

ARTICLE ALERT # 15

The Article Alert is a compilation of articles and reports published by different journals and Think Tanks. The following topics are covered by this alert:

1. [Foreign Policy](#)
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If you have questions, please contact us at: mkrtyana@usa.am

June/July 2010

I. FOREIGN POLICY

The Almanac of Al Qaeda

By Peter Bergen and Katherine Tiedemann

(*Foreign Policy*, May/June 2010)

The White House beats the drum of victory in the "war on terror," when all evidence points to the contrary. Al Qaeda has accomplished the unthinkable: establishing an embryonic recruitment, radicalization and operational capacity on our shores. A succession of terrorist plots has unfolded with depressing and unprecedented regularity of late. Our strategy is designed for yesterday's threats. We risk another 9/11.

For full text follow the link: http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/04/26/the_almanac_of_al_qaeda

American Jihad

By Bruce Hoffmann

(*The National Interest*, May/June 2010)

The White House beats the drum of victory in the "war on terror," when all evidence points to the contrary. Al Qaeda has accomplished the unthinkable: establishing an embryonic recruitment, radicalization and operational capacity on our shores. A succession of terrorist plots has unfolded with depressing and unprecedented regularity of late. Our strategy is designed for yesterday's threats. We risk another 9/11.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.nationalinterest.org/Article.aspx?id=23200>

The Brussels Wall

By William Drozdiak

(*Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2010)

"These days, there is a great deal of talk about the dawn of an Asian century--hastened by the rise of China and India. Meanwhile, the fractious Atlantic alliance, enfeebled by two wars and an economic crisis, is said to be fading away. But the West is not doomed to decline as a center of power and influence. A relatively simple strategic fix could reinvigorate the historic bonds between Europe and North America and reestablish the West's dominance: it is time to bring together

the West's principal institutions, the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization."

[Full text available upon request](#)

China's Perspective on a Nuclear-Free World

By Hui Zhang

(Washington Quarterly, April 2010)

The author, a physicist and specialist in nuclear arms control and Chinese nuclear policy issues, points out that China has long supported complete nuclear disarmament, calling for a summit to discuss the prohibition and destruction of nuclear weapons on the day of its first nuclear test in 1964. China claims that it developed nuclear weapons "to guard itself against nuclear coercion and blackmail" and it has always maintained a no-first-use policy. China's nuclear modernization has been designed to improve quality rather than quantity, to maintain a reliable second-strike retaliatory capability.

For full text follow the link: http://www.twq.com/10april/docs/10apr_Zhang.pdf

EU's Fight Against Terrorist Finances: Internal Shortcomings and Unsuitable External Models

By Oldrich Bures

(Terrorism and Political Violence, July 2010)

This article offers an analysis of the European Union's (EU) efforts in the fight against terrorist finances. Following the 9/11 attacks, the EU has adopted the relevant United Nations counterterrorism resolutions as well as the special recommendations of Financial Action Task Force. In addition, the EU has developed its own measures spanning across all of its three pillars. There is, however, a cause for concern that some of these measures have not been properly implemented, while others have been criticized on legal, transparency, legitimacy, and efficiency grounds.

[Full text available upon request](#)

European Culture and the European Union's 'Turkey Question'

By John A. Scherpereel

(West European Politics, July 2010)

This article attempts to discern whether Turkey belongs to Europe's emerging pan-European cosmopolitan culture and investigates the political implications of Turkish cultural 'otherness'. The article revisits Laitin's (2002) suggestion that social mobility in contemporary Europe requires individuals to possess 2 ± 1 cultural repertoires. Then, drawing on analysis of Eurobarometer, World Values Survey, European Values Survey, and original datasets, it compares the cultural repertoires of citizens from four groups of European countries - the EU's founding members, countries that joined the Communities between 1973 and 1995, countries of the 2004/2007 enlargement wave, and Turkey itself.

[Full text available upon request](#)

A Palestinian Declaration of Independence: Implications for Peace

By Virginia Tilley

(Middle East Policy, Spring 2010)

"In an Israeli-Palestinian peace process most commonly described as "moribund," the Palestinian Authority (PA) recently raised a diplomatic ripple by publicly proposing to make a 'unilateral declaration of independence' for a State of Palestine within the 1967 Armistice borders of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank (including East Jerusalem). In challenging the diplomatic stalemate, the proposal struck a range of observers as positive, suggesting an innovative way to rekindle the diplomatic process and hope of an eventual peace agreement. Yet the implications of this proposal are more complicated than they appear."

