another concern is whether the 9/11 Commission recommendations were considered when developing the plans. Elias provides an outline of the strategy, the plans, and Congressional concerns. [ARTICLE 131](#)

Conflict-Sensitive Approach to Infrastructure Development by Merriam Mashatt et al. *USIP*, January.

Infrastructure development is the foundation of a sustainable economy and a means to achieving broader nation-building goals. Providing basic services is critical to security, governance, economic development, and social well-being. Presents a model that links the infrastructure cycle with conflict analysis. [ARTICLE 132](#)

Power Surge by Duncan Currie in *The American*, January/February.

Politicians are warming to nuclear power, for a variety of reasons. [ARTICLE 133](#)

Iran’s Activities and Influence in Iraq by Kenneth Katzman. *CRS*, 12 October, 2007.

The Administration is trying to reverse Iranian influence in Iraq while also engaging Iran diplomatically on Iraq. [ARTICLE 134](#)

CUBA - What is next for the U.S. and Cuba?

United States Ready To Help Cubans Realize Liberty in *The Washington File*, 20 February.

The change from the regime of Fidel Castro should offer the Cuban people an opportunity to pursue democracy, and the United States is ready to help Cuba realize this possibility, President Bush says. [ARTICLE 135](#)



The Cuban Economy After Castro by Raj Desai. *Brookings*, 19 February.

With Fidel Castro's resignation as president of Cuba, what is next for the Cuban economy under new leadership? Can Cuban industry reform and what are the historical lessons the new leadership should examine before tackling economic policy changes? Raj Desai examines related issues. [ARTICLE 136](#)

Cuba 2008: Challenges and Opportunities. *Brookings*, 6 February.

Fewer than 100 miles from the United States, Cuba is on the verge of a new era with challenges and opportunities. Brookings hosted a conference on the challenges and opportunities as a new Cuba emerges. Experts on Cuba and Latin American discussed whether Cuba's leaders will be up to the challenge of managing the succession of Fidel Castro and beyond. [ARTICLE 137](#)

What Does Fidel Castro's Retirement Mean for Cuba? by Vicki Huddleston. *Brookings*, 24 February.

Latin American Adviser Vicki Huddleston comments on Fidel Castro's announcement that he will no longer be the leader of Cuba and offers ideas about what it might mean for the U.S.-Cuban relationship. [ARTICLE 138](#)

Cuba: Lessons from the Past – VIDEO by Vicki Huddleston et al. *Brookings*, 14 November.

A panel of scholars recalls Cuba's past and speaks of the island nation's future. [ARTICLE 139](#)

Let Cuba be Cuban Again by Roger Noriega, *AEI*, 7 February.

Cuban dictator Fidel Castro resigned the post of president in February, ending nearly five decades of repressive rule that stretched from the 1959 revolution and spanned ten U.S. presidencies, including Dwight D. Eisenhower. [ARTICLE 140](#)

Moving Toward a Free Cuba by the Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez. *AEI*, February 2007.

A childhood refugee from Castro's Cuba, Secretary Gutierrez spoke about Cuba and the possibility of the country moving ahead politically, socially, and economically. [ARTICLE 141](#)

Cuba's Phony Transition: Fidel Resigns, Raul Reigns by James M. Roberts & Ray Walsler. *Heritage*, 19 February.

The United States should keep existing policies in place until Cuba makes real progress on political reforms and human rights issues, say the authors. [ARTICLE 142](#)

Cuba: U.S. Restrictions and Travel Remittances. *CRS*, 3 May, 2007. [ARTICLE 143](#)

Cuba: Issues for the 110th Congress. *CRS*, 21 August 2007. [ARTICLE 144](#)

Cuba After Fidel Castro: Issues for U.S. Policy. *CRS*, 2005. [ARTICLE 145](#)

Castro: Profile of a Survivor *BBC*, 19 February 2008

Fidel Castro

Views on Cuba: There are almost as many views about Cuba's past, present and future as there are individuals. Whether you were born in Cuba, have traveled there, or just learned something about the island's complex history, chances are you have an opinion about what Fidel Castro has meant to the Cuban nation and the Cuban people. Excerpts from interviews. [ARTICLE 146](#)

New Policy Direction on Cuba by Peter DeShazo in *CSIS*, November, 2007. 2p.

DeShazo predicted in 2007 that the United States would be confronted with a policy dilemma. [ARTICLE 147](#)

Some International Relations online resources which may be of interest:

International Affairs FY 2009 Budget Fact sheet. *Office of the Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance*, 4 February.

Status of the Six Party Talks for the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations*, February 6, 2008. **Testimony by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher R. Hill**

Summary of the Comprehensive Proposal for the Kosovo Status Settlement Fact sheet, *U.S. Dept of State*, 6 February.

Pakistan's New Generation of Terrorists Backgrounder by Jayshree Bajoria. *Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)*, 6 February.

Homeland Security: Roles and Missions for U.S. Northern Command *CRS*, 28 January.

Afghanistan and NATO: Why They Both Matter Remarks by U.S. Principal Deputy Ass. Secretary of State Kurt Volker, 4 February.

