

IRC ALERT

November/December 2006

FOCUS: Empowering Women Worldwide

The equality and empowerment of women is a deeply held notion for the American people, and the continued advancement of equality and opportunity for women everywhere, including at home in the United States, is an important priority for U.S. policymakers. Over the past decade, the United States has taken significant, tangible steps to improve education, health, family life, economic opportunities, and political empowerment for American women. These advances have not come in isolation. U.S. domestic efforts to expand opportunities and protect the rights of women often have served as models for individuals and groups in other countries. Similarly, many of the country's domestic programs for women have benefited enormously from the sustained attention of women and organizations throughout the world. Progress for women is inseparable from the social and political progress of every society. When women are oppressed, denied freedom, and held back from opportunity, then an entire society suffers, not just its female members.

This is as true for the United States as for any other nation. "Women's issues," said then Secretary of State Colin Powell, "affect not only women; they have profound implications for all humankind. Women's issues are human rights issues. We, as a world community, cannot even begin to tackle the array of problems and challenges confronting us without the full and equal participation of women in all aspects of life."

The United States is deeply committed to promoting global respect for women. Because the United States considers the rights and freedom of women to be fundamental human rights, the Bush Administration has made the empowerment of women integral to U.S. foreign policy. The U.S. Government is helping women become full participants in their societies through various initiatives and programs that increase women's political and economic participation.

In the international arena, the United States has aided efforts that have garnered

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substantial progress for women around the world. Some of this progress is historic. In Afghanistan, for example, millions of Afghan women cast their ballots in their country's first-ever free presidential election in October 2004. The United States provided political and advocacy training for Afghan women and funds to support voter registration and the election process.

The United States supports the right of all people to broad-based, representative governance. The promotion of women's political participation is an important element of U.S. foreign policy. The United States and nations around the world are working to help women become full participants in their governments and societies through programs that support women's education, leadership capabilities, and representation in national and local governments. Increasing women's political participation strengthens democracy. This contributes to a more stable world, and is in the interest of the United States and all law-abiding societies.

The U.S. is also committed strongly to increasing economic opportunities for women, both at home and throughout the world. Enabling economic opportunities for women is also important to U.S. international assistance goals. Integrating gender "should be a central component of making international assistance more effective," said Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in January. "Decades of experience and research demonstrate that when gender differences -- the different rights, roles, responsibilities and resources of men and women -- are not taken into account, international assistance programs often fail to meet their goals.

More broadly, the United States provides hundreds of millions of dollars each year for concrete projects benefiting women everywhere: education and literacy training; assistance to public-private partnerships for business development; micro-credit loans for aspiring women entrepreneurs; maternal and child health care programs; HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment centers; anti-trafficking projects; leadership, political, and advocacy training; and more. The United States Government is committed to preventing violence against women and to providing assistance to other countries as they work toward the same goal.

6-1/FOC

**ABOUT AMERICA: Women of Influence
Revised November 2006.**

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/womeninfln/>

This publication offers a glimpse at how women in one country — the United States — have helped shape their society. These notable women — from the Native-American Sacagawea, who guided white settlers through a vast wilderness, to Sojourner Truth, who fought for the end of slavery and equal rights for all; to Rosalyn Yalow, winner of the Nobel Prize in Medicine for her research into a new technique for measuring substances in the blood — believed that they had a contribution to make and did not shrink from the obstacles in their way. This account of their accomplishments is a reminder that all societies benefit from the talents and expertise of their women.

6-2/FOC

MOVING TOWARDS WOMEN LEADERS

By Ruth Johnson

Futurics, Vol.29, No. 3/4, 2005, pp. 68-70.

Women have made great strides in business since the Women Right's Movement. However, there are still many things that continue to make their lives difficult in the work force such as sexual harassment, the need for flexibility and benefits, management style stereotypes, and many others. Yet, women persist to break through these barriers to obtain the ultimate goal: equality and success in business.

6-3/FOC

PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY: The Rights of Women and Girls

International Information Programs, Department of State, March 2005.

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/principles/women.pdf>

Discrimination against women means that specific laws or practices create a distinction, exclusion, or restriction on the basis of gender. Democracies should strive to protect women's rights, encourage

women's participation in all aspects of society and government, and create places for women to associate freely and express their views openly.

6-4/FOC

TALKING GENDER EQUALITY SERIOUSLY United Nations Development Program, 2006.

[http://www.undp.org/women/docs/
TakingGenderEqualitySeriously.pdf](http://www.undp.org/women/docs/TakingGenderEqualitySeriously.pdf)

“Enhancing women’s freedom and equality must be a deliberate and consistent part of all that we do. Expanded freedoms for all, women and men, girls and boys, must be our goal – both because it is necessary for development effectiveness and because equality is a core value of the UN Charter, a value we have all pledged to protect as representatives of the UN system. The examples in this booklet show that mainstreaming achieves results when resources, capacity, commitment and management support all converge in a strategic area.”

6-5/FOC

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Transcript of Democracy Dialogues Web Chat International Information Programs, Department of State, April 6, 2006.

[http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Archive/2006/
Apr/17-930855.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Archive/2006/Apr/17-930855.html)

The Global Summit of Women has become an important forum for the exchange of ideas and the building of productive alliances, especially in terms of economic opportunities for women worldwide. The United States is committed strongly to increasing economic opportunities for women, both at home and throughout the world.

6-6/FOC

WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION: Transcript of Democracy Dialogues Web Chat International Information Programs, Department of State, March 16, 2006.