[Full text available upon request](#)

Turkey's Moment of Inflection

By Henri J. Barkey

(Survival, June 2010)

Turkey today imagines itself as a major contender on the global scene. It is the world's seventeenth-largest economy and has used its geostrategic position and active diplomacy to assume membership in the UN Security Council for the first time in almost 50 years, to become a member of the G20 and to take on a visible role in international disputes. But it faces daunting obstacles at home and abroad, the two most important being the Kurdish problem and the state of civil-military relations. How the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) handles these two challenges will determine whether the current improvement in the Turkish political economy proves to be fleeting.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Turkey's New Geopolitics

By Stephen F. Larrabee

(*Survival*, April 2010)

"While Turkey remains tied to the West through its membership in NATO, the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, under the leadership of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his energetic foreign minister Ahmet Davutoglu, the country has launched a number of new foreign-policy initiatives that have increased its international stature and regional influence. Ankara's new foreign-policy activism has been particularly visible in the Middle East, where Turkey has sought to strengthen ties with its Muslim neighbours, especially Iran and Syria."

[Full text available upon request](#)

U.S.-Iran Engagement Through Afghanistan

By James P. Hughes and Mir H. Sadat

(*Middle East Policy*, Spring 2010)

"Although U.S. President Barack Obama has made diplomatic engagement with Iran a foreign-policy priority, at least 30 years of conflict have complicated U.S.-Iran relations. The United States is viewed by the Iranian government as a hostile interventionist state attempting to topple the Iranian republic, indicated by the U.S. role in the 1953 coup d'état of the legal Iranian government, vehement rejection of the Islamic Revolution, disregard for Saddam Hussein's use of chemical weapons during the Iran-Iraq War, the shooting down of an Iranian passenger plane, imposing economic sanctions, freezing of Iranian financial assets, resistance to Iranian nuclear progress for clean energy, and threats to invade or attack Iran."

[Full text available upon request](#)

Unity through Soccer? Not in the Middle East...

By James Montague

(*Foreign Policy*, June 11, 2010)

Millions of Arabs, Jews, Persians and Kurds will watch Africa's first World Cup, and all will be arguing in coffee shops and shisha houses from Sana'a to Jerusalem about who they will support given that every other team in the region failed to qualify. But this failure provides an intriguing analysis of the Middle East. Soccer is one of the greatest, and most successful, acts of cultural imperialism the world has ever seen and provides the perfect mirror with which to view the region. It soaks up the tensions and flaws and currents that pull under the surface. To understand soccer is to understand the Middle East. It divides as much as it unites and nothing illustrates how divided the region is better than the events in Cairo and Sudan, nor the rest of World Cup qualification for teams in the region.

For full text follow the link:

http://mideast.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/06/11/unity_through_soccer_not_in_the_middle_east

We Are Considered Infidels: Covering War in Iraq

By Bassam Sebti

(*Global Journalist*, Winter 2009)

The author, a former reporter for the Washington Post, reflects on the role of Iraqi translators, fixers and reporters in war coverage. Western news organizations have come to rely a lot on their Iraqi staff, particularly in dangerous areas, simply because they speak the language and know the culture. Iraqi journalists, translators and fixers face grave dangers every day as insurgents and militias who once controlled vast areas of Iraq consider Iraqi journalists to be spies for the U.S. occupation forces or the government. However, working for a U.S. media outlet puts an Iraqi in double jeopardy as collaborators with the "infidels."

For full text follow the link: <http://www.globaljournalist.org/stories/2010/04/06/we-are-considered-infidels-covering-war-in-iraq/>

What Happened to "Europe"?

(*American Interest*, July/August 2010)

"Geopolitical reality tends to change far more slowly than perceptions of it. To take a geophysical analogy: Underlying trends are like plate tectonics, slow to develop but irresistible over time; perceptions are like the weather, sometimes dramatic, often unpredictable and hardly irrelevant, but of lesser impact all the same. Perceptions of Europe have shifted markedly in just the past few years. Where once stood an attractive post-nationalist model of peace, prosperity, social justice and ecological virtue now stumbles a larger but seemingly aimless and far more ungainly project. Europe today seems apathetic about its achievements, confused about its future and largely ignored by those not directly affected by it. Thanks to the financial crisis and its meandering aftermath, Europe's problems and limits seem lately to have accumulated into a genuine crisis."