Afghanistan: A Plan to Turn the Tide? Hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, 31 January.

Afghanistan Study Group Report: Revitalizing Our Efforts, Rethinking Our Strategies *Center for the Study of the Presidency*, 30 January. 47p.

Iraq, Afghanistan, and the U.S. Economy Backgrounder by Lee Hudson Teslik. *CFR*, 4 February.

The Middle East A webliography, by Muir S. Fairchild *Research Info. Center* (formerly the Air University Library), January.

The Immediate and Underlying Causes and Consequences of Kenya's Flawed Election Hearing before the *U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations*, 7 February.

The Political Crisis in Kenya: A Call for Justice and Peaceful Resolution Hearing before the *Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, 6 February. **Transcripts**, and scroll down.

Long-Range Ballistic Missile Defense in Europe. *CRS*, 9 January.

Proliferation Security Initiative *CRS*, 16 January.

Does the Army Need a Full-Spectrum Force or Specialized Units? Background and Issues for Congress. *CRS*, 18 January.

Directed Energy Weapons Report of the *Defense Science Board Task Force on Directed Energy Weapons*, December. 97p.

The MCC at Four: U.S. Efforts in Combating Global Poverty Briefing with John J. Danilovich, *Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)*, at Foreign Press Center, U.S. Dept of State, 30 January.

Annual Threat Assessment of the Dir. of National Intelligence for the Sen.Select Comm. on Intelligence 5 February. 47p.

A Toxic Cocktail: Pakistan's Growing Instability Briefing by J. Alexander Thier. U.S. Institute of Peace, February.

Religion in World Affairs: Its Role in Conflict and Peace by David Smock. *U.S. Institute of Peace*, February. 8p. **Summary**

Democracy and Human Rights in Burma Joint statement by the U.S. Secretary of State and the foreign ministers of France and the United Kingdom at the *World Economic Forum* in Davos, 24 January.

Africa-China-U.S. Trilateral Dialogue: Report *Brenthurst Foundation, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Council on Foreign Relations, and Leon H. Sullivan Foundation*; December. 56p. **Summary**

Uganda: Current Conditions and the Crisis in North Uganda *CRS*, 7 December.

U.S. Treasury Dept Expands Sanctions on Zimbabwean Companies and Individuals: *U.S. Dept of the Treasury*, 30 Jan.

Global War on Terrorism: Reported Obligations for the Department of Defense *GAO* memorandum to Congressional Committees, 30 January.

POLITICS / GOVERNMENT

Depressed Old Party on *The Cook Political Report*, 16 February.
Charlie Cook says he can identify with how Republicans are feeling and acting these days.

[ARTICLE 148](#)

What's At Stake on the March 4 Primaries on *NPR.org*

The Democratic primaries in Texas, Ohio, Rhode Island and Vermont on March 4 are seen as make-or-break for the presidential campaign of New York Senator Hillary Clinton.

[ARTICLE 148](#)

Back to the Economy, Stupid: How a Slowdown Will Influence America's Presidential Contest by Edward Luce, in *The Financial Times*, 30 January.

"The widespread notion that a downturn or a recession gives a clear advantage to the Democratic presidential challenger is not always supported by the facts," says Michael Lind, a political historian at the New America Foundation in Washington. "The past offers just as much evidence that we could get a Republican president with a Democratic Congress in November as a Democratic control... Luce looks at the implications..."

[ARTICLE 149](#)

[Interactive Map – the Primaries](#)

Some Politics/Government online resources which may be of interest:

[Red and Blue Nation](#) Brookings Institution

[The Impact of "Cells-Only" on Public Opinion Polling](#) *Pew Research Center for the People & the Press*, January 31, 2008

[Candidate Issue Index: Immigration](#) *Brookings Institution*, 2008.

[Candidate Issue Index: Climate Change](#) Brookings Institution, 2008

[Candidate Issue Index: Global Trade](#) Brookings Institution, 2008

[Sending Money Home](#) *Capital Eye*, Sept. 20, 2007 (campaign contrib.. to U.S. political campaigns, by Americans residing overseas)

[AP launching "The Measure of a Nation", a multimedia project on U.S. presidential politics](#) news release, *Associated Press*, 28 January.

[Demographic data on U.S. states which will hold primaries or caucuses on "Super Tuesday" 2008](#) and related population data: *Census Bureau*, 30 January.

[Census Bureau releases state estimates of voting-age population:](#) *Census Bureau*, 31 January.

[The Role of Delegates in the U.S. Presidential Nominating Process](#) Backgrounder by Joanna Klonsky. *Council on Foreign Relations*, 4 February.

[Delegate count \(2008\)](#) - by *New York Times*

[Delegate count \(2008\)](#) - by *Washington Post*

[Delegate Scorecard \(2008\)](#) - by *ABC News*

[Tech Tools for the American Voter and the 2008 Congressional Elections](#) by Laura Gordon-Murnane. *Information Today, Searcher*, February.

[Presidential Transitions](#) *CRS*, 27 December.