[http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Archive/2006/
Mar/16-383506.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Archive/2006/Mar/16-383506.html)

The promotion of women's political participation is an important element of U.S. foreign policy. The United States and women around the world are working to help women become full participants in

their governments and societies through programs that support women's education, leadership capabilities, and representation in national and local governments.

6-7/FOC

WORKING FOR WOMEN, WORLDWIDE: The U.S. Commitment Office of International Information Programs, February 2005.

[http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/women/
index.htm](http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/women/index.htm)

Published to mark the 10th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration at the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women, this full-color publication combines overview essays and success stories that detail U.S. achievements in helping women abroad and in the United States. Text and photos focus on the areas of education and training, health, economic empowerment, political empowerment, helping women in conflict situations, and in combating violence against women. This publication is a collaboration between the Bureau of International Organization Affairs and IIP.

6-8/FOC

WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE KORAN: An Interpretive Approach By Niaz A. Shah

Human Rights Quarterly, Vol. 28, No. 4, pp. 868-1095.

This article discusses three different Islamic approaches towards human rights, secular, non-compatible, and reconciliatory, and proposes an interpretive approach. It argues that if the discriminatory statutory Islamic laws of Muslim states are reformed according to the suggested contextual interpretation of the Koran, greater compatibility with international human rights standards may be achieved, specifically in contentious areas such as divorce, polygamy, evidence, and inheritance. The thrust of the article is that the intention of the Koran was to raise the status of women in society, not to relegate them to subordination as is commonly believed and practiced in much of the Muslim world today.

FOCUS — Internet Sites

The U.S. Embassy assumes no responsibility for the content and availability of the resources listed below. All links were active as of December 27, 2006.

U.S. GOVERNMENT

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS: GLOBALIZATION AND WOMEN IN MUSLIM SOCIETIES

http://www.loc.gov/loc/lcib/0012/worldwide_women.html

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ISSUES, Department of State

<http://www.state.gov/g/wi/>

U.S. COMMITMENT TO WOMEN

<http://www.state.gov/g/wi/c11272.htm>

WOMEN IN GLOBAL COMMUNITY

http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/human_rights/women.html

ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of University Women

<http://www.aauw.org/>

Catalyst

<http://www.catalystwomen.org/>

Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP)

<http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~cawp/>

Independent Women's Forum

<http://www.iwf.org/>

Institute for Women's Policy Research

<http://www.iwpr.org/>

League of Women Voters

<http://www.lwv.org/>

National Council for Research on Women

<http://www.ncrw.org/>

National Federation of Republican Women

<http://www.nfrw.org/>

National Organization for Women (NOW)

<http://www.now.org/>

National Partnership for Women and Families

<http://www.nationalpartnership.org/>

National Women's Political Caucus

<http://www.nwpc.org/>

The Schlesinger Library

<http://www.radcliffe.edu/schles/>

Women Leaders Online/Women Organizing for Change

<http://wlo.org/>

Women's International Center (WIC)

<http://www.wic.org/>

Women's Policy, Inc. (WPI)

<http://www.womenspolicy.org/>

Women's Research & Education Institute (WREI)

<http://www.wrei.org/>

6-9/IS

AN ASSESSMENT OF INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION EFFORTS AFTER 60 YEARS

By Nabil Fahmy

Nonproliferation Review, Vol. 13, No. 1, March 2006, pp. 81-87.

Discussions among practitioners and pundits are incriminating evidence of the failure to deal with the threats and dangers of proliferation. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) has made an important contribution in years past, but its success remains limited as it has become an unambitious static regime, solidifying prevailing inequities or a status quo that will not stand. Some states are bound to reassess their commitments or to hesitate in making new commitments in nuclear or other areas without a change of course by the international community and more rigorous efforts. Ultimately, regional and international peace and security will be jeopardized by such inaction. The Middle East region, for example, is a striking example of the failure of global and regional nonproliferation efforts. The continuance of nuclear proliferation concerns in the Middle East with the emergence of a nuclear state, will have a fundamental effect on the security paradigm in the region.

6-10/IS

EXPLORING THE ROOT CAUSES OF TERRORISM

By Edward Newman

Studies in Conflict and Terrorism, Vol. 29, No. 8, 2006, pp. 749-772.

This article attempts to clarify what is meant by root causes and considers if their analysis helps to explain and describe how, where, and why terrorism occurs. In attempting to explore but not definitively resolve these challenges, the article will attempt to delineate root causes into qualitative and quantitative variables that can be empirically tested in relation to contemporary terrorist activity. In so doing, it considers the relative merits of different methodologies for approaching root causes. The

article concludes that indirect and underlying sources of conflict are significant to understanding specific incidents of terrorism and certain categories of terrorism; that root causes are less helpful in describing and explaining terrorism as a general phenomenon; and that root causes are of analytical use only in conjunction with precipitant factors.

6-11/IS

LETTER FROM AFGHANISTAN: Are the Taliban Winning?

By Ahmed Rashid

Current History, Vol. 106, No. 696, January 2007, pp. 17-19.

"There is no doubt that Afghanistan has progressed enormously since 9-11, but now even the positive achievements carried out by the international community appear to be unraveling."

6-12/IS

THE POLITICS OF WATER IN SOUTH ASIA: The Case of the Indus Waters Treaty

By Hamir K Sahni

SAIS Review, Vol. 26, No. 2; Summer 2006, pp. 153-165.