[Full text available upon request](#)

While No One's Looking, the Palestinians are Building a State

By Hussein Ibish

(*Foreign Policy*, June 16, 2010)

In the world of Palestinian politics, the recent weeks have been a study in contrasts. The international media has trained its focus off the shores of Gaza, where the flotilla fiasco has generated dramatic images of dead civilians and battered Israeli soldiers. But in Bethlehem, far away from the television cameras and breathless news reports, 2,000 Palestinian financiers also gathered recently at the second Palestine Investment Conference to quietly go about the business of building the economy of a viable Palestinian state.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.globaljournalist.org/stories/2010/04/06/we-are-considered-infidels-covering-war-in-iraq/>

The Obama–Netanyahu Meeting: Closer Cooperation Needed

by James Phillips

(*Heritage Foundation*, July 2, 2010)

The main purpose of the summit will be to build better personal relations between the two leaders, restore mutual trust at the highest levels of their governments, and lay the foundation for closer cooperation in the future.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.heritage.org/Research/Reports/2010/07/The-Obama-Netanyahu-Meeting-Closer-Cooperation-Needed>

Hamas Is a Threat to Peace, Despite Propaganda Claims

by Sally McNamara and James Phillips

(*Heritage*, June 16, 2010)

Ending the arms embargo would inevitably allow Hamas to build up for another spasm of rocket terrorism that would threaten Israeli and Palestinian civilians, ignite another war, and destroy the prospects for reviving peace negotiations.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.heritage.org/Research/Reports/2010/06/Hamas-Is-a-Threat-to-Peace-Despite-Propaganda-Claims>

The Political Battle in Iraq

By Kenneth M. Pollack

(*Brookings*, July 14, 2010)

In late June 2010, I traveled to Iraq for a bit less than one week with another well-known Middle East expert... The following presents my impressions, conclusions, and analysis from that trip.

For full text follow the link: http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2010/0630_iraq_trip_pollack.aspx

Pakistan's Gambit in Afghanistan

By Daniel Markey

(*Council on Foreign Relations*, June 30, 2010)

Pakistan would like an Afghan government that's sympathetic to Pakistan and committed to not allowing much Indian influence in Afghanistan

For full text follow the link: http://www.cfr.org/publication/22567/pakistans_gambit_in_afghanistan.html

Defining Success in Afghanistan: What Can the United States Accept?

By Stephen Biddle

(Foreign Affairs, July/August 2010)

Since 2001, the West has tried to build a strong centralized government in Afghanistan. But such an approach fits poorly with the country's history and political culture

For full text follow the link: http://www.cfr.org/publication/22533/defining_success_in_afghanistan.html#

Impact of Iran Sanctions Legislation: An Energy Perspective

By Frank A. Verrastro, Nitzan Goldberger

(CSIS, Jun 29, 2010)

CSIS' Critical Questions

For full text follow the link: <http://csis.org/publication/impact-iran-sanctions-legislation>

II. ECONOMIC ISSUES

Causes and Consequences of the Financial Crisis of 2007-2009

By William Poole

(*Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy*, Spring 2010)

After the stock market peak in 2000 and to resist the 2001 recession, the Fed reduced its target federal funds rate in steps, eventually reaching 1% in 2003. n With interest rates low and memories of the dot-com stock crash fresh, investors searched for higher yielding investments. They thought that they had found the perfect vehicle in collateralized debt obligations (CDOs) backed by subprime mortgages. The CDOs were structured obligations, with several tranches of differing risk characteristics. The senior tranche had first claim on the mortgage interest and principal paid by the subprime mortgages in the mortgage pool backing each CDO issue.

[Full text available upon request](#)

An Entrepreneurial Recovery

By Robert Litan and Carl Schramm

(*Wilson Quarterly*, Spring 2010)

Although big business is more often in the news, small companies run by entrepreneurs are crucial to America's economic success. This leads the author to the conclusion that job creation depends on the founding and development of new, entrepreneurial businesses. He notes that half of the current Fortune 500 corporations began in a recession or a bear market. The entrepreneurs should come from abroad, from universities, and young people should be encouraged to start their own businesses and given access to tools to do so.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Expeditionary Economics: Spurring Growth After Conflicts and Disasters

By Carl Schramm

(*Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2010)

The recent experience with rebuilding national economies in the aftermath of conflicts and natural disasters shows serious shortcomings of the U.S. approach, says Schramm, head of the Kauffman Foundation. He argues that the prevailing doctrine of international development based on central planning or managing should be replaced by transformative entrepreneurship based on the U.S. entrepreneurial model. The new model should be dynamic and flexible to encompass differences between countries and their economic conditions and to allow for adjustments as the situation changes. Schramm cautions that the new system is likely to produce "messy capitalism," which may conflict sometimes with the U.S. military's goal of imposing order in post-conflict zones.