[Are States Prepared for Problems When Voters Go to the Polls in 2008?](#) *Pew Research Center*, 30 January.

[Voting at Risk, 2008](#) Report by Common Cause and Verified Voting. *Common Cause*, 30 January. 12p. [News Release](#)

[The Hispanic Vote in the 2008 Democratic Presidential Primaries](#) - As the Democratic presidential nomination contest heads for a showdown in Texas on March 4, Hispanics have emerged as a potentially pivotal constituency in the battle between Senators Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama.

TRADE/ECONOMY

Global Risks: 2008: A Global Risk Network Report. *World Economic Forum*, January. 54p.

Examines the developments in risks and risk assessment relating to a variety of geo-political, economic, agricultural, and environmental issues during the past year. [ARTICLE 150](#)

Globalization and Innovation in Emerging Markets *Institute for Study of Labor*, Discussion Paper #3299 by Yuriy Gorodnichenko, et. al., January. 43p.

Globalization brings opportunities and pressures for domestic firms in emerging markets to innovate and improve their competitive position. Using recent data on firms in 27 transition economies, the authors test for the effects of globalization through the impact of increased competition and foreign investment. [ARTICLE 151](#)

The Micromagic of Microcredit by Karol Boudreaux and Tyler Cowen in *Wilson Quarterly*, Winter.

Microcredit has star power. In 2006, the Nobel Committee called it "an important liberating force" and awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to Muhammad Yunus, the "godfather of microcredit." After decades of failure, the world's aid organizations suddenly seem to think they have at last found a winning idea. [ARTICLE 152](#)

China's Holdings of U.S. Securities: Implications for the U.S. Economy by Wayne M. Morrison & Marc Labonte. *CRS*, 9 January. 16p.

Because of the slow savings rate in the U.S., the economy depends on foreign capital inflows from countries with high savings rates. China has become the world's largest holder of foreign exchange reserves (FER); and as of June 2006, China was the 2nd largest foreign holder (after Japan) of U.S. securities. The issue of China's large holdings is part of a larger debate on how long the U.S. can rely on these foreign investments, can this reliance pose a risk to the U.S. economy, and what are the costs of this borrowing? [ARTICLE 153](#)

Progressive Growth: Transforming America's Economy by John Podesta et al. *Center for American Progress*, 28 November.

The American Dream has been a story of progressive policy establishing conditions in which individuals have been able to seize opportunities and make a better life for themselves, their children, their families, and their communities. It can be so again. The United States faces unprecedented challenges. The Center for American Progress is optimistic about America's economic future. They are confident that the ladder of economic mobility can be rebuilt with the right leadership and progressive policy. This is a new plan for the next administration to transform America's economy through clean energy, innovation, and opportunity. [ARTICLE 154](#)

Some Economics online resources which may be of interest:

[President Bush signs HR 5140, the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008](#) White House, February 13, 2008. [White House fact sheet](#)

[Cost estimate for HR 5140, the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008](#) CBO, February 11, 2008 (6 pages)

[What is a Recession, Who Decides When It Starts, and When Do They Decide?](#) *CRS*, 23 January.

[Risks Rise for the Middle Class](#) *Center for American Progress*, January.

[New Features Make the Atlanta Fed's Dollar Index More Useful](#) *Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta*, 2008. [The Dollar Index](#)

[Banking on Wealth: America's New Retail Banking Infrastructure and its Wealth-Building Potential](#) by Matt Fellowes and Mia Mabanta. *Brookings Institution*, January. 32p. Looks at possibility of banks meeting the financial services market currently serviced by high-cost check cashers, payday lenders, pawnshops etc.

[Employment Numbers as Recession Indicators](#) *JEC*, January. 19p.

[116 U.S. Cities Make Up "Billion Dollar Markets" \(as exporters\)](#) - news release, *U.S. Dept of Commerce*, 24 January.

[U.S.-China Economic Engagement: The Road to Faster, Deeper Reform](#) Speech by U.S. Under Secretary of the Treasury David H. McCormick, 30 January.

The Community Reinvestment Act: Thirty Years of Accomplishments, but Challenges Remain. Hearing before the U.S. House Committee on Financial Services, February 13, 2008

Do Sovereign Wealth Funds Make the U.S. Economy Stronger or Pose National Security Risks? Hearing before the Joint Economic Committee, U.S. Congress, February 13, 2008

U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) begins investigation into possible modifications to the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP): *ITC* news release, 29 January.

agriculture and food:

The USDA's Authority to Recall Meat and Poultry Products by Cynthia Brougher, et. al., *CRS*, 7 January. 22p.

This report provides an overview of the *USDA's* authority to regulate meat, poultry, and their products. Specifically, the report discusses the requirements of *USDA* inspections and import regulations, as well as the *USDA's* role in product recalls. It also addresses some of the issues that arise when considering possible changes to recall authority and reviews proposed legislation regarding the role of the *USDA* in the recall process. The Appendix of this report provides information regarding recent recalls and the significance of the recall data. **ARTICLE 155**

Who Are the Net Food Importing Countries? by Francis Ng & M. Ataman Aksoy. *Policy Research Paper, World Bank*. Web posted 2 January. 53p.