Because water could be a major source of future conflicts among states (what some have called the coming of the "water wars"), it is extremely important that steps be taken to resolve these issues and ensure greater access to water. Such efforts are especially needed in South Asia. The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) is an agreement between India and Pakistan to share the waters of the Indus river system that the two countries signed in 1960. The IWT is also one of the few such international agreements on the sharing of river waters that has been a success, despite the ongoing rivalry between India and Pakistan. This paper lays out a role for U.S. policy to help resolve the current dispute between India and Pakistan over the IWT, and explains how it can be used to help achieve larger and broader U.S. policy goals. The lack of sufficient mutual trust among the main partners to the treaty requires the intervention of a third party that is not perceived as biased and yet can be an effective mediator. The paper argues that this policy of intervention is in alignment with U.S. interests and will be a step toward meeting the U.S. goal of stability in this volatile region.

6-13/IS

REMEMBER AFGHANISTAN?: A Glass Half

Full, on the Titanic

By Carl Robichaud

World Policy Journal, Vol. 23, No. 1, Spring 2006, pp. 17-24.

The author, a director of the Afghanistan Watch program at The Century Foundation, discusses the recent history and the current situation in Afghanistan, pointing out that a lack of resources forced decision makers to “address short-term needs at the expense of longer term priorities.” Describing Afghanistan’s government as “among the world’s weakest and its people among the most destitute,” he also explains that the Afghanistan Compact, an agreement by 60 international donors in London in January 2006, is a “sound plan” to meet the challenges. Robichaud presents six issues on which the donor nations must focus -- among them the idea that “NATO forces are necessary but not sufficient,” that “a war on drugs must be avoided,” and that “greater external diplomatic engagement is needed if Pakistan is to withdraw its support from the Taliban.”

6-14/IS

STRATEGY FOR A NEW NUCLEAR AGE

By James Doyle

The Nonproliferation Review, Vol. 13, NO. 1, March 2006, pp. 89-111.

Current U.S. nuclear weapons strategy, force structure, and doctrine contribute to the threat of nuclear terrorism in several ways. First, the U.S. nuclear stockpile presents opportunities for nuclear terrorists to seize the materials they need. Second, U.S. nuclear forces remain a key justification for Russia's maintenance of similar nuclear forces that are less well protected. Third, America's continued embrace of nuclear weapons encourages and legitimizes other states to seek nuclear weapons that they will have difficulty securing from terrorists. The national security interests of the United States would be better served by a strategy to shrink the global footprint of nuclear weapons and provide the highest possible levels of security for the most minimal possible deterrent forces. Given the inability to secure nuclear weapons and materials perfectly or to eliminate terrorism in the foreseeable future, reducing

the global inventory of nuclear weapons and materials is the most reliable way to reduce the chances of nuclear terrorism.

6-15/IS

THERE ARE NO SHORTCUTS TO "THE END OF HISTORY"

By Francis Fukuyama

New Perspectives Quarterly, Vol. 23, No. 2, Spring 2006, pp. 35-38.

http://www.digitalnpq.org/archive/2006_spring/09_fukuyama.html

Fukuyama, who teaches at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, points to several illusions that led to the current American position in the Middle East. These include the existence of weapons of mass destruction, the speed with which Iraq would transition to a successful democracy, and the reaction of the world to the invasion of Iraq. To remedy its current predicament, America needs more of a political strategy and less of a military one. We should not reshape the world through the use of force, but by establishing multilateral institutions that will create long-term incentives for stability.

6-16/IS

WHAT IF A NUCLEAR-ARMED STATE COLLAPSES?

By Michael O’Hanlon

Current History, Vol. 105, No. 694, November 2006, pp. 379-384.

Few dangers in the twenty-first century can compete with the altogether too plausible scenario in which a nuclear-armed state collapses, with the custody of its weapons immediately becoming a national security threat of the highest order to the United States and some of its allies. The recent experience in overthrowing Saddam Hussein's regime, for the purported purpose of eliminating his weapons of mass destruction (WMD) capabilities, is a good place to begin this discussion because it shows the capabilities-and the limitations-of us military power.

6-17/IS

WHAT MAKES A MUSLIM RADICAL?

By John L. Esposito and Dalia Mogahed

Foreign Policy, November 2006 .

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=3637

Ask any foreign-policy expert how the West will know it is winning the war on terror, and the likely response will be, "When the Islamic world rejects radicalism." But just who are Muslim radicals, and what fuels their fury? Every politician has a theory: Radicals are religious fundamentalists. They are poor. They are full of hopelessness and hate. But those theories are wrong. Based on a new Gallup World Poll of more than 9,000 interviews in nine Muslim countries, we find that Muslim radicals have more in common with their moderate brethren than is often assumed. If the West wants to reach the extremists, and empower the moderate Muslim majority, it must first recognize who it's up against.

6-18/IS*

WHY TERRORISM DOES NOT WORK

By Max Abrahms

International Security, Vol. 31, No. 2, Fall 2006, pp. 42-78.

This is the first article to analyze a large sample of terrorist groups in terms of their policy effectiveness. It includes every foreign terrorist organization (FTO) designated by the U.S. Department of State since 2001. The key variable for FTO success is a tactical one: target selection. Terrorist groups whose attacks on civilian targets outnumber attacks on military targets do not tend to achieve their policy objectives, regardless of their nature. Contrary to the prevailing view that terrorism is an effective means of political coercion, the universe of cases suggests that, first, contemporary terrorist groups rarely achieve their policy objectives and, second, the poor success rate is inherent to the tactic of terrorism itself. The bulk of the article develops a theory for why countries are reluctant to make policy concessions when their civilian populations are the primary target.

DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

6-19/DHR

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY: Hard to Define, But You'd Know it if You Saw it

By Cynthia P. Schneider

The Brown Journal of World Affairs, Vol. 13, No. 1, Fall/Winter 2006, pp. 191-203.

