

ARTICLE ALERT # 10

I. FOREIGN POLICY

Boom Box USA: Surrogate Broadcasting as a Tool of U.S. Soft Power

By Jeffrey Gedmin

(*Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2009)

According to Gedmin, president of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, U.S. government-sponsored surrogate broadcasting of accurate and reliable news remains the most effective and cost-efficient way to promote democracy and advance U.S. security interests in countries lacking independent media. The objective of surrogate broadcasting programs, such as Radio Farda in Iran, is not to overthrow a foreign government -- "when informed citizens are free to choose," Gedmin writes, "they invariably choose freedom over tyranny and prefer decent, accountable government to the arbitrary whims of authoritarian leaders." Surrogate broadcasting plays a role in Afghanistan, countering the Taliban's own information war, and in Russia, where public opinion toward the U.S. and toward democracy is ambivalent.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/65426/jeffrey-gedmin/boom-box-usa>

Hillary's Challenge. Would Putting Women First Make for Better Foreign Policy?

By Michelle Goldberg

(*The American Prospect*, July/August 2009)

"As Clinton attempts to advance women's rights in other areas of foreign policy, including those that haven't traditionally put much emphasis on gender, such as peace and security and agricultural development. Despite her deep personal convictions, the supportive political environment, and the growing consensus about the importance of women's rights to global development, she is going to face real obstacles. American conservatives are determined to fight not only international family planning but also multilateral treaties on women's rights. Fundamentalists in Muslim countries often react furiously to attempts to empower women and accuse local feminists of being agents of Western imperialism, which complicates American efforts to bolster them. And Clinton is going to have to contend with a State Department culture that isn't used to paying much attention to women's issues."

[Full text available upon request](#)

Iran: Diplomacy and Deterrence

By Andrew Parasiliti

(*Survival*, October 2009)

"The Obama administration is not ready to concede an Iranian nuclear weapon. But absent diplomatic progress, the United States may have to accept Iran as a threshold or 'virtual' nuclear power. Neither sanctions nor deterrence is likely to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear-weapons capability, although deterrence might prevent the country from detonating a nuclear device or formally declaring its nuclear status. Washington has so far not threatened the use of force in Iran and is wary of the potentially negative consequences for U.S. interests and allies of a military option that is not even certain to eliminate Iran's nuclear-weapons capability. A diplomatic breakthrough, however slim the perceived possibilities, is still the best option to halt Iran's nuclear-weapons ambitions."

[Full text available upon request](#)

Islamists and the Grave Bell

By F. Gregory Gause III

(*National Interest*, September/October 2009)

The author, professor of political science at the University of Vermont and currently visiting professor of international affairs at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, writes that the recent elections in Lebanon and the events surrounding the elections in Iran have led many U.S. opinion-makers to argue once again that democracy in the Middle East will lead to the decline of Islamist regimes due to popular opposition. Gause notes that if most Arab countries had true democracy, Islamist parties would gain even more ground, in countries with authoritarian regimes that are U.S. allies. He believes that our interests are best served by promoting civil society in those countries whose leadership is resistant to change; the U.S. must walk a fine line between its desire to promote democracy, and its interests that are not always best served by pushing for elections in the Middle East.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.nationalinterest.org/Article.aspx?id=22036>

Nuclear Disarmament. Will President Obama's Efforts Make the U.S. Safer?

(*CQ Researcher*, October 2, 2009)

Peace activists have sought to eliminate nuclear weapons for decades, but now they have a new ally. President Barack Obama has

pledged to negotiate new U.S.-Russian arms reductions, end U.S. nuclear testing and reduce the role of nuclear weapons in national defense policy. Obama argues that these steps, plus new measures to combat nuclear smuggling and theft, will make the United States safer. But critics say further nuclear cuts will embolden rogue countries like North Korea and Iran, which are widely thought to be seeking nuclear capabilities. Although the U.S. and Russia have drastically shrunk their Cold War arsenals, the United States still spends at least \$52 billion annually on nuclear-related programs.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Obama's Missile Defense Change Shows Different Targets

By Tomas Valasek

(Yale Global, September 21, 2009)

"Obama's decision not to build a missile defense base in the Czech Republic and Poland presents new challenges and risks to the European theater. First, according to Director at the Center for European Reform Tomas Valasek, it risks rewarding Russia for its truculence in the hopes of getting the country to support the US in tempering Iran. Second, while the plan to use a sea-based shield may better protect Europe from Iranian launched missiles – as a defense to intercept shorter range missiles is now likely to be deployed – the plan risks exposing Poland and the Czech Republic to greater Russian influence. But Poland has already prepared for what it viewed as an inevitable cancellation of the missile defense base, so this worry may overstate the risk. Scrapping the base appears to make economic sense too given that the technology was unproven. The next step – still some months off – is for the US to show its continued commitment to Eastern Europe while still smoothing the way for Russia to cooperate on Iran."