This paper updates the information on net food importing countries. Using different definitions of food, separates countries by their income level, whether they are in conflict, and whether they are significant oil exporters. The study also estimates the changes in net food importing status of these countries over the last 25 years; and measures the importance of these net food imports. The results show that many low-income countries are net food importers, but that the importance of the "net food importing status has been highly exaggerated." Results also show that only six low-income countries have food deficits that are more than 10% of their imports. On the other hand, there are a group of countries that are experiencing civil conflicts; and these countries are large importers of food. **ARTICLE 156**

Farms, Land in Farms, and Livestock Operations: 2007 Summary *National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA*, February. 45p.

Rising Food Prices Intensify Food Insecurity in Developing Countries *U.S. Dept of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Amber Waves*, February.

What Share of U.S. Consumed Food Is Imported? A data feature in *U.S. Dept of Agriculture, Amber Waves*, February.

budget, revenue and taxation:

Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2009 *White House*, February.
(annotated links to key documents of the FY2009 U.S. federal budget proposed by the President for consideration by the Congress)
White House fact sheet

State and Local Governments: Growing Fiscal Challenges Will Emerge During the Next 10 Years *GAO*, January. 78p.

Approaches to Improve the Competitiveness of the U.S. Business Tax System for the 21st Century *Office of Tax Policy, U.S. Dept of the Treasury*, 20 December. 121p. **News release**

housing:

Hearing on the Growing Mortgage Foreclosure Crisis: Identifying Solutions and Dispelling Myths Hearing before a Subcommittee of the *U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary*, 29 January.

U.S. Foreclosure Activity Increases 75% in 2007 *RealtyTrac*, 29 January.

A Historical Perspective on Housing Downturns Speech by Eric S. Rosengren, *Federal Reserve Bank of Boston*, 11 January.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT / RESOURCES

Avian Flu Epidemic: Potential Impact of Trade Disruptions. *CRS*, 3 January. 6p.

The possibility of an avian flu pandemic with consequences for global trade is a concern that has received attention recently, although experts disagree on the likelihood of an avian flu pandemic developing at all. This report considers possible trade disruptions, including possible impacts on trade between the United States and countries and regions that have reported avian influenza infections.

[ARTICLE 157](#)

Environmental Law: Summaries of Major Statutes Administered by the *Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)* by Susan R. Fletcher. *CRS*, 7 January. 126p.

Major statutes for the legal basis for the EPA's programs. Fletcher summarizes the most important provisions of each. [ARTICLE 158](#)

Managing Wet Weather With Green Infrastructure: Action Strategy 2008. *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*. Web posted 17 January. 38p.

The relatively new term "green infrastructure" refers to a variety of techniques and applied technologies designed to better manage both the quality and the movement of local water resources. This includes monitoring runoff into streams and rivers, designing more efficient sewer systems, and generally looking more closely at the effects of development. This report also summarizes recent research and practices.

[ARTICLE 159](#)

Climate Change Legislation Design White Paper. U.S. House of Representatives, *Committee on Energy and Commerce*. Web posted 4 February. 16p.

This is one of a proposed series of reports being issued "as the next step toward enactment of a mandatory, economy-wide climate change program."

[ARTICLE 160](#)

Hydrogen Fuel Initiative *Government Accountability Office (GAO)* report. Web posted 11 February. 48p.

In order to lessen America's dependence on oil, the Department of Energy is to develop technologies by 2015 that will enable American industry to produce readily available hydrogen powered automobiles by 2020. This report examines the progress of that initiative.

[ARTICLE 161](#)

The \$1,500 Car by Ralph Kinney Bennett in *The American*, January/February.

Is another revolution ahead? Tata Motors of India is set to launch the new people's car.

[ARTICLE 162](#)

Land Change Science Special Feature: The Emergence of Land Change Science for Global Environmental Change and Sustainability by B.L. Turner et al. in *PNAS*, 26 December. 6p.

Land change science has emerged as a fundamental component of global environmental change and sustainability research. This interdisciplinary field seeks to understand the dynamics of land cover and land use as a coupled human–environment system to address theories, concepts, models, and applications relevant to environmental and societal problems, and the intersection of the two. The major components and advances in land change are addressed: observation and monitoring; understanding the coupled system - causes, impacts, and consequences; modeling; and synthesis issues.

[ARTICLE 163](#)

The Collective-Risk Social Dilemma and the Prevention of Simulated Dangerous Climate Change by Manfred Milinski et al. in *PNAS*, 19 February.

Will a group of people reach a collective target through individual contributions when everyone suffers individually if the target is missed? This "collective-risk social dilemma" exists in various social scenarios, the globally most challenging one being the prevention of dangerous climate change.

[ARTICLE 164](#)

Public Administration - Urban Planning

Counties and Residential Green Building Standards. *Green Government, National Association of Counties*. December 2007. 6p.