The author argues that in the current period of conflict between the U.S. and the extremists in the Muslim world, cultural diplomacy can be an effective or even the only viable way to communicate between peoples, since creative expression and the emotional appeal of art can help people from different societies find common ground. In the post-Cold War period, the U.S. has only paid "lip service" to cultural and public diplomacy (PD); Schneider quotes Walter Lacquer in arguing that public diplomacy has increased in importance, whereas traditional diplomacy and military power "are of limited use" in coping with the challenges of the Information Age. Public Diplomacy is a long-term engagement with more depth than merely supporting government policies and has the long-term goals of increasing understanding and building relationships and trust. PD initiatives will be all the more effective if they are perceived as being "separate from any goal of advancing specific policy objectives"

6-20/DHR

DEMOCRATS TO WATCH

By Richard E. Cohen and Others

National Journal, Vol. 38, No. 46-47, November 18, 2006, pp 20-34.

This cover story profiles numerous House Democrats -- those expected to be leaders, renegades, power brokers, policy wonks, deal-makers, or even just expected to provide amusement to Congress-watchers. Among those to watch, there are representatives considered by the authors to be "old bulls," whom insiders are watching to see if they will follow House Speaker Pelosi's agenda or rebel. Also, there are the "sages," who are the experts Democratic leaders can depend on to "provide frank advice or inject a dose of reality when party colleagues begin dreaming too big." Additionally, there are many new

"Blue Dog" Democrats, who are moderate-to-conservative-leaning and could likely play an influential role because of their increase in numbers. Members of the Congressional Black Caucus may also be very influential because at least five House committees are likely to be chaired by their members. The article also lists representatives who are likely to be influential on Iraq, human rights and security.

6-21/DHR

ELECTIONS: Reliability Trumps Competence: Personal Attributes in the 2004 Presidential Election

By Martin P. Wattenberg

Presidential Studies Quarterly, Vol. 36, No. 4, December 2006, pp. 705-713.

The author, professor of political science at the University of California at Irvine, argues that while partisanship, issues and the characters of presidential candidates are thought to be the main determinates in voting behavior, character trumped these other issues in the 2004 election. Wattenberg rates the character of candidates using five factors: competence, integrity, reliability, charisma and personal qualities. Using this evaluation system, he found that President Bush had a net personality rating of +20, while it was -30 for Senator Kerry, the largest divide between candidates since 1972. Kerry's lowest marks were on the reliability trait, with one out of five voters evaluating him as weak or indecisive. He also scored low for integrity. President Bush scored low on competence, making him the first incumbent president to be rated below his opponent. The author concludes that Bush's higher ratings on strength and integrity were deciding factors in 2004 because voters wanted a president who would be steadfast and decisive in a time of war.

6-22/DHR

FOR POOR COUNTRIES' YOUTH, DASHED HOPES SIGNAL DANGER AHEAD

By Richard Curtain

Current History, Vol. 105, No. 695, December 2006, pp. 435-440.

"Where the youth bulge is expanding in low-income countries . . . , the levels of frustration and conflict are certain to rise. The urgent question facing the developing world is how to improve young people's

job prospects now."

6-23/DHR

WHY LIBERALS SHOULD VALUE 'IDENTITY POLITICS'

By Courtney Jung

Daedalus, Vol. 135, No. 4, Fall 2006, pp. 32-39.

Interviewed on the fortieth anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington, civil rights activist Eleanor Holmes Norton was asked why the only woman to take the podium on the day of the protest was Mahalia Jackson, who sang "The Star Spangled Banner." Not a single woman, among the many people who spoke that day, was solicited to address the audience of protestors who had come to Washington to demand voting rights for African Americans. From the vantage point of 2003, the interviewer was curious how the organizers of a civil-rights march could have overlooked such obvious sexism in the midst of their fight against racism.

6-24/DHR

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM: Is Islam Compatible With Western Values?

By Kenneth Jost

CQ Researcher, Vol. 16, No. 39, November 3, 2006, pp. 913-936

This in-depth survey of Islam in contemporary society addresses the apparent contradictions between a religion that teaches "piety, virtue and tolerance" and the view that Islam encourages violence more than other religions. While mainstream Muslims assert that Islam is wrongly blamed for the violence and intolerance of a few, critics contend that moderate Muslims have not done enough to oppose terrorism and that Islam is incompatible with Western values. At the same time that radical Islamist ideas are attracting a growing number of young Muslims overseas, some Muslims are advocating a more progressive form of Islam. Using charts, graphs, and other sidebars, the article also provides background information on the history of the faith, Islamist movements, and the "war on terror." In addition, it includes discussions of Muslim identities and religious clashes and misunderstandings between Islam and the West, as well as a chronology, a bibliography, and a list of organizations to contact for more information.

6-25/ES

CAN CORRUPTION AND ECONOMIC CRIME BE CONTROLLED IN DEVELOPING ECONOMIES, AND IF SO, IS THE COST WORTH IT?

By Gjenez Budima

Journal of Financial Crime, Vol. 13, No. 4, 2006, pp. 408-419.

Budima, a professor of philosophy at the University of Pristina, says the definitions of economic crime and corruption vary across societies, and developing countries are more prone to these activities than the developed world. Regardless, she notes, they rank amongst the most costly of all criminal activities, and have dire consequences. Corruption is a crime without borders, not a localized crime, she notes. So, efforts to control crimes of corruption need to come from multiple fronts. Effective domestic control requires state mechanisms, along with the support of society and the media, she explains. Internationally, Budima continues, successful control requires absolute cooperation between governments to enforce anti-corruption regulations. Global action in fighting economic crimes is vital to developing countries, she writes, because development needs a business environment with fair and manageable risk.