For full text follow the link: <http://www.yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/obama%E2%80%99s-missile-defense-change-shows-different-targets>

A change of partners?

(The Economist, September, 2009)

Angela Merkel would like to head a new coalition. That would be just the start to answering Germany's long-term problems.

For full text follow the link: http://www.economist.com/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14447093

Germany Doesn't Need Another Grand Coalition

(Spiegel Online International, September, 2009)

Germany's grand coalition government, with its strange bedfellows marriage between Angela Merkel's conservatives and Frank-Walter Steinmeier's center-left Social Democrats, isn't doing much for the cause of democracy. That's why the SPD should consider governing together with the Left Party and the Greens.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/0,1518,650253,00.html#ref=nlint>

PREVENTING VIOLENT CONFLICT: ASSESSING PROGRESS, MEETING CHALLENGES

By Woocher, Lawrence

(Center for Conflict Analysis and Prevention, U.S. Institute of Peace. September 2009)

The report argues for an enhanced global focus on the prevention of violent conflict relative to more reactive approaches. It reviews the state of the conflict prevention field in terms of norms and political commitments, institutional capacities, and policy-relevant knowledge and discusses key challenges ahead. This report proceeds in three parts. First, it discusses the importance of conflict prevention, drawing on analysis of conflict trends and current threats. Second, it assesses progress achieved over the last decade toward preventing violent conflict. Third, it concludes by analyzing major current challenges to realizing the aspiration of effective prevention and making a number of recommendations for meeting these challenges. Woocher finds it is not enough to merely prevent a relapse of war; the international community must make a greater effort to respond to warning signs as a way to preempt the eruption of deadly violence. Much attention is focused on reactive approaches to conflict – rebuilding and resolving – but prevention must hold the same level of importance. The report recommends ways to advance the conflict prevention agenda amid various international challenges, including monitoring the implementation of political commitments to conflict prevention and developing new strategies to regularize the practice of prevention. Lawrence Woocher is a senior program officer in the United States Institute of Peace's Center for Conflict Analysis and Prevention.

For full text follow the link: http://www.usip.org/files/preventing_violent_conflict.pdf

POST-CONFLICT HEALTH RECONSTRUCTION: NEW FOUNDATIONS FOR U.S. POLICY

By Rubenstein, Leonard S.

(U.S. Institute of Peace. September 24, 2009)

"Stabilization and reconstruction activities in the aftermath of protracted armed conflict have been increasingly recognized as critical to aid a suffering population, provide a foundation for a well-governed state, and help prevent renewed conflict. Despite the increasing prominence of global health in U.S. foreign policy, however, the place and priority of health reconstruction as part of post-conflict U.S. stabilization initiatives remains uncertain. This Working Paper explores key questions that need to be answered both to

fashion an appropriate policy and structure aid programs to support them. The paper reviews what we know about the impact of war on health and health systems, what we have learned about effective strategies to help states meet the health needs of their populations in the aftermath of conflict, and makes recommendations for an appropriate foundation for post-conflict health recovery, and for the structure of U.S. foreign assistance programs, funding mechanisms, and agency responsibilities, including that of the Department of Defense." *Leonard Rubenstein is a Visiting Scholar at the Center for Public Health and Human Rights at the Bloomberg Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. He wrote this paper during his tenure as a Jennings Randolph Senior Fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace.*

For full text follow the link: http://www.usip.org/files/resources/post-conflict_health_reconstruction.pdf

Europe's New Security Dilemma

By Vidino, Lorenzo

(*The Washington Quarterly*. October 2009)

"From Saudi Arabia to Indonesia, authorities have devised more or less comprehensive measures to deradicalize committed militants and prevent the radicalization of new ones. This soft approach to counterterrorism has also been adopted by some European governments. A crucial component of the programs enacted in all European countries is the participation of the Muslim community itself, which is deemed a necessary ally to stem radicalization among its youth. Yet, the Muslim community of each European country is characterized by deep divisions along ethnic, linguistic, sectarian, and political lines. This fragmentation has prevented the formation of widely representative Muslim organizations in virtually all European countries. A source of particularly heated debate among policymakers is the role that could be played in these programs by nonviolent Islamists, such as European Muslim organizations that trace their ideological roots to various forms of political Islam.