Home builders and home buyers are increasingly interested in green building for environmental, health, and financial reasons. Additionally, local governments are finding that green building projects reduce the impact on county infrastructures, such as water systems and landfills, while providing higher property values and a healthier populace. A look at how several cities and counties have promoted green building initiatives.

[ARTICLE 165](#)

Affordability and Subsidies in Public Urban Transport: What Do We Mean, What Can be Done? by Nicolás Estupiñán et al. Policy Research Working Paper, *World Bank*. Web posted 1 December, 2007. 53p.

In both developed and developing countries, urban transport subsidy policies have been implemented, but no quantitative assessment to determine if these subsidies are “pro-poor” has been done. This study reviewed arguments used to justify public transport subsidies and evaluated the impacts of these policies. The evidence indicates that the policies do not make the poorest better off and that supply-side subsidies are either neutral or regressive. [**ARTICLE 166**](#)

Infrastructure 2007: A Global Perspective by Jonathan D. Miller. *Urban Land Institute & Ernst & Young*. May 2007. 69p.

By 2008, one half of the world’s population will live in cities. With the increase in population and the decrease in public funds, urban infrastructure has emerged as a major concern; but it is also seen as a new investment venue for urban income and capital returns. This report is based on wide research and four forums of experts in the field of development, design, finance, engineering, and the public sector, and highlights the current state of infrastructure repair and maintenance. [**ARTICLE 167**](#)

The Impact of Big-Box Stores, Retail Food Prices and the Consumer Price Index by Ephraim Leibtag. *Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture*. December 2006. 41p.

Over the past 10 years, the growth of nontraditional retail food outlets has transformed the food market landscape, increasing the variety of shopping and food options available to consumers, as well as price variation in retail food market. This report focuses on these dynamics and how they affect food price variation across store format types. Based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), over the past 20 years food prices have increased on average of 3% annually, but food prices on similar products can vary by 10% or more across store formats. [**ARTICLE 168**](#)

Reducing Urban Violence in Developing Countries by Caroline O. N. Moser. *Brooking Institution*. November 2006. 9p.

Urban violence is a serious constraint in developing countries, but recently growing knowledge indicates that urban residents “may be the key to better understanding of such violence and to identifying appropriate interventions.” Such assessments assist in developing a holistic framework that positions violence in terms of three components: (1) the social, economic, political, and institutional categories of violence; (2) the underlying causal factors; and (3) the costs of violence in terms of its impacts on poor households. [**ARTICLE 169**](#)

Some environmental online resources which may be of interest:

[**Foreign Direct Investment \(FDI\) in U.S. Energy 2005**](#) *Energy Information Administration, U.S. Dept of Energy*, February.

[**International Aspects of a Carbon Cap and Trade Program**](#) Hearing before U.S. Senate Comm. on Finance, February 14, 2008

[**Cap, Auction, and Trade: Auctions and Revenue Recycling Under Carbon Cap and Trade**](#) Hearing before the *U.S. House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming*, 23 January.

[**Managing the Transition to a Secure, Low-Carbon Energy Future**](#) Issue brief by Sarah Ladislaw et al. *CSIS*, February. 12p. [**Summary**](#)

[**What to Do About Climate Change**](#) by Indur M. Goklany. *Cato Institute*, 5 February. 28p. [**Summary**](#)

[**Expect No Relief from OPEC**](#) *Joint Economic Committee, U.S. Congress*, February. 3p.

[**Evaluating Research Efficiency in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**](#) A report by a committee of the *U.S. National Academies*. *National Academies Press*, 2008. 144p. [**Full report**](#)

[**Climate Change Legislation Design White Paper**](#) Prepared by the staff of the *U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce*, January. 16p.

[**Value of USA's nonfuel mineral production rose in 2007**](#) *U.S. Geol.Survey*, 4 February. [**Summaries**](#) *Mineral Commodities*

[**Water and Energy Futures in an Urbanized Asia: Sustaining the Tiger**](#) A report of the *Global Strategy Institute, Center for Strategic and International Studies* (Washington DC), December. 65p.

[**Global Energy Initiative**](#) - of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

BUSINESS/LABOR

Doing Better Business in 2008: Comparing Regulations in 178 Economies - Overview. *World Bank*. Web posted 1 January.

Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union have now surpassed East Asia in the ease of doing business. This document outlines the results of the "Doing Business" project which has contributed to some 113 business-related reforms around the world. [ARTICLE 170](#)

Annual Report, R.I.P. by James Pethokoukis in *The American*, January/February.

Back in the age of Thick, Glossy Paper - an era which reached its zenith in the 1990s right along with technology stocks - the best corporate annual reports were little four-color financial masterpieces, expertly weaving photos and charts and loads of financial stats into a pleasing whole that was part propaganda, but also a comprehensive analysis of a company's business, competitors, and prospects. But have you checked out an annual report lately? [ARTICLE 171](#)

Managing Diversity in Corporate America: an Exploratory Analysis by Jefferson P. Marquis, et. al., Labor and Population, Occasional Paper, *RAND Corporation*. Web posted 22 January. 46p.