6-26/ES

DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT: Boosting Economies with Low-cost Laptops, Cell Phones and Other Technologies (Transcript of IIP Web Chat)

International Information Programs, Department of State, November 16, 2006.

<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Archive/2006/Nov/20-129978.html>

A \$100 laptop might make the Internet accessible to millions of schoolchildren in developing countries; Africa is emerging as the fastest-growing market for mobile phones. Shalini Venturelli, associate professor at American University's School of International Service, answers questions on how these and other developments in information technology will revolutionize how people in developing nations build

a workforce and do business.

6-27/ES*

DISASTER RELIEF, INC.

By Anisya Thomas, Lynn Fritz

Harvard Business Review, Vol. 84, No. 11, November 2006.

The article discusses ways in which companies can best respond to natural disasters. The corporate response following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami was overwhelming, in some cases detrimentally so, as the supplies and funds being donated were not dispersed to their best uses. Corporations should take guidance from the actions of Coca-Cola and TNT when planning for future disaster aid. Coca-Cola donated water to the Red Cross, filling a need with their product. The logistics company TNT provided organizational support to the World Food Programme, playing on its strengths in services.

6-28/ES

COMPUTER IMPACT ON BUSINESS

By Aurora McCleary

Futurics, Vol. 30, No. 1/2, 2006, pp. 100-103.

Technology use to be popular in the work place only with having computers, typewriters, multi-phone lines and all sorts of other gadgets. Now, technology has crept into one's homes, cars and one's personal lives. One can be certain that every household will have at least one computer, cell phone or digital device in a home today. McCleary discusses the impact of computers in one's business.

6-29/ES

WHO CARES ABOUT CORRUPTION?

By Alvaro Cuervo-Cazurra

Journal of International Business Studies, No. 37, 2006, pp. 807-822.

Cuervo-Cazurra, a professor of international business at the University of South Carolina, analyzes the relationship between corruption and foreign direct investment (FDI). Many empirical studies support the premise that corruption in a host country has a negative relationship with FDI, he writes. However, he adds, some scholars argue that corruption can have a positive impact on investment by facilitating transactions in countries with excessive regulation.

His analysis compared countries that had signed the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials versus those countries that did not sign it. Countries that signed the OECD Convention attracted more FDI from other countries with strong anti-corruption laws, he says. And, the composition of FDI from non-signers of the OECD Convention primarily came from countries with weaker anti-corruption regulation.

GLOBAL ISSUES & COMMUNICATION

6-30/GIC

THE CANCER OF DORIAN GRAY

By Ben Harder

Science News, Vol. 170, No. 19, November 4, 2006, pp. 296-297.

The author notes that recent research suggests that aging may be an "inescapable cost of averting malignancy." New studies find that, by engineering a strain of mice that allows cells to regenerate, prolonging youth, the mice also develop cancer and die young -- a scientific twist on the hero of the Oscar Wilde novel, Dorian Gray, who hated aging, and whose body did not grow old, but whose portrait suffered the ravages of time. Rapid cell division is a sign both of youth, and of cancer development. Says one scientist, "Aging itself may be part of the body's anticancer machinery." A protein known as p16, which erodes cells' ability to replicate, grows more abundant with age in certain mammalian tissue. Much of the current research centers around how malignancy and the aging process are interconnected, which might lead to ways that chemotherapy and radiation treatments used to treat cancer will be safer for patients.

6-31/GIC

AN EFFICIENT SOLUTION

By Eberhard K. Jochem

Scientific American, Vol. 295, No. 3, September 2006, pp. 64-67.

The author, a Swiss economist, asserts that the least expensive way to reduce carbon emissions is to waste less energy. He notes that buildings and houses are

very energy inefficient and contribute more than one-third of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions. Benefits from energy-efficient features should be calculated into the 50- to 100-year lifetime of new buildings, even though such features may increase construction costs. Retrofitting existing structures requires a coordinated series of changes to maximize savings. And, governments can implement energy policies which recognize the benefits of efficiency. Illustrations highlight energy-efficient features of new buildings in cities around the world and used in construction and appliances in homes.

6-32/GIC

GLOBAL PROGRESS REPORT, 2007

By the Editors of Current History

Current History, December 2006, pp. 403-414.

Iraq and Darfur are bloody messes. Development has benefited millions but left more behind. Climate change and nuclear proliferation loom. Without US help, international institutions will not be able to address problems like these effectively. The article also includes "How Is the World Doing?", and Current History's annual report card.

6-33/GIC

HOW TO BUILD AN INVISIBILITY CLOAK

By Josie Glausiusz

Discover, Vol. 27, No. 11, November 2006.

Great media excitement met the announcement in May 2006 that Duke University physicists had made an object invisible. The object, a small metal cylinder, was invisible to microwaves because shielding with a metamaterial bent the waves to prevent the object from reflecting or absorbing them. But, this experiment does not mean that all sorts of objects will soon become invisible to human sight. Achieving a similar result for visible light is much more complex because visible light is composed of a range of wavelengths which are much shorter than microwaves, thus requiring the shielding elements to be designed on a nanometer scale. Other physicists have used a mathematical approach to develop a superlens that cancels light waves to make dust particles invisible. How quickly the research will develop to enable a large object, such as an airplane, to become invisible is only speculation, but the military is funding such research and exploring

applications of invisibility technology in communications and energy generation.

6-34/GIC

IMMIGRATION NATION

By Tamar Jacoby

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 85, No. 6, November/December 2006.