For full text follow the link: http://www.twq.com/09october/docs/09oct_Vidino.pdf

An Agenda for NATO: Toward a Global Security Web

By Brzezinski, Zbigniew

(*Foreign Affairs*. September/October 2009, pp.2-21)

"NATO's 60th anniversary, celebrated in April with pomp and circumstance by the leaders of nearly 30 allied states, generated little public interest. In assessing NATO's evolving role, one has to take into account the historical fact that in the course of its 60 years the alliance has institutionalized three truly monumental transformations in world affairs: first, the end of the centuries-long "civil war" within the West for transoceanic and European supremacy; second, the US' post-WWII commitment to the defense of Europe against Soviet domination; and third, the peaceful termination of the Cold War, which ended the geopolitical division of Europe and created the preconditions for a larger democratic EU. To remain historically relevant, NATO cannot simply expand itself into a global alliance or transform itself into a global alliance of democracies. NATO, however, has the experience, the institutions, and the means to eventually become the hub of a globe-spanning web of various regional cooperative-security undertakings among states with the growing power to act." *Zbigniew Brzezinski was U.S. National Security Adviser from 1977 to 1981. His most recent book is Second Chance: Three Presidents and the Crisis of American Superpower.*

[Full text available upon request](#)

NATO ENLARGEMENT POST-1989: SUCCESSFUL ADAPTATION OR DECLINE?

By Michta, Andrew A

(*Contemporary European History*. August 2009, pp. 363-376)

"NATO enlargement after the cold war contributed to the democratic transformation of post-communist states. It failed, however, to generate a larger consensus on the shared mission and to provide the requisite military capabilities. Today, notwithstanding the rhetoric of unity after the 2008 Bucharest summit, NATO struggles to reconcile the out-of-area experience of the Balkan wars with its post-9/11 tasks and the renewed territorial defense concerns raised by the 2008 Russo-Georgian war. Paradoxically, the more NATO has expanded to foster the military-political security of the new democratic states of eastern and south-eastern Europe, the less it seems capable of dealing with real security threats such as Afghanistan. Facing the possible strategic failure of its ISAF mission, NATO needs to re-evaluate the policy track chosen post-1989." *Andrew A. Michta is Professor of National Security Studies at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Germany. He is also the Mertie W. Buckman Distinguished Professor of International Studies at Rhodes College in Tennessee.*

[Full text available upon request](#)

NATO AND RUSSIA: PARTNERSHIP OR PERIL?

By Trenin, Dmitri

(*Current History*. October 2009, pp. 299-303)

The author notes that, twenty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the major piece of unfinished post-Cold War business is Russia's absence from a European security framework. This affects not just Russia, but its neighbors, such as Ukraine and Georgia, as seen by the August 2008 conflict in the Caucasus. Trenin says it is unlikely that Russia will join the U.S.-led NATO alliance in the foreseeable future, so the only option is to pursue the long and difficult path toward a security community that would include NATO members and non-members. He emphasizes that "it is important that the Russians do not feel that a common front of Western allies is

ganging up on them,” and making them feel that they are “equals among equals” would do a lot to promote security in Europe. Trenin notes that the NATO-Russia Council (NRC), founded in 2002, has been underused as a vehicle for Western-Russian security interaction; he advocates expanding the NRC’s agenda, turning it into an “all-weather operation” to handle the inevitable disagreements. An expanded NRC mandate could prove beneficial in missile defense, conventional arms control and anti-drug cooperation in Afghanistan. *Dmitri Trenin is director of the Carnegie Moscow Center.*

[Full text available upon request](#)

A Realistic Reset with Russia: Practical expectations for U.S.-Russian relations

By Goldgeier, James M.

(Policy Review, August/September 2009)

“As we ponder the prospects for a reset, we should recall that Bill Clinton came into office in 1993 talking about the importance of multilateralism, the United Nations, and partnership with Russia. But as the United States pursued its interests, its actions inevitably caused frictions with Moscow. As Clinton did, Obama, too, will grow frustrated with the limits of multilateralism in general and the United Nations in particular, and like all American presidents (and Russian ones, for that matter), he will pursue what he believes are the country’s interests. . . For the reset to be successful over the long run, the United States and Russia, as well as nato and Russia, will need to do what has already been signaled in the interactions early in Obama’s presidency: acknowledge the differences but seek areas of cooperation where possible. Perhaps most important is to keep expectations in check so that we are not disappointed once again as we have been so often since the end of the Cold War. Achievements are possible, but the two nations will continue to define their interests differently on many of the major issues in the relationship.” *James Goldgeier is a professor of political science at George Washington University and a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.*

For full text follow the link: <http://www.hoover.org/publications/policyreview/51403357.html>

MILITARY ENGAGEMENT, STRATEGY, AND POLICY

By Reveron, Derek S.