The authors evaluate various practices, now common in the corporate world, designed to establish and maintain ethnically and racially diverse workforces. They offer case studies and make recommendations. [ARTICLE 172](#)

The Dangers of Wishful Thinking by Richard Tedlow & David Ruben in *The American*, January/February.

Too many businesses today (including Google, IBM, and even supermarkets, etc.) have been infected with the disease of denial, warn the authors, who say that the last thing decision makers want to do when they are running a business at the top of its game is to remind themselves that bad things really do happen to good companies. [ARTICLE 173](#)

How Star Women Build Portable Skills by Boris Groysberg in *HBR*, February.

A star performer in one company will shine in another, right? Wrong. When stars switch firms, their performance actually dims, along with their new company's market value, author Boris Groysberg argues. Everyone loses. *Except* when the stars are women. [ARTICLE 174](#)

The Founder's Dilemma by Noam Wasserman in *HBR*, February.

Most entrepreneurs want to make pots of money *and* run the show. But Wasserman reveals that it's tough to do both. If you don't figure out which matters most to you, you could end up being neither rich nor in control. [ARTICLE 175](#)

The Dark Side of Optimism by Susan Webber in *Across the Board*, February.

Optimism is widely seen as a virtue of American culture and key to success in business. Cultural norms and beliefs about good business practice increasingly stress looking at the sunny side and de-emphasizing the problematic. But such overly positive thinking is difficult to reconcile with the need to make realistic, objective assessments. Finding the right balance between healthy optimism and delusion is harder than one might imagine, for both individuals and institutions. Time to get real, says Webber. [ARTICLE 176](#)

I'll Be Back by Leigh Buchanan on *Inc.com*, February.

For entrepreneurs, retirement doesn't mean forever. Many return to the fray, suffering adrenaline withdrawal and lured by new opportunities. [ARTICLE 177](#)

Primary Care Professionals: Recent Supply Trends, Projections, and Valuation of Services by A. Bruce Steinwald. *GAO*, 12 February.

U.S. trends in recent years show the number of primary health care professionals increasing across the board, both physicians and non-physicians. This study considers recent trends and future projections in the area of primary care. [ARTICLE 178](#)

Some business/labor online resources which may be of interest:

Developing Winning Teams

Employment Recession Probability Index *Joint Economic Committee, U.S. Congress*, February. 2p.

"Fear" and Offshoring: The Scope and Potential Impact of Imports and Exports of Services by J. Bradford Jensen & Lori G. Kletzer. *Peterson Institute for International Economics*, January. 19p. [Summary](#)

EDUCATION

First-Time, Full-Time Graduate Student Enrolment in Science and Engineering Increases in 2006 by Julia Oliver. InfoBrief, Science Resources Statistics, *National Science Foundation*, Web posted 28 January. 6p.

After two years of decline, U.S. enrolment of foreign graduate students in science and engineering increased in 2006. Oliver examines the 16% jump over 2005 levels and looks at the effects of first-time, full-time enrollment. [ARTICLE 179](#)

Passing or Failing? by Laura Hamilton et al. in *Rand Review*, Fall.

RAND's education policy analysts offer a midterm report card for "*No Child Left Behind*," and offer recommendations for improvement and expansion, corrective action, or restructuring. [ARTICLE 180](#)

Doing What I Don't Know How to Do by R. Martin Reardon in *Educause Quarterly*, Vol.#1, 2008.

Leveraging a faculty learning community has helped Reardon do things he didn't know how to do with technology, including podcasting his lectures. [ARTICLE 181](#)

E-Texts in the Classroom by Charles Hanon in *Educause Quarterly*, Vol.#1, 2008.

E-text readers designed for use in higher education will reduce textbook pricing and help the environment. [ARTICLE 182](#)

Wave of the Future by Andy Smarick in *Education Next*, #1, 2008.

Why charter schools should replace failing urban schools. [ARTICLE 183](#)

Learning Separately by Peter Meyer in *Education Next*, #1, 2008.

The case for single-sex schools. [ARTICLE 184](#)

Minds on Fire: Open Education, the Long Tails, and Learning 2.0 by John Seely Brown & Richard P. Adler in *Educause Review*, January/February.

The building blocks provided by the Open Educational Resources movement, along with e-Science and e-Humanities and the resources of the Web 2.0, are creating the conditions for the emergence of new kinds of open participatory learning ecosystems that will support active, passion-based learning: Learning 2.0. [ARTICLE 185](#)

Leaving No Child Left Behind by Richard Rothstein in *American Prospect*, January/February.

Our No. 1 education program is incoherent, unworkable, and doomed, says Rothstein. But the next president still can have a huge impact on improving American schooling. [ARTICLE 186](#)

Investing in Early Education: Paths to Improving Children's Success by Ron Haskins on *Brookings.org*

Brookings' Senior Fellow, Ron Haskins, testifies before the House Committee on Education and Labor on ways to improve preschool education received by poor children. [ARTICLE 187](#)

E-Mail in Academia: Expectations, Use, and Instructional Impact by Meredith Weiss & Dana Hanson-Baldauf in *Educause Quarterly*, Vol.#1, 2008.