[Full text available upon request](#)

The Financial Crisis: Moral Failure or Cognitive Failure?

By Arnold Kling

(*Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy*, Spring 2010)

Bank capital regulations steered banks away from traditional lending toward securitization. [...] these regulations encouraged the banks' use of ratings agencies and off-balance-sheet entities to minimize the capital held to back risky investments. According to this alternative account, Syron focused on his responsibility to keep Freddie Mac active in a mortgage market that was shifting away from traditional safe mortgages and toward riskier products.¹³ Moreover, he believed that Freddie Mac had a mission to serve the needs of minorities and low-income home buyers.¹⁴ One could therefore argue that his decisions were driven by moral considerations, not by personal greed.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Europe and the Euro: 'The Crisis of Confidence Has Yet to Be Overcome'

(*SPIEGEL*, 07 June, 2010)

SPIEGEL spoke with the head of the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, Thomas Mirow, about the future of Europe's common currency union.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/0,1518,704767,00.html#ref=nlint>

The Severity of the Economic Crisis and the Direction of America's Recovery

Martin Neil Baily

(*Brookings*, July 1, 2010)

Without in any way discounting the economic challenge that remains, I will make the case in this testimony that the big policy measures taken to turn the economy around have worked extraordinarily well, indeed much better than could have been expected.

For full text follow the link:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/testimonies/2010/0701_economic_perspectives_baily/0701_economic_perspectives_baily.pdf

Gallup Finds Underemployment at 18.3% in June, a 2010 Low

by Dennis Jacobe

(*Gallup*, July 1, 2010)

Job Creation Index suggests net hiring in the federal government is lower, but strong.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/141092/Gallup-Finds-Underemployment-June-2010-Low.aspx>

29% Say Stimulus Plan Helped the Economy, 43% Say It Hurt

(*Rasmussen Reports*, July 2, 2010)

Not surprisingly, there is little appetite for another round. By a 69% to 15% margin, voters believe tax cuts is a better way to create jobs rather than more government spending.

For full text follow the link:

http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/business/economic_stimulus_package/july_2010/29_say_stimulus_plan_helped_the_economy_43_say_it_hurt

III. DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Black Water Rising

By Evan Thomas and Daniel Stone

(*Newsweek*, June 7, 2010)

"This article discusses the political and environmental ramifications of the April 20, 2010 BP oil rig explosion and resulting oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. In the aftermath of the explosion, BP has been unable to stop the continuous flow of oil spilling into the Gulf of Mexico and U.S. President Barack Obama's handling of the disaster has been criticized. Critics argue that Obama has given BP too much control over the oil spill cleanup and been too willing to believe BP's assurances about the amount of oil being released into the Gulf of Mexico. Experts estimate that the environmental damage will last for decades." Evan Thomas is the assistant managing editor of Newsweek magazine. Daniel Stone is a senior reporter in Newsweek's Washington bureau covering national politics and environmental policy.

[Full text available upon request](#)

China's New Energy-Security Debate

By Andrew B. Kennedy

(*Survival*, June 2010)

China's debate over what 'energy security' is and how it can be achieved has evolved considerably over the past decade. Traditionally, Chinese officials and analysts have been most worried about China's mounting oil imports, and they have expressed considerable wariness of international energy markets and institutions. This narrow and relatively nationalistic view of China's energy-security challenge has been challenged on several different fronts, however, particularly in the past five years. Prominent analysts now call for a more positive approach to international markets and institutions, and some argue that external dependence is a less important energy security challenge than the shortcomings of China's own energy system.

[Full text available upon request](#)

The Crisis Comes Ashore

By Al Gore

(*New Republic*, June 10, 2010)

"The continuing undersea gusher of oil 50 miles off the shores of Louisiana is not the only source of dangerous uncontrolled pollution spewing into the environment. Worldwide, the amount of man-made CO2 being spilled every three seconds into the thin shell of atmosphere surrounding our planet equals, in tons, the highest current estimate of the amount of oil spilling from the Macondo well every day." In this article, Al Gore discusses why the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico presents an important reminder of the necessity of changing our energy policy and energy-consuming habits.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Democracy in Southeast Asia. Will the Region Become More Democratic?