(Orbis, Summer 2009, pp. 489-505)

"Many states increasingly rely on the U.S. for either the actual provision of security or the training and equipment necessary to perform security functions. By 2008, the United States was providing security assistance to 149 countries. Under the global war on terrorism banner, the Bush administration stepped up Clinton-era programs in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. All of a sudden, the military found itself building militaries in Georgia, Rwanda, Yemen, the Trans-Sahara, and the Philippines, providing disaster relief in Indonesia, Pakistan, and the Gulf Coast, and leading reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Here, Reveron talks about the US military engagements, strategies and policy. He narrates that because there are so few institutional alternatives for insuring stability and security in developing states, the US military increasingly will find itself in non-warfighting roles."

[Full text available upon request](#)

II. ECONOMIC ISSUES

Capitalism After the Crisis

By Luigi Zingales

(National Affairs, Fall 2009)

The author, professor at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, writes that the nature of the financial crisis, and the government’s response to it, threatens to undermine America’s unique brand of capitalism, and move the country in the direction of state corporatism. Unlike much of the rest of the West, democracy in America predates industrialization, so by the latter half of the nineteenth century, the American public had high expectations for fairness in economic policy; the concept of anti-trust law is a prime example. He notes that the pro-market aspects of American capitalism have been eclipsed by the pro-business forces, those that promote the interests of existing businesses.

[Full text available upon request](#)

The Dollar Dilemma

By Barry Eichengreen

(Foreign Affairs, September/October 2009)

The economic crisis is hurting the world's top currency. But the pound, the yen, the euro, the renminbi, and the IMF's accounting currency are no match for the dollar. At least for now.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Economic Security for a World in Crisis

By Muhammad Yunus

(World Policy Journal, Summer 2009)

The author, founder of Bangladesh's Grameen Bank, notes that the optimism about global prosperity that prevailed at the beginning of the millennium has been soured by the financial collapse that began in 2008. He predicts that we are in the beginning stages of a long and painful period, in which the combined effects of the intertwined financial, food, energy and environmental crises will have a disproportionate effect on the world's poorest people. Capitalism is in crisis, says Yunus, because the basic purpose of the financial system and credit markets have been fundamentally distorted by the obsession with paper profits instead of serving human needs.
[Full text available upon request](#)

Eureka Moments: How a Luxury Item Became a Tool of Global Development

(Economist, September 24, 2009)

Mobile phones, now affordable to the vast majority of people around the world, have become the single most transformative tool for development, according to Jeffrey Sachs of the Columbia University's Earth Institute. In Africa, "mobile money" now means financial transactions can be carried out easily even in remote areas. Mobile phones play a huge role in micro businesses, which make up 50 to 60 percent of business globally, and as much as 90 percent in Africa. Small businesses can more efficiently negotiate with suppliers and reduce the overhead of running their small enterprises. There is also some evidence that mobile phones can be used to root out corruption; the article cites the example of an official in Pakistan overseeing land transfers, who randomly called the mobile numbers of buyers and sellers to find out if they had been asked to pay bribes.

For full text follow the link: http://www.economist.com/specialreports/displaystory.cfm?story_id=14483872

The Keynes Bubble

By John H. Makin

(Commentary, October 2009)

As a former academic economist who at mid-career migrated into the worlds of policy and financial markets, the author is sometimes asked how the latter experiences differ from the academic one. The financial crisis, which reached its most acute phase just a year ago with the failure of Lehman Brothers, has resulted in some humiliation, or at the very least severe criticism, for academic economists who are said to have missed the whole problem and thereby contributed to its severity. The criticism comes from those who ask, in essence, "How could it have happened if you're so smart?"

For full text follow the link: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm/the-keynes-bubble-15243>

Low and Behold

By Edward L. Morse

(Foreign Affairs, September/October 2009)

Despite common assumptions, oil prices are likely to remain low for a while: key producers, especially Saudi Arabia, have been boosting their production, and demand growth in top consumers like the United States and China will be more modest than expected.

[Full text available upon request](#)

What Were They Thinking?

By Francis Fukuyama and Seth Colby

(The American Interest, September/October 2009)

"As the dust begins to settle from the current global economic crisis, one of the issues we need to confront is the role of academic economists in promoting ideas that in retrospect were both wrong and dangerous. Economists pride themselves on being simultaneously the most sophisticated social science theorists as well as the most rigorously empirical of the bunch." Our economists knew better than to encourage reckless finance, so why did they do it anyway?

[Full text available upon request](#)

Post-G-20 Meeting Fact Sheets

(The White House, September, 2009)

Office of the Press Secretary, The White House. September 25, 2009.