<http://>

www.foreignaffairs.org/20061101faessay85606/tamar-jacoby/immigration-nation.html

In this essay Jacoby, Senior Fellow at the Manhattan Institute, argues that the overwhelming majority of Americans want a combination of tougher enforcement and “earned citizenship” for the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants in the country. He says the best way to regain control is not to crack down on illegal immigrants, but to liberalize U.S. laws by expanding quotas and establishing a guest-worker program more in line with the half-million new workers now needed each year to keep the U.S. economy growing. Jacoby also calls for “a national, mandatory, electronic employment-verification system” that informs employers in a timely way whether job applicants are authorized to work in the United States. Acknowledging the serious fears that immigrants will not or cannot assimilate, Jacoby says that eliminating “the vast illegal world of second-class non-citizens” would remove barriers to Americanization.

6-35/GIC

THE THIRTEENTH TIPPING POINT

By Julia Whitty

Mother Jones, Vol. 31, No. 6, November/December 2006.

<http://www.motherjones.com>

The author notes that John Schellnhuber, science adviser at the U.K.-based Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, has identified twelve global-warming “tipping points”, such as changes in the Greenland ice sheet, shifts in the North Atlantic or Antarctic Circumpolar currents, or melting of snow cover on the Tibetan plateau, which if triggered, could initiate sudden and unpredictable changes in the global climate. Most humans may have never heard of them, although the well-being of future generations may depend on what happens. Whitty wonders,

“what will it take to trigger what we might call the thirteenth tipping point: the shift in human perception from personal denial to personal responsibility?” She notes that “we are born with powerful tools for overcoming our perilous complacency”; Americans changed “with breathtaking speed” in 1941 to fight global enemies in Germany and Japan. While tipping points can happen “dizzily fast, the good news is ... that we can change, and change fast, even in the absence of perfect knowledge.”

U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

6-36/SV

AMERICA'S BEST LEADERS

By David Gergen

U.S. News & World Report, Vol. 141, No. 16, October 30, 2006, pp. 50-91.

Where have all the leaders gone? As Americans survey a landscape that seems uncommonly bleak, a new national survey commissioned for this issue of U.S. News found that two thirds of the public believes the nation is in a leadership crisis, while nearly three quarters worries that unless we find better leaders soon, the nation will begin to decline. Some 9 of every 10 people say political leaders today spend too much time attacking rivals, while 8 of 10 believe that corporate leaders are more concerned with making money than with running their companies well. There are some glimmers of hope, however. As it did last year, U.S. News teamed with the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government to identify leaders who are making a difference. A national panel sifted through thickets of recommendations and agreed on a small group of men and women who embody the most important traits of leadership. There may be a dearth of leadership in our national life, but as the portraits in this issue attest, there are still great leaders abroad in the land. -David Gergen, cochair, "America's Best Leaders" project.

6-37/SV

COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

By Gabriel Kasper and others.

Foundation News and Commentary, Vol. 47, No. 4, September/October 2006, pp. 14-23.

<http://www.foundationnews.org>

In “Staying Ahead of the Technology Curve,” the first article in this series, Gabriel Kasper, Lucy Bernholz, and Katherine Fulton discuss tools for collective intelligence, community building, and mobilizing resources, technologies that could change “where and how communities define themselves and come together to address local issues.” “Staying the Course” by Francie Ostrower is based on a study of community foundation approaches to effectiveness, which analyzed the characteristics, challenges, and opportunities faced by over 1,000 foundations. Concluding that community foundations cannot be all things to all people, the report recommends that they enhance their effectiveness by focusing on bringing together different parts of the community to address their specific community needs. Finally, Lauren Norton describes how the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta collaborated with local leaders to bring the historic papers of Martin Luther King, Jr. back to Atlanta in “The Ultimate Philanthropy.”

6-38/SV

DR. HELENE GAYLE: A Different Kind of Care Package

By Lynette R. Holloway

Ebony, Vol. 62, No. 2, December 2006, pp. 146++

Dr. Helene Gayle is the first African-American to serve as president and chief executive of CARE, a global poverty-fighting organization. In this biographical sketch, Holloway traces Gayle’s career from the late 1970s, when she was one of the few African-American women enrolled in medical school, to the present, emphasizing the determination, energy, and empathy that have characterized her life. Under Gayle’s leadership, CARE recently kicked off its “I Am Powerful” campaign, whose goal is to improve the health, education and economic opportunities for women in developing countries. Believing that improving the lives of women can have a positive impact on their communities; Dr. Gayle contends that “if you can give individuals the tools to access [their] basic needs, it can lift people out of poverty ... My

hope is to make a difference.”

6-39/SV

STRIKING A POSE

By Hanna Rosin

The Atlantic Monthly, Vol. 298 No. 5, December 2006, pp. 114-119 +1 cartoon

The article discusses the growing popularity and commercialization of yoga in the United States. Yoga first appeared in America during the 1950s and 1960s in California communes as a means of spiritual guidance. By the 1980s, yoga blossomed into a West Coast fitness fad. It is estimated that 15 million Americans now practice some form of yoga, such as Iyengar and Anusara. The article also mentions well-known yoga instructor Baron Baptiste, who created a more powerful form of yoga training.

6-40/SV

THEY MADE AMERICA

By Ross Douthat, et al.

The Atlantic Monthly, Dec2006, Vol. 298 Issue 5, pp. 59-78.

The article offers a look at the 100 most influential figures in American history, as nominated by ten eminent historians. The article defines influence as a person's impact, for good or ill, on his or her own era and the way Americans live in the present. The article invites readers to debate the figures chosen, such as John D. Rockefeller, James Fenimore Cooper, and Adolf Hitler, and to nominate those who weren't.