An exploration of e-mail communication between faculty and students at UNC Chapel Hill identified issues surrounding the use of e-mail to advance instructional outcomes. Some interesting revelations re academic vs. student communications. [ARTICLE 188](#)

Financial Inequality in Higher Education: The Annual Report on the Economic Status of the Profession, 2006–07

Although inflation is down and full-time faculty salaries are finally back up, financial inequality in American higher education continues to grow. That is one of the central findings of this report, released by the *American Association of University Professors (AAUP)*.

The Annual Report on the Economic Status of the Profession - The *AAUP's* annual report has been an authoritative source of data on faculty salaries and compensation for decades. This year's report discusses the widening gaps between rich and poor institutions; between presidents, football coaches, and faculty members; and among faculty members.

MEDIA, TELECOMMUNICATIONS & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Shouting To Be Heard: Public Service Advertising in a Changing Television World. *Kaiser Family Foundation.* Web posted 24 January. 27p.

Public Service Announcements (*PSA's*) often are a central component of the public education campaigns for many government and non-profit agencies. This report examines some of the new techniques being used on television, the Worldwide Web, and even within video games.

ARTICLE 189

Media and Conflict: Afghanistan as a Relative Success Story by Yil Bajraktari & Christina Parajon. Special Report, *USIP*, January. 8p.

The development of post-Taliban media in Afghanistan has been relatively successful. There have been three main processes that have enabled media success: (1) the proliferation of local media; (2) the government's capacity to communicate; and (3) the international media. However, because the media still face many challenges, the international community must continue to be a major player. This report is based on panel presentations by media experts.

ARTICLE 190

Arab Media and U.S. Policy: A Public Diplomacy Reset by Marwan M. Kraidy. Policy Analysis. *Stanley Foundation.* January. 14p.

Over the past ten years, numerous polls have shown that the reputation of the U.S. has deteriorated. This negative image poses a challenge to the U.S. in the Arab region. Additionally, several studies, commissions, reports, and assessments have tried to diagnose such problems as a lack of international communications strategy, insufficient funds for public diplomacy, and inadequate public diplomacy structure. Kraidy analyses these past studies and offers several remedies.

ARTICLE 191

Teens and Social Media: the Use of Social Media Gains a Greater Foothold in Teen Life as they Embrace the Conversational Nature of Interactive Online Media by Amanda Lenhart et al. *Pew Internet & American Life Project*, 19 December. 44p.

This survey, conducted in late 2006, was based on a callback telephone survey of 935 randomly selected teens aged 12-17 and a parent or guardian, found that approximately 93% of American teens use the Internet and most use it as a venue for social interaction; 64% of the teens surveyed participate in one or more "content-creating activities; 55% of online teens created a profile on a social networking site such as Facebook; 47% uploaded photos; and 14% posted videos.

ARTICLE 192

Combating Enemies Online: State-Sponsored and Terrorist Use of the Internet by James Carafano & Richard Weitz. *Heritage Foundation*, 8 February. 9p.

Even before the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, security experts were concerned about the vulnerability of U.S. computer systems and associated infrastructure. Less attention has been paid to state sponsors of illicit computer activity, increasingly being used to plan and conduct espionage and to use the Internet for propaganda and recruiting purposes. This paper argues that "a concerted national effort" and, by implication, an international effort, is needed to better understand and deal with this problem.

ARTICLE 193

Patents Pending by Claude Barfield & John Calfee in *The American*, January/February.

The U.S. patent system is more important than ever. It is also in need of restructure.

ARTICLE 194

Some online resources which may be of interest:

The Economic Benefits of Reducing PC Software Piracy A study by International Data Corporation for the Business Software Alliance, January 2008. **Summary**

The Battle for Cyberspace: Blogging and Dissidence in the Middle East A panel discussion at *AEI*, 4 February.

Arab Media and U.S. Policy: A Public Diplomacy Reset by Marwan M. Kraidy. *The Stanley Foundation*, January. 14p.

Networked Nation: Broadband in America 2007 *National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Dept of Commerce*, January. 60p.

Summary ; **News release** ; **Statement by FCC commissioner Michael J. Copps** questioning aspects of the *NTIA* report;

Statement by FCC commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

CULTURE & THE ARTS

Hip-Hop Exerts Influence on Contemporary Portraiture on *America.gov*, 15 February

Hip-hop always has been a potent vehicle for creative expression, but its role in contemporary portraiture has received little attention - until now. And the genre is inspiring musicians, painters, photographers, poets, and filmmakers. [ARTICLE 195](#)

Frankly: A Berlitz Guide to Washington English by Dana Milnak in *The Atlantic*, January/February.

As long as needed and not one day longer – translation: “we have no idea how long it will take”, etc. [ARTICLE 196](#)

To Read or Not To Read: A Question of National Consequence. *NEA*, November. 100p.