The following fact sheets outline the outcomes of the Pittsburgh Summit hosted by President Obama on September 24th and 25th. The fact sheets included are:

- *The Pittsburgh Summit: Key Accomplishments
- *Creating a 21st Century International Economic Architecture
- *Framework for Strong, Sustainable, and Balanced Growth
- *Bold and Coordinated Actions from Crisis to Recovery

- *Partnering on Food Security
- *Acting on our Global Energy and Climate Change Challenges
- *Support for the Most Vulnerable

For full text follow the link: http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Post-G20-meeting-fact-sheets/

Is the G-20 Summit a Step Toward a New Global Economic Order?

By Bradford, Colin I; Linn, Johannes F.

The Brookings Institution [Policy Brief #170] September 2009

“The global crisis has moved the United States, along with the rest of the world, toward a new global economic order, with the G-20 summit as one of the principal manifestations of the new global governance system. Of course, movement toward this new economic arrangement and progress toward reformed global governance are not inevitable. It will take a clear and sustained commitment to a new set of values and strong leadership, especially from President Obama and the United States, to ensure that the G-20 summit is not a short-lived exception to what had been a long-standing stalemate in global governance reform. The effectiveness of the G-20 in addressing the global economic crisis could lay the foundation for a new global order and provide the impetus for the many other necessary global governance reforms. Whether or not this happens will depend to a significant extent on the direction chosen by President Obama.” *Colin I. Bradford is a nonresident senior fellow in Global Economy and Development. Johannes F. Linn is the director of the Wolfensohn Center for Development and a former World Bank vice president for Europe and Central Asia.*

For full text follow the link:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/09_g20_bradford_linn/09_g20_bradford_linn.pdf

Harnessing the Financial Furies: Smart Financial Power and National Security

By Zarate, Juan C.

(The Washington Quarterly, October 2009)

"Economic sanctions have long been the national security tool of choice when neither diplomacy nor military force proves effective or possible. This tool of statecraft has become even more important to coerce and constrain the behavior of non-state networks and recalcitrant, rogue regimes which often appear beyond the reach of classic U.S. power or influence. The challenge is often how to use power to affect the interests of regimes that are likely immune to broad effects of sanctions on their populations. Over the past eight years, a new paradigm of smart financial power has emerged which has made a particular brand of financial suasion more targeted, effective, and central to critical issues of national security import. At the heart of this paradigm has been the integration of complementary financial and national security objectives to protect the integrity of the international financial system and isolate rogue financial activity.

For full text follow the link: http://www.twq.com/09october/docs/09oct_Zarate.pdf

III. DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Biotech's Plans to Sustain Agriculture

(Scientific American, October 2009)

Popular sentiment may call for more organic methods, but the agricultural industry sees biotechnology as a crucial part of farming's future. By 2050 or so, agriculture will need to produce about 50 percent more food than it now does because of the expanding population. Traditional crops and farming methods could not sustain that much productivity. In this panel discussion, representatives from the agricultural industry defend genetically modified crops as one of several tools that should be used to help farmers in developing countries become more productive.

[Full text available upon request](#)

The Low-Carbon Diet

By Joel Kurtzman

(Foreign Affairs, September/October 2009)

The free market has eliminated environmental hazards in the past, from leaded gas to acid rain, and it can solve the problem of climate change today. A cap-and-trade system offers the best hope for reducing pollution and encouraging green growth.

[Full text available upon request](#)

The New Energy Beat

By Curtis Brainard and Cristine Russell
(*Columbia Journalism Review*, September/October 2009)

Climate change and energy issue reporting behooves journalists to collaborate within the newsroom and with news outlets to deepen expertise and resources to better explain these critical, complex topics. Varied regional concerns and new technologies increase the need for a broad knowledge base that allows for delving beyond the pronouncements of politicians or industry lobbyists. Covering energy well means giving a comprehensive "big picture" that can both inform and influence the public and policy makers.

For full text follow the link: http://www.cjr.org/feature/the_new_energy_beat.php

The New Threat to Oil Supplies: Hackers

By Greg Grant
(*Foreign Policy*, August 25, 2009)

"Offshore drilling rigs are becoming increasingly computerized and remote-controlled, a trend that renders them vulnerable to sabotage, as proved by a recent case in California, involving a disgruntled contractor who hacked into the shore-to-rig communications system. Most new oil discoveries are in deep ocean waters, a very dangerous environment for "roughnecks", and the expense of living quarters, feeding and evacuation has become prohibitively high, hence the move to remote-controlled rigs. While the rigs employ state-of-the-art robotics, the computer software controlling the rig is often decades old, notes the author. He notes that the possibility of cyberattack will only grow, as governments and companies around the world vie for ever-more scarce global oil reserves."