DOCUMENT ALERT

6-41/DOC

THE ARTS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:

Involved In Arts, Involved In Life

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), Web-posted November 2006.

<http://www.nea.gov/pub/CivicEngagement.pdf>

This research paper explores the link between arts participation and broader civic and community involvement. The report finds that people who participate in the arts, especially readers, also engage

in positive civic and individual activities -- such as volunteering, going to sporting events, and outdoor activities -- at significantly higher rates than non-arts participants. One conclusion is clear from the research: "Art is not escapism but an invitation to activism." There is also a cautionary note -- the report reveals that young adults show declines in participation rates for most arts and civic categories.

6-42/DOC

HOW ARE YOUTH FARING IN THE LABOR MARKET? Evidence from Around the world

By Jean Fares and others

The World Bank, November 2006.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2006/11/20/000016406_20061120121219/Rendered/PDF/wps4071.pdf

This paper uses a new standardized micro database for a large set of developing countries to: describe the patterns of labor market outcomes for youth, and; explain the contributions of supply and demand factors to youth outcomes. The paper shows that youth face various difficulties in transitioning to work. This is reflected in their relatively higher unemployment rate, higher incidence of low paying or unpaid work, and a large share of youth who are neither working nor in school. This is especially true for young girls who are found outside the labor market, some engaged in home production. Finally, the paper also finds that cross-country estimates show that changes in the youth relative cohort size is unlikely to have a large effect on how youth are faring in the labor market.

6-43/DOC

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS OF CHARITABLE GIVING

Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), November 26, 2006.

<http://www.cafonline.org/pdf/International%20%20Giving%20highlights.pdf>

Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) is an international charities foundation. Its recent survey reviewed and compared a number of countries whose wealth covers over half the total global economy. The data were standardized as much as possible and the results showed a considerable international variation of

charitable giving as a proportion of the Gross National Product (GDP). The survey found that charitable giving represents a lower proportion of GDP in countries with higher levels of personal taxation. The conclusion showed that some countries could set higher targets for individual charitable giving.

6-44/DOC

REDUCING URBAN VIOLENCE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

By Caroline O. N, Moser, Brooking Institution, November 2006.

<http://www.brookings.edu/views/papers/20061121moser.pdf>

Urban violence is a serious constraint in developing countries, but recently growing knowledge indicates that urban residents "may be the key to better understanding of such violence and to identifying appropriate interventions." Such assessments assist in developing a holistic framework that positions violence in terms of three components: (1) the social, economic, political, and institutional categories of violence; (2) the underlying causal factors; and (3) the costs of violence in terms of its impacts on poor households. This study offers a new violence-focused research methodology.

6-45/DOC

TRANSFORMING THE CULTURE OF CORRUPTION

Electronic Journal of the Department of State, 2006.

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/1206/ijde/ijde1206.htm>

In recent years, through a series of international agreements, a global framework for combating corruption has begun to emerge. Individual countries can now make their anticorruption efforts more effective by vigorously implementing anti-corruption commitments and relying on international cooperation. This issue of eJournal USA highlights the important roles that the public sector, private sector, and non-governmental organizations play in promoting, preventing, and working to eradicate corruption worldwide.

BOOK ALERT

6-46/B

DEMOCRACY AND WAR: Institutions, Norms, and the Evolution of International Conflict

By David L. Rousseau

Stanford University Press, 2005.

Conventional wisdom in international relations maintains that democracies are only peaceful when encountering other democracies. Using a variety of social scientific methods of investigation ranging from statistical studies and laboratory experiments to case studies and computer simulations, David Rousseau challenges this conventional wisdom by demonstrating that democracies are less likely to initiate violence at early stages of a dispute. Using multiple methods allows Rousseau to demonstrate that institutional constraints, rather than peaceful norms of conflict resolution, are responsible for inhibiting the quick resort to violence in democratic polities.

6-47/B

ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY: A Grand Strategy for World Peace and Prosperity

By J. W. Smith

The Institute of Economic Democracy Press, 2006.

Dr. Smith charts a clear and brilliant path away from war and terrorism towards a peaceful and prosperous world economy. The West spent 700 plus years establishing capitalism. That rule of law was little more than the old aristocratic system (exclusive title to nature's resources and technologies) hiding under a benign name. Identical to aristocracy, capitalism's rule of law laid claim to – or wasted – at least half the wealth produced by productive labor. This exposes classics on economics – reverently taught in to-day's classroom—as nothing more than justifications for that unequal and unjust rules of law being put in place. They were in no way philosophies for efficient economic systems with full and equal rights.

6-48/B

ELECTION NIGHT NEWS AND VOTER TURNOUT: Solving the Projection Puzzle

By William C. Adams

Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2005.

Concerns first rose in the 1960s that when television networks proclaimed US presidential election winners before the western states were finished voting, some people would decide to stay home, thus decreasing voter turnout; and the controversy was reignited by funny business during the 2000 and 2004 elections. Adams (public policy and public administration, George Washington U.) looks at the issue in order to understand it better, rather than necessarily to provide a solution.

6-49/B

THE FIRST AMENDMENT IN CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE: A Comparative Legal Analysis of the Freedom of Speech

By Ronald J. Krotoszynski, Jr.

New York University Press, 2006.