(*CQ Global Researcher*, June 2010)

Indonesia is the world's third-largest democracy and one of its newest. But while Indonesia is consolidating its democratic institutions and slowly making progress against endemic corruption, democracy elsewhere in Southeast Asia is in distress. High-level corruption and politically motivated murders are obstructing democracy in the Philippines. In Thailand, 14 years of turbulent democracy ended with a military coup in 2006. Elections eventually resumed, but after anti-government protesters camped in Bangkok's commercial center for months this spring demanding new elections, the government finally broke up the demonstrations and began shooting and arresting protesters.

[Full text available upon request](#)

The Global Glass Ceiling

By Isabel Colemann

(*Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2010)

"Governments and international organizations recognize that empowering women in the developing world is a catalyst for achieving a range of policy and development goals. It is time for multinational corporations to come to the same realization -- funding education and training female business leaders is good for business." Isabel Colemann is a senior fellow for U.S. Foreign Policy and director of the Women and Foreign Policy Program, Council on Foreign Relations.

[Full text available upon request](#)

The High Cost of Freedom: A Legal and Policy Analysis of Shelter Detention for Victims of Trafficking

By Anne Gallagher and Elaine Pearson

(*Human Rights Quarterly*, February 2010)

"In countries around the world it is common practice for victims of human trafficking who have been 'rescued' or who have escaped from situations of exploitation to be placed and detained in public or private shelters. In the most egregious situations, victims can be effectively imprisoned in such shelters for months, even years. This article uses field-based research to document this largely unreported phenomenon. It then considers the international legal aspects of victim detention in shelters and weighs the common justifications for such detention from legal, policy, and practical perspectives."

[Full text available upon request](#)

How to Save the News

By James Fallows

(*The Atlantic*, June 2010)

"Plummeting newspaper circulation, disappearing classified ads, "unbundling" of content—the list of what's killing journalism is long. But high on that list, many would say, is Google, the biggest unbundler of them all. Now, having helped break the news business, the company wants to fix it—for commercial as well as civic reasons: if news organizations stop producing great journalism, says one Google executive, the search engine will no longer have interesting content to link to. So some of the smartest minds at the company are thinking about this, and working with publishers, and peering ahead to see what the future of journalism looks like. Guess what? It's bright."

For full text follow the link: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/06/how-to-save-the-news/8095/>

More Aid is not the Answer

By Jonathan Glennie

(*Current History*, May 2010)

"Politicians promise more aid when they do not want to make changes that are more fundamental. Now is the time for substantial reform, not for counting aid dollars." Jonathan Glennie is a country representative for Christian Aid.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Offshore Drilling. Is Tougher Federal Oversight Needed?

(*CQ Researcher*, June 25, 2010)

The blowout two months ago at the Deepwater Horizon oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico has turned into one of the worst environmental catastrophes in U.S. history. Well owner BP failed in repeated attempts to stop the undersea gusher spilling millions of gallons, and experts say it may be months before it is brought under control. The blowout has exposed corner-cutting by BP and massive regulatory failures at the Minerals Management Service, the federal agency charged with overseeing the 4,000 offshore drilling facilities in the Gulf. The spill also has laid bare ideological differences over national energy policy and heightened debate over how to balance environmental protection with the economy's dependence on oil.

[Full text available upon request](#)

On the Edge

By Bryan Walsh, Tim Padgett and Michael Crowley

(*Time Magazine*, June 14, 2010)

The article discusses the likely long-term environmental and economic impact of the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. In addition to the oil on the surface of the ocean which has threatened wildlife, coastal wetlands and marshes, scientists believe that the long-term environmental and economic threat could result from the massive plumes of oil and dispersants near the bottom of the ocean. The U.S. government has banned fishing in more than 37% of the Gulf of Mexico waters, causing an economic blow to the coastal states which may last for years after the spill is contained.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Water Shortages. Is the United States Facing a Crisis?

(*CQ Researcher*, June 18, 2010)

Clean water is a critical resource not only for drinking but also for agriculture, energy production and high-tech manufacturing. But severe drought — once seen as an issue only for the arid West — has become a fact of life in many parts of the United States. Meanwhile, many cities depend on water mains and sewer pipes more than 100 years old. Environmental laws have sharply cut water pollution and improved drinking-water quality since the 1970s. But experts say the nation needs to spend more than \$250 billion in the next several years to modernize water treatment systems, and current investments are falling short..

[Full text available upon request](#)

What the Spill Will Kill

By Sharon Begley

(*Newsweek*, June 6, 2010)

"Giant plumes of crude oil mixed with methane are sweeping the ocean depths with devastating consequences. 'I'm not too worried about oil on the surface,' says one scientist. 'It's the things we don't see that worry me the most.'"