For full text follow the link: http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/08/25/the_new_threat_to_oil_supplies_hackers

Searching for Trouble

By Ken Auletta
(*The New Yorker*, October 12, 2009)

The author writes about Google's growing pains and tells about Mel Karmazin, the then C.O.O. of Viacom, visiting Google in 2003, looking for a potential partner in the tech world. Karmazin was interested in Google's advertising business, but found Google's system to be too mechanized compared to the advertising model...

[Full text available upon request](#)

Take a Stand: How Journalism Can Regain Its Relevance

By Brent Cunningham
(*Columbia Journalism Review*, September/October 2009)

Journalism in America has been damaged by its abdication of an adversarial role in public discourse. Instead, it "mostly amplifies the agendas of others-the prominent and powerful," maintains the author. He examines the changing dynamic of the news media and questions whether it has the ability to moderate public conversation and introduce new angles and ideas on national issues. Calling press objectivity "a trap" that lessens journalism's beneficial impact, he says the press needs to be on the side of the people and become a platform for establishing a public agenda.

For full text follow the link: http://www.cjr.org/feature/take_a_stand.php

US-UN Ties Still Strained?

By Barbara Crossette
(*The Nation*, October 2, 2009)

The Obama administration's efforts to mend ties with the United Nations suffered with the UN's firing of Peter Galbraith, the American diplomat appointed deputy special UN envoy to Afghanistan in March. The UN said he was fired "in the best interests" of the Afghan mission, but Galbraith had been berating Afghan and UN officials over what he saw as an inadequate response to the messy and fraud-plagued August 20 elections. He told BBC his being sacked "sends a terrible signal when the UN removes an official because he was concerned about fraud in an UN-sponsored and funded election."

For full text follow the link: <http://www.thenation.com/doc/20091019/crossette>

Wolfe, Nathan HOW TO PREVENT THE NEXT PANDEMIC

By Nathan Wolf
(*Scientific American*, April 2009)

An international network for monitoring the flow of viruses from animals to humans might help scientists head off global epidemics. Most human infectious diseases originated in animals. Historically, epidemiologists have focused on domestic animals as the source of these scourges, But wild animals also have transmitted many diseases to us, including HIV. To address the threat posed by wild animals, researchers are studying the microbes of these creatures and the people who come into frequent contact with them. Such monitoring may enable scientists to spot emerging infectious diseases early enough to prevent them from becoming pandemics.

[Full text available upon request](#)

IV. U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

America Falling: Longtime Dominance in Education Erodes

By Karin Fischer

(*Chronicle of Higher Education*, October 9, 2009)

The U.S. is still the top choice of international students; but by many measures, U.S. preeminence in education is eroding. As evidence of this erosion, Fischer cites the low percentage of Americans graduating with majors in engineering, the declining percentage of highly-qualified, low-income students who go to college and continuing rounds of budget cuts. Many who start doctoral programs fail to finish, especially women and minorities; more than half of the doctorates awarded by U.S. institutions went to foreign students. "I'm worried we won't realize what's at stake until it's too late," says Charles Vest, former president of MIT. The current economic and fiscal crisis has put U.S. public higher education in a more precarious situation because federal and state requirements have often put such programs as Medicaid and elementary and secondary education off-limits for budget-cutting purposes, leaving higher education to take the brunt of the cuts, as in California.

[Full text available upon request](#)

The Art of Obama Worship

By Michael J. Lewis

(*Commentary*, September 2009)

The new president has inspired, and made inspired use of, an entirely new attitude among America's artists toward an American politician: adoring veneration..

For full text follow the link: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm/the-art-of-obama-worship-15218>

Conspiracy Theories. Do They Threaten Democracy?

(*CQ Researcher*, October 23, 2009)

President Barack Obama is a foreign-born radical plotting to establish a dictatorship. His predecessor, George W. Bush, allowed the Sept. 11 attacks to occur in order to justify sending U.S. troops to Iraq. The federal government has plans to imprison political dissenters in detention camps in the United States. Welcome to the world of conspiracy theories. Since colonial times, conspiracies both far-fetched and plausible have been used to explain trends and events ranging from slavery to why U.S. forces were surprised at Pearl Harbor. In today's world, the communications revolution allows conspiracy theories to be spread more widely and quickly than ever before. But facts that undermine conspiracy theories move less rapidly through the Web, some experts worry. As a result, there may be growing acceptance of the notion that hidden forces control events, leading to eroding confidence in democracy, with repercussions that could lead Americans to large-scale withdrawal from civic life, or even to violence.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Daydream Believers

By Rem Rieder

(*American Journalism Review*, August/September 2009)

"America has become a country filled with people who stubbornly continue to believe what they want to believe, regardless of the facts," says Rieder, using as examples the persistence of people who refuse to believe Obama was born in the United States and those who believe that there are in fact provisions for "death panels" in health-care reform proposals. This situation makes it all the more critical for journalists to go beyond the "he-said, she-said" reporting of the past and not hesitate to reach firmly expressed conclusions — with fairness, of course. Mainstream journalism has long been uncomfortable about making and expressing conclusions, but according to Rieder, "as long as that conclusion is based on carefully reported evidence, not ideology, there's no good reason not to do it."