The First Amendment --and its guarantee of free speech for all Americans--has been at the center of scholarly and public debate since the birth of the Constitution, and the fervor in which intellectuals, politicians, and ordinary citizens approach the topic shows no sign of abating as the legal boundaries and definitions of free speech are continually evolving and facing new challenges. Such discussions have generally remained within the boundaries of the U.S. Constitution and its American context, but consideration of free speech in other industrial democracies can offer valuable insights into the relationship between free speech and democracy on a larger and more global scale, thereby shedding new light on some unexamined (and untested) assumptions that underlie U.S. free speech doctrine. Ronald Krotoszynski compares the First Amendment with free speech law in Japan, Canada, Germany, and the United Kingdom--countries that are all considered modern democracies but have radically different understandings of what constitutes free speech. Challenging the popular--and largely American--assertion that free speech is inherently necessary for democracy to thrive, Krotoszynski contends that it is very difficult to speak of free speech in universalist terms when the concept is examined from a

framework of comparative law that takes cultural difference into full account.

6-50/B

**FROM TELEVISION TO THE INTERNET:
Postmodern Visions of American Media Culture
in the Twentieth Century**

By Wiley Lee Umphlett

Associated University Press, 2006.

"In covering the years from the late 1940s through 2000, this book's sociocultural focus is on the visual impact of momentous developments in postmodern media culture in America, particularly as they have reflected a narrowing of the divide between the elite and mass culture, blurring the lines between fantasy and reality, and the social fragmentation of American life. As such, this book complements and expands on the commentary and conclusions of the author's initial inquiry into the modern era of media-made culture in *The Visual Focus of American Media Culture in the Twentieth*." Like the first book, the second also relies on the collective metaphor of the mediated vision to show how the visually oriented communication forms of the media culture have influenced and contributed to the origin of varied subcultural sectors in the postmodern era, extending from the appearance of television in the late 1940s to the advent of the Internet near the end of the century.

6-51/B

**LEADING THE LEADERS: How to Manage
Smart, Talented, Rich and Powerful People**

By Jeswald W. Salacuse

AMACOM, 2006.

The most valuable people in and around an organization are often the most difficult to manage. They are the "elites" -- executives, highly educated professionals, investors, board members, experts in critical functions, and others -- whose special talents or positions give them unusual power and independence from those who seek to lead them. These influential individuals are not motivated by visionary speeches, by teambuilding sessions, or by a need to prove themselves (or keep their jobs). They are important assets to the company -- but only when their strengths can be harnessed and aligned with organizational goals. *Leading Leaders* shows the reader how to develop one-on-one, up-close-and-

personal relationships with these movers and shakers, and how to leverage their expertise for better decision making. Rather than top-down processes that might apply in a typical leadership hierarchy, the book establishes processes that resonate with these very special "followers," including negotiation, strategic planning, brainstorming, and more.

VIDEO & DVD ALERT

These Videos/DVDs can be viewed at the IRC Islamabad on any day. Please call us at least a day in advance at (051-2082781 or 2082786) if you like to view any of these videos.

6-52/V

**FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM: Revolution and
Civil War**

DVD, 90 minutes, Color.

Filmmakers Phillip B. Kunhardt III, Nancy Steiner, and Peter W. Kunhardt explore the eternal struggle for liberty in America while simultaneously illuminating the hypocritical underlying factors that undermined the colonist's bold "experiment in freedom," in a revealing documentary featuring the voices of Brad Pitt, Martin Sheen, Michael Caine, Tom Hanks, Anthony Hopkins, Meryl Streep, Michael Douglas, Morgan Freeman, Robert Redford and many more. As the newly arrived British subjects staged the revolution that would cut loose their ties to Great Britain and give birth to a new era of freedom, a new hope for liberty emerged - but how then does one justify the presence of slavery in a society founded on the claim of all men being "created equal?" A blight on the quest for liberty and freedom that literally divided a struggling young nation right down the middle, slavery would be the last true obstacle in ensuring that the land of the free would truly live up to the ideals set forth by the founding fathers.

6-53/V

**AMERICAN EXPERIENCE - Partners of the
Heart**

Starring: Dr. Alfred Blalock, Dr. Denton A.

Cooley Director: Bill Duke, Andrea Kalin

DVD, 60 minutes, Color.

During World War II and the era of staunch racial segregation, a Black carpenter's son named Vivien Thomas, who had a talent for surgery, along with a white surgeon named Dr. Alfred Blalock, who defied the medical establishment created a partnership that changed the course of cardiac surgery. With only a high school diploma, Thomas became a leading cardiac pioneer and educator of two generations of the United States' premiere heart surgeons. This moving documentary tells the story of Thomas and his relationship with Blalock, one that ushered in advances in surgery that are still in existence today.

6-54/V

SEARCHING FOR THE ROOTS OF 9/11

A Discovery Channel Production

VHS, 46 minutes, Color.

What drove 19 young, middle-class Muslim men to commit a coordinated suicide attack against the U.S. on 9/11? And why does their violent act continue to elicit support from so many Muslims throughout the world? In this program, New York Times columnist Thomas L. Friedman—a three-time Pulitzer Prize winner and author of *Longitudes and Attitudes: Exploring the World After September 11*—travels the Middle East and Southeast Asia in search of answers to these troubling questions. Stopovers in Indonesia, Qatar, Egypt, and Bahrain allow a diversity of voices rarely heard in the global dialogue on the 9/11 terrorist attacks to have their say.

6-55/V

WOMEN IN POLITICS

PAL, 23 minutes, Color

This program begins with some suffragette scenes and quickly moves to portray some of the outstanding women politicians of this century. Lady Nancy Astor; Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike of Sri Lanka, Indira Gandhi of India, Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, Margaret Thatcher and President Corazon Aquino of the Philippines; the wives of politicians who became important political figures in their own right; Green Culture Minister Melina Mercouri; and others.