For full text follow the link: <http://www.newsweek.com/2010/06/06/what-the-spill-will-kill.print.html>

IV. U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

Are We There Yet?

By Jessica Bennett Jesse Ellison and Sarah Ball

(*Newsweek*, March 29, 2010)

In 1970, 46 women working at Newsweek filed a landmark gender-discrimination case and won. This article reviews that event and looks at the current status of women at Newsweek and in the workplace across the country. The authors conclude that while chances for promotion for women at Newsweek have improved, they are far from equal to that of men. Although 49 percent of Newsweek employees are female, men wrote all but six of Newsweek magazine's 49 cover stories last year. Nationwide, the situation isn't much better. U.S. Department of Education data show that, a year out of

school, despite better college grades, young women take home just 80 percent of what their male colleagues do.
For full text follow the link: <http://www.newsweek.com/2010/03/18/are-we-there-yet.html>

The End of Men

By Hanna Rosin

(*The Atlantic*, July/August 2010)

"Earlier this year, women became the majority of the workforce for the first time in U.S. history. Most managers are now women too. And for every two men who get a college degree this year, three women will do the same. For years, women's progress has been cast as a struggle for equality. But what if equality isn't the end point? What if modern, postindustrial society is simply better suited to women? A report on the unprecedented role reversal now under way—and its vast cultural consequences."

For full text follow the link: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/print/2010/07/the-end-of-men/8135>

Health-Care Reform. Is the Landmark New Plan a Good Idea?

(*CQ Researcher*, June 11, 2010)

The health-care reform legislation signed into law by President Obama on March 23 marked the biggest attempt to expand access to health care since Medicare and Medicaid were launched in the 1960s. The massive legislation will help 32 million Americans get health insurance coverage and bans insurers from denying coverage to those with preexisting illnesses. It also expands Medicaid to all poor people — except illegal immigrants — and gives subsidies to low- and low-middle-income people to buy insurance. But opponents, including every Republican member of Congress, say the coverage expansion is simply too expensive, at a price tag of about \$1 trillion over 10 years.

[Full text available upon request](#)

The Insiders' Insider

By Mark Leibovich

(*New York Times Magazine*, April 25, 2010, pp. 32//48)

The web site and newspaper Politico has been in existence only three years, the brain-child of former Washington Post editors John F. Harris and Jim VandeHei, with the goal of becoming as central to political addicts as ESPN is to sports junkies. Situated in a building that overlooks the U.S. Capitol, it has now become one of the first sources Washington power brokers read in the morning. The publication, in return, wants to 'win' every news cycle by being the first with a morsel of information, whether or not the information nugget is relevant, or even correct, in the long run. Its most prominent, and influential, reporter is the obsessively private Mike Allen whose e-mail tipsheet, Playbook, has now become the principal early-morning document for an elite set of political and news-media 'thrivers and strivers.'

For full text follow the link: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/25/magazine/25allen-t.html>

Jailing the American Dream

By Tom Barry

(*Utne*, March/April 2010)

Since the 1970s crime control has become a central theme in U.S. politics and society. In the words of Berkeley law professor Jonathan Simon, we are "governing through crime"- isolation and exclusion in an expansive penal system is the dominant response to tough social problems. Although the crackdown on immigrants raises specific concerns, it mirrors and merges with the broader wars on drugs and crime in terms of increasing costs, expanding law enforcement, high incarceration rates, and dismal cost-benefit ratios.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Jobs Outlook: Is a College Education Important?

(*CQ Researcher*, June 4, 2010)

"The economy has finally started to grow again, but more than 8 million jobs that disappeared after the economic crisis began in late 2007 haven't returned, and the unemployment rate is nearly 10 percent. To be sure, 290,000 jobs have been added, but the jobless rate remains high. People who do have jobs are working harder, increasing productivity. In another major change on the job front, advances in technology are intensifying the allure — to employers — of offshore jobs. What's the best strategy for getting a job in today's tough job market? "

[Full text available upon request](#)

Passin' for Black: Race, Identity, and Bone Memory in Postracial America

By Signithia Fordham

(*Harvard Educational Review*, Spring 2010)

"Signithia Fordham challenges the notion that we are living in a 'postracial' society where race is no longer a major social category, as indicated by the rising incidence of interracial relationships and the popularity of biracial identities. On the contrary, she contends, a powerful fusion of historical memory and inclusive kinship compels Americans whose ancestors were enslaved to embrace a Black identity even when they have White as well as African ancestors. Fordham identifies this socially constructed racial identity as 'passin' for Black.' She argues that virtually every socially defined Black person connected to enslavement—regardless of skin color, hair texture, facial features, or paternity—must perform Blackness."