For full text follow the link: <http://ajr.org/Article.asp?id=4817>

Getting to NO: The Republican Dilemma in the Obama Age

By Peter J. Boyer

(*The New Yorker*, September 28, 2009)

This article discusses "the Republican dilemma in the age of Obama. [...] Opposition can unify and exhilarate an out party, as Democrats proved earlier this decade, and it is a primal conservative impulse. [...] The question remaining for many Republicans is whether the Party can develop a strategy beyond opposition, an argument for governing that will expand its appeal beyond its ideological core. On this, Toomey finds himself in agreement with Arlen Specter. "Having thirty principled Republicans doesn't accomplish anything, and that's not acceptable," he told me. "Our mission, and our focus, has to be to find a way to bring people into

our tent." Peter J. Boyer is a staff writer for *The New Yorker*.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Rescuing Children. Is the Global Community Doing Enough?

(*CQ Global Researcher*, October 2009)

The numbers are grim: Every day more than 25,000 children under age 5 — the equivalent of 125 jetliners full of youngsters — die from hunger, poverty or easily preventable illnesses, such as diarrhea and malaria. Millions of others are abandoned, trafficked into prostitution, forced into armed conflict or used as child laborers — mostly in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. While governments and nongovernmental organizations struggle to help, aid cutbacks due to the world economic crisis could trigger 200,000–400,000 additional child deaths each year. Meanwhile, experts and policy makers disagree over how best to combat AIDS among children, and whether more foreign aid would do more harm than good. Others question whether the United States should ratify the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. The United States is the only nation besides Somalia that hasn't adopted the treaty.

[Full text available upon request](#)

The Story Behind the Story

By Mark Bowden

(*The Atlantic*, October 2009)

Unbiased journalism is being replaced by the work of “political hit men,” Bowden says, citing the televised treatment of Judge Sonia Sotomayor after she was nominated by Obama for the U.S. Supreme Court. The information on Sotomayor -- specifically the “make policy” and “Latina woman” comments -- wasn't uncovered by journalists, but simply reprocessed by television news rooms from conservative web sites. The conservative Judicial Confirmation Network had gathered an “attack dossier” on each of the prospective Supreme Court nominees and had fed them all to the networks in advance, Bowden says. He decries the demise of the disinterested newspaper reporter: “What gave newspapers their value was the mission and promise of journalism -- the hope that someone was getting paid to wade into the daily tide of manure, sort through its deliberate lies and cunning half-truths, and tell a story straight.”

For full text follow the link: <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200910/media>

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

Are Green Jobs "Good Jobs" for African Americans?

By Austin Algernon

(Economic Policy Institute, Web posted October 6, 2009)

Research shows that creating more "green jobs" would have a significant benefit on male African American workers whose unemployment rate is well above the overall nationwide rate. Algernon Austin, director of Economic Policy Institute's Program on Race, Ethnicity and the Economy, presented some of these findings Sept. 25 at the annual legislative conference of the Congressional Black Caucus.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.epi.org/page/-/pdf/100610-greenblackjobs.pdf>

Cyberdeterrence and Cyberwar

By Martin C. Libick

(RAND Corporation, October 8, 2009)

The protection of cyberspace, the information medium, has become a vital national interest because of its importance both to the economy and to military power. An attacker may tamper with networks to steal information for the money or to disrupt operations. Future wars are likely to be carried out, in part or perhaps entirely, in cyberspace, says the report.

For full text follow the link: http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG877.pdf

The European Union, Lisbon and the Office Hunt

By Federiga Bindi

(Brookings Institution, October 12, 2009)

The Lisbon Treaty finally secured Irish ratification on October 2, but the fight is not over, several steps remain. First, the treaty is not yet fully ratified and several machinations remain. Second, even beyond the struggle for ratification, the details of implementation will determine what the treaty really means for the future of Europe. The report explains why Lisbon matters, then discuss the challenges the European Union is facing, and sketches out how that bargaining process is likely to go.