Reading has declined not only among the poorly educated, but at all ages and all levels according to a new and comprehensive analysis of reading patterns of children, teenagers, and adults in the United States. *To Read or Not To Read* assembled data on reading trends from more than 40 sources, including federal agencies, universities, foundations, and associations. The compendium expands the investigation of the *NEA's* landmark 2004 report, *Reading at Risk*, and reveals recent declines in voluntary reading and test scores alike, exposing trends that have severe consequences for American society. [ARTICLE 197](#)

AMERICAN SOCIETY



Immigrants Joining the Mainstream IIP, February, Dept. of State – e-journal

Immigrants made the United States what it is. Being an American depends on acceptance of certain American ideals, not on the place of birth of a person or of his or her ancestors. This edition of eJournal USA tells the story of immigration and diversity as it has played out through the centuries.

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Big Philanthropy by Leslie Lenkowsky in *Wilson Quarterly*, Winter 2007.

"The rise of big philanthropy -- in the United States as well as other parts of the world -- offers an unprecedented opportunity to creatively address many long-standing problems. But if a new "golden age" of giving is in the offing, as its enthusiasts have already proclaimed, those whose hard-earned wealth is making it possible need to realize that more than vast amounts of money are needed to succeed in truly doing good." This article reports on the rise in billion dollar charitable foundations. Warren Buffett highlighted this trend in 2006 by giving over \$30 billion to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, but such largesse is only unusual in its enormity. Over 10% of all charitable giving from Americans came from foundations. But foundations are not the only outlets for charitable giving. In 2006 there were a record number of gifts of over \$100 million. [ARTICLE 198](#)

U.S. Cities Reflect Cultural Diversity, Artistic Ingenuity on *America.gov*

Many American cities have been influential in shaping the nation's cultural life. Their ethnically diverse populations have contributed immeasurably to U.S. achievements in the arts. [ARTICLE 199](#)

Detroit's Fate by Tom Bethell in *The American*, January/February.

Intransigent unions, declining automakers, and poor public policy have wrecked both Michigan and its largest city. The story of its demise and why Detroit is presently a 'buy.' [ARTICLE 200](#)

Hoop Dreams by Chares Euchner in *The American*, January/February.

The *NBA* is pushing basketball past soccer as the most popular sport in the world. [ARTICLE 201](#)

Quick Fix: Drug Benefits Driven by Short-term Savings Could be More Costly in the End by Geoffrey Joyce & Dana Goldman in *Rand Review*, Fall.

Ensuring access to prescription drugs has become a cornerstone of an efficient healthcare system – yet pharmacy managers and health plan administrators, through the resultant increase in drug spending, have been prompted to reduce the use of prescription drugs by steering patients towards less-expensive alternatives and distribution methods. A review of 132 studies worldwide has found that for each 10% rise in cost sharing required of patients, prescription drug-use fell by 2-6%. [ARTICLE 202](#)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Is Your Enterprise Video-Ready? by Charles Molloy in *Streaming Media*, January.

[ARTICLE 203](#)

Let's Work Together by Tim Siglin in *Streaming Media*, January.

Combining streaming, videoconferencing, instant messaging, and desktop or application sharing, collaborative computing has come of age....

[ARTICLE 204](#)

Design Thinking by Stephen Bell in *American Libraries*, January/February.

A design approach to the delivery of outstanding services can help library professionals become strategizers and problem-solvers who put the user experience first. According to Bell, design thinking can offer a new perspective and a creative approach in organizing the professional workspace and creating the best possible worker experience. Design thinkers take a much more deliberate and thoughtful approach to problem resolution; they rarely jump on bandwagons. The author adapts his principles (understand; observe; visualize; evaluate/refine; implement) to the library professional but emphasizes that they can also be used by others. [ARTICLE 205](#)

Information Searches That Solve Problems: How People Use the Internet, Libraries, and Government Agencies When They Need Help by Leigh Estabrook et al. *Pew Internet & American Life Project and the Graduate School of Library and Information Science*, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. 30 December. 43p.

This report is based on data from a national phone survey that questioned how people use information sources to address common problems. Some of the **major findings of the survey** are:

- More people turn to the Internet for information than consult experts or family members;
- Generation Y (ages 18-30) are leading users of libraries;
- More than 50% of Americans use libraries;
- Gen Y members use libraries for problem-solving; and
- Libraries meet special needs.

"The survey results challenge the assumption that libraries are losing relevance in the internet age." [ARTICLE 206](#)

Miscellaneous online resources which may be of interest:

Peacekeeping Best Practices: Report of the Secretary-General *UN General Assembly*, 18 December. 14p.

Naturalization Through Military Service *USCIS* fact sheet, 28 January.

12 Million Shadows: America's Immigration Dilemma by Joseph Chamie. *YaleGlobal Online*, 4 February.

General Overview of U.S. Copyright Law 5 February.

A general overview of copyright law and briefly summarizes the major provisions of the U.S. Copyright Act.

Census Atlas of the United States: Census 2000 Special Reports *Census Bureau*, January.

Press release "**Census Bureau Produces first comprehensive atlas in more than 80 years**", 31 January.

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