[Full text available upon request](#)

The Tea Party vs. the Intellectuals

By Lee Harris

(*Policy Review*, June/July 2010)

A movement of attitude, not ideas. Intellectual critics of the Tea Party movement most often attack it for its lack of ideas, especially new ideas — and these critics have a point. But the point they are making reveals as much about them as it does about the Tea Party. Behind the criticism lies the implicit assumption that comes quite naturally to American intellectuals: Namely, that a political movement ought be motivated by ideas and that a new political movement should provide new ideas. But the Tea Party movement is not about ideas. It is all about attitude, like the attitude expressed by the popular poster seen at all Tea Party rallies. Over the head of a hissing rattlesnake threatening to strike is inscribed the defiant slogan so popular among our revolutionary ancestors: "Don't tread on me!" The old defiant motto is certainly not a new idea. In fact, it is not an idea at all. It is a warning.

[Full text available upon request](#)

What I Learned from YouTube

By Brian Rosenberg

(*Chronicle of Higher Education*, April 23, 2010)

A middle-aged college president makes a video and is surprised by its popularity. Puzzled by the results, Brian Rosenberg, president of Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, is nevertheless delighted by the 39,000 hits his video has had on YouTube in about a month. There have been several hundred email messages from alumni, parents, current and prospective students, as well as other college presidents. Messages have been received from as far away as Pakistan, Japan, Spain, Singapore, and China in response to Rosenberg's humorous and self-parodying video.

For full text follow the link: <http://chronicle.com/article/What-I-Learned-From-YouTube/65141/>

The Future of Online Socializing

(*Pew Research*, July 2, 2010)

Email, social networks, and other online tools offer "low friction" opportunities to create, enhance, and rediscover social ties that make a difference in people's lives...

For full text follow the link: <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1652/social-relations-online-experts-predict-future>

Election 2010: Senate Balance Of Power

(Rasmussen Reports, July 07, 2010)

Rasmussen Reports Balance of Power projections show that Democrats can probably count on having at least 49 Senate seats after Election Day, while Republicans will hold a minimum of 41. In play, however, are 10 Toss-Up races that are likely to be the major storyline of Election 2010.

For full text follow the link:

http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/politics/elections/election_2010/election_2010_senate_elections/election_2010_senate_balance_of_power

V. U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THINK TANK REPORTS, POLICY PAPERS

Are Palestinians Building a State?

By Nathan J. Brown

(Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, July 1, 2010)

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

For full text follow the link: http://carnegieendowment.org/files/palestinian_state1.pdf

Beijing: A Global Leader with 'China First' Policy

By David Shambaugh

(YaleGlobal, June 29, 2010)

Observers have long hoped for new openness and cooperation from a confident China. They scan every international event, from the majestic Beijing Olympics of summer 2008 to the recent G-20 summit in Toronto, for indications of China's policy direction. If any clear trend is visible, it is that the world's second largest economy largely continues with a narrow, fluctuating foreign-policy approach. "On global issues, Beijing appears to act with an odd combination of hesitancy and truculence," explains David Shambaugh.

For full text follow the link: <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/beijing-global-leader-china-first-policy>

Deep Horizon Oil Spill: Selected Issues for Congress

By Curry L. Hagerty and Jonathan L. Ramseur

(Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, June 18, 2010)

On April 20, 2010, an explosion and fire occurred on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico. This resulted in 11 worker fatalities, a massive oil release, and a national response effort in the Gulf of Mexico region by the federal and state governments as well as BP. Based on estimates from the Flow Rate Technical Group, which is led by the U.S. Geological Survey, the 2010 Gulf spill has become the largest oil spill in U.S. waters, eclipsing the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill several times over. The oil spill has damaged natural resources and has had regional economic impacts.

For full text follow the link: <http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/143929.pdf>

The Enduring Partnership? The Trans-Atlantic Community as a Natural Alliance

By Jeremy Ghez

(RAND Corporation, June 21, 2010)

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

For full text follow the link: http://www.rand.org/pubs/rgs_dissertations/2010/RAND_RGSD266.pdf

Growing Challenges of Energy and Environment - Part I

By Susan Froetschel

(*YaleGlobal*, June 22, 2010)

The study analyzes what the Gulf oil spill reveals about the intricate global connections and entrenched interests of the energy industry. Good governance and regulations protect the environment, livelihoods and investor interests both near and far. Political leaders can use the entangled nature of such oil operations to evade responsibility or they can use the same complexity to plan for the long term, harnessing global efforts to devise sustainable energy policies.