For full text follow the link: http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/1012_lisbon_treaty_bindi.aspx

The Financial Development Report 2009

(World Economic Forum, October 8, 2009)

The world's largest economies took the biggest hit, according to the report. Global financial centers still lead in the report's Index, but the effects of financial instability have pulled down their scores compared to last year. The United Kingdom, buoyed by the relative strength of its banking and non-banking financial activities, claimed the Index's top spot from the U.S., which slipped to third position behind Australia largely due to poorer financial stability scores and a weakened banking sector. The report ranks 55 of the world's leading financial systems and capital markets.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.weforum.org/pdf/FinancialDevelopmentReport/Report2009.pdf>

Global Corruption Report 2009: Corruption and Private Sector

(Transparency International, September 2009)

The private sector plays a pivotal role in fighting corruption worldwide, says the report. It documents in detail the many corruption risks for businesses, ranging from small entrepreneurs in Sub-Saharan Africa to multinationals from Europe and North America. More than 75 experts examine the scale, scope and devastating consequences of a wide range of corruption issues.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.transparency.org/publications/gcr>

Guiding Principles for Stabilization and Reconstruction

(U.S. Institute of Peace and U.S. Army Peacekeeping and Stability Operations Institute, October 2009)

The manual presents the first strategic “doctrine” ever produced for civilians engaged in peace building missions. It is a practical roadmap for helping countries transition from violent conflict to peace.

For full text follow the link: http://www.usip.org/files/resources/guiding_principles_full.pdf

The Internet As a Diversion

(Pew Internet & American Life. Aaron Smith, September 2009)

Three-quarters of online economic users, those Americans who use the internet to keep up with news about the economic recession or their own personal finances, go online to relax and take their minds off of the recession, according to an April 2009 survey by the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2009/PIP-The-Internet-as-a-Diversion.pdf>

Mapping the Global Muslim Population

(Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, October 8, 2009)

A comprehensive demographic study of more than 200 countries finds that there are 1.57 billion Muslims of all ages living in the world today, representing 23% of an estimated 2009 world population of 6.8 billion.

For full text follow the link: <http://pewforum.org/newassets/images/reports/Muslimpopulation/Muslimpopulation.pdf>

Marketing U.S. Organic Foods: Recent Trends from Farms to Consumers

By Carolyn Dimitri and Lydia Oberholtzer

(U.S. Department of Agriculture, September 29, 2009)

Organic foods now occupy prominent shelf space in the produce and dairy aisles of most mainstream U.S. food retailers. A broader range of consumers has been buying more varieties of organic food. Organic handlers, who purchase products from farmers and often supply them to retailers, sell more organic products to conventional retailers and club stores than ever before. Only one segment has not kept pace, organic farms have struggled at times to produce sufficient supply to keep up with the rapid growth in demand, leading to periodic shortages of organic products.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB58/EIB58.pdf>

Measuring Immigrant Assimilation in the United States

By Jacob L. Vigdor

(Manhattan Institute, October 2009)

The year 2007 marked an economic turning point in the United States. According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, the nation's economic output peaked late in the year and then began to contract. This development affected immigration in two important

ways: immigrants began arriving in fewer numbers than they have since the 1960s; and those immigrants who not only arrived but stayed fell further behind the native-born population economically. Economic assimilation declined even among immigrants who arrived more than a decade ago, indicating that differences between that cohort and the native-born population widened.

For full text follow the link: http://www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/cr_59.pdf

“Who Will Tell Me What Happened to My Son?”

(Human Rights Watch, September 27, 2009)

For the victims and relatives of victims who have won cases from Chechnya at the European Court, victory has been a mixed experience. While the applicants have received from the Russian government the financial compensation awarded in the court's judgment, they continue to strive for justice for the crimes they and their loved ones have suffered and for knowledge about the fate of their killed or disappeared relatives, according to the report.

For full text follow the link: http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/russia0909webwcover_1.pdf

Women in the Labor Force: A Databook

(U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, September 2009)

The past several decades have been marked by notable changes in women's labor force activities. Women's labor force participation is significantly higher today than it was in the 1970s, particularly among women with children, and a larger share of women work full time and year round than in past decades. In addition, women have increasingly attained higher levels of education: among women aged 25 to 64 who are in the labor force, the proportion with a college degree roughly tripled from 1970 to 2008.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.bls.gov/cps/wlf-databook-2009.pdf>

G-20 Nations Divided over How to Fix World Economy

(Spiegel Online International, September, 2009)

In the run-up to the G-20 summit in Pittsburgh, there are very few issues that all the participating nations agree on. Member states are divided over whether to limit bankers' bonuses and how to boost growth...

For full text follow the link: <http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,650449,00.html#ref=nlint>

G-20 Summit: Recovering from the Crisis

(The Brookings Institution, September, 2009)

There is the prospect of financial and economic recovery—albeit fragile—and the question is how to ensure that it is sustainable. While it is too early to withdraw the substantial fiscal stimulus and monetary easing, the task that G-20 leaders have to confront now is one of coordinating the composition and timing of their policies...

For full text follow the link: http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2009/0917_g20_summit.aspx