For full text follow the link: <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/growing-challenges-energy-and-environment-part-i>

Growing Challenges of Energy and Environment - Part II

By Olivier Cattaneo

(*YaleGlobal*, June 24, 2010)

The study describes U.S. and European proposals to impose tariffs on nations that lag in limiting carbon emissions. The plans discuss job protection, conveniently overlooking the fact that emerging economies have substantially fewer emissions to limit, writes the author. Poor nations face challenges in calculating carbon footprints, while wealthy nations have the resources to find loopholes, evading responsibility for historically high levels of emissions. The plans could create incentives to focus on reporting rather than reducing carbon. In the end, elaborate tariff schemes may do more to serve protectionist interests than reduce energy consumption.

For full text follow the link: <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/growing-challenges-energy-and-environment-part-ii>

Growing Opposition to Increased Offshore Drilling: Obama's Ratings Little Affected by Recent Turmoil

(*Pew Research Center for the People & the Press*, June 24, 2010)

Since the beginning of this year, President Obama has signed a controversial health care measure, coped with a stubbornly high jobless rate, and struggled to manage the largest environmental disaster in the nation's history. In that period, Obama's overall job approval rating has moved from 49% to 48%. On major issues, ranging from the economy to Afghanistan, Obama's ratings also have changed little since the beginning of the year. He continues to get his highest ratings on foreign policy, energy policy, Afghanistan and Iraq; Obama gets his worst marks on the budget deficit and immigration.

For full text follow the link: <http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/627.pdf>

Hired Guns: View About Armed Contractors in Operation Iraqi Freedom

By Sarah K. Cotton et al.

(*RAND Corporation*, June 16, 2010)

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

For full text follow the link: http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2010/RAND_MG987.pdf

Obama More Popular Abroad Than at Home, Global Images of U.S. Continues to Benefit

(*Pew Global Attitudes Project*, June 17, 2010)

U.S. favorability ratings remain high in Western Europe and have increased markedly in China and Russia. But opinions remain negative in many Muslim nations. Mexican views of the U.S. tumbled following passage of Arizona's immigration

law. Confidence in Obama is high across much of the world, but support for his handling of specific policies is less widespread. With the exception of China, India and Brazil, people nearly everywhere say their national economy is doing poorly.

For full text follow the link: <http://pewglobal.org/files/pdf/Pew-Global-Attitudes-Spring-2010-Report.pdf>

The Oil Spill and American Consumers, BP's Other Accomplice

By Charles K. Ebinger and Kevin Massy

(*Brookings Institution*, June 17, 2010)

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

For full text follow the link: http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/0617_oil_spill_ebinger_massy.aspx

The Organization of the Islamic Conference

By Toni Johnson

(*Council on Foreign Relations*, June 29, 2010)

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

For full text follow the link:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/22563/organization_of_the_islamic_conference.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fbackgrounder

Pakistan in the Danger Zone: A Tenuous U.S.-Pakistan Relationship

By Shuja Nawaz

(*Atlantic Council*, June 28, 2010)

The Afghanistan war may be lost on the battlefields of Pakistan, where a vicious conflict is now being fought by Pakistan against a homegrown insurgency spawned by the war across its Western frontier. The author says that a year after the Atlantic Council raised a warning flag about the effects of failure in Afghanistan and the need to meet Pakistan's urgent needs in its existential war against militancy and terrorism, the situation in Pakistan remains on edge.

For full text follow the link:

http://www.acus.org/files/publication_pdfs/4794/ACUS%20Report%20on%20Pakistan.pdf

The Peace Corps: A Comprehensive Agency Assessment

(*Peace Corps*, June 2010)

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

For full text follow the link:

http://multimedia.peacecorps.gov/multimedia/pdf/opengov/PC_Comprehensive_Agency_Assessment.pdf

Public Opinion on the Supreme Court 2010

By Karlyn H. Bowman and Andrew Rugg

(*American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research*, June 28, 2010)

The report looks broadly at confidence in the Court, views of the Court today, knowledge of current Justices, and at the kind of nominee people say they would like to see. It also reviews areas where public opinion is not well formed.

Questions about original intent, for example, seem to pull people in one direction or another depending on how they are

worded. New and updated sections look at attitudes toward recent nominees, including Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor. This document includes some questions on abortion.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.aei.org/docLib/BowmanPOSSupremeCourt.pdf>