



What's New – September 2006

Significant Documents

[Afghanistan Opium Survey 2006: Executive Summary.](#)

[United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Survey Report] September 2006.

[Note: The Survey will be published in its entirety in October.] [pdf format, 36 pages]

[Agriculture's Role in Greenhouse Gas Mitigation.](#)

[Pew Center on Global Climate Change] September 21, 2006.

[Full Report:](#) [pdf format, 87 pages]

[Executive Summary:](#) [html format, 3 printed pages]

[Canada: A Macroeconomic Study of the United States' Most Important Trade Partner.](#)

[United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Economic Research Service (ERS), Outlook Report Number (WRS-0602)]

Web-posted September 15, 2006. [pdf format, 36 pages]

[Catastrophic Disasters: Enhanced Leadership, Capabilities, and Accountability Controls Will Improve](#)

[the Effectiveness of the Nation's Preparedness, Response, and Recovery System.](#)

[United States Government Accountability Office, GAO-06-618] September 6, 2006. [pdf format, 147]

[Child Care and Early Childhood Education: More Information Sharing and Program Review by HHS Could Enhance Access for Families with Limited English Proficiency.](#)

[United States Government Accountability Office, GAO-06-807] August 17, 2006, Web-posted September 18, 2006.

[Full Report:](#) [pdf format, 76 pages]

Summaries:

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[\[Vietnamese-language version\]](#), pdf format, 12 pages]

[\[Korean-language version\]](#), pdf format, 13 pages]

[\[Chinese-language format\]](#), pdf version, 11 pages]

[China's Social Unrest: The Story Behind the Stories.](#)

[Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (CEIP), Policy Brief No. 48] September 2006.

[pdf format, 8 pages]

[Computer and Internet Use by Students in 2003.](#)

[United States Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Statistical Analysis Report, NCES 2006-065] September 2006. [pdf format, 72 pages]

[Crime in the United States 2005.](#)

[Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Annual Statistical Report]

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[Cuba: Issues for the 109th Congress.](#)

[CRS, Report for Congress, RL32730] Updated August 8, 2006.
[pdf format, 67 pages]

[Declarations of War and Authorizations for the Use of Military Force:
Historical Background and Legal Implications.](#)

[CRS, Report for Congress, RL31133] Updated August 11, 2006. [pdf format, 115 pages]

[The Department of Labor's 2005 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor.](#)

[United States Department of Labor, Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB), Annual Report] August 22, 2006. [pdf format, 684 pages]

[Detention of Terrorists] Fact Sheet: The Administration's Legislation to Create Military Commissions.

[Executive Office of the President] September 6, 2006.

[English-language](#), html format, 4 printed pages]

[Spanish-language](#), html format, 5 pages]

[Detention of Terrorists] S.3861: A Bill to Facilitate Bringing to Justice Terrorists and Other Unlawful Enemy Combatants Through Full and Fair Trials by Military Commissions, and for Other Purposes. [United States Senate, Legislative Document] Introduced September 6, 2006.

[Full Text of Bill:](#) [pdf format, 86 pages]

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An East Asian Renaissance: Ideas for Economic Growth.

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[Full Report:](#) [pdf format, 311 pages]

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Full Highlights Section:

[English-language](#) version, pdf format, 61 pages]

[French-language](#) version, pdf format, 63 pages]

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[pdf format, 77 pages]

[Federal and State Quarantine and Isolation Authority.](#)

[CRS, Report for Congress, RL33201] Updated August 16, 2006.

[pdf format, 24 pages]

[The Federal Workforce: Additional Insights Could Enhance Agency Efforts Related to Hispanic Representation.](#)

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[United States Army War College, Strategic Studies Institute (SSI)]

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[Judging the Iranian Threat: 20 Questions We Need to Answer.](#)

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[Biotechnology Publication Ranking:](#) [pdf format, 7 pages]

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[United States Senate Committee on Finance, Hearings] September 11, 2006.

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55), Recommendations and Reports 14 (RR14)] September 22, 2006. [html format, 27 printed
pages]

[Rewrite the Future: Education for Children in Conflict-Affected Countries.](#)

[International Save the Children Alliance, Policy Report] September 2006.

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[Full Report:](#) [pdf format, 336 pages]

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[Short Reports:](#) [Overviews of approximately 30-35 pages are available in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese]

DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

IF THEY WIN (National Journal, Vol. 38, No. 36, Sept. 9, 2006, pp. 35-69)

This issue of the National Journal contains a special series of articles on the 13 issues central to the Democratic Party's agenda if they win at least one chamber of Congress in the November elections. On the issue of agriculture, a Democratic win would likely mean the extension of the 2002 farm bill. Balancing the budget is another goal of Democrats, as is funding education programs. The Democrats aim to support the research on alternative energy sources and reduce dependence on foreign oil. A Democratic win will likely be too slim to overhaul environmental policy, but it could mean blocking GOP efforts to weaken current protections. Expected opposition from the White House has forced Democrats to think pragmatically about health care, so the focus will probably be on improvements to the Medicare drug benefit program. In terms of homeland security, oversight is the top priority. While immigration is a hot topic, it is so divisive even within the party that it won't be an immediate priority. Iraq is equally divisive and the only reform Democrats agree on is oversight on excess spending. They also seek oversight of the telecommunications industry, with hearings on FCC management a likely outcome. In the realm of science, the party advocates stem cell research and may even override a presidential veto if they win the House. Tax reform is expected to hinge on who chairs the Senate Finance Committee, with potential chair Max Baucus viewed as the best leader to reach common ground. Republicans worry that a Democratic Congress could be hostile to foreign trade, and while the new Congress would take a hard line with China, the party expects to focus more on the domestic economy and improving U.S. competitiveness.

Benesh, Sara C. UNDERSTANDING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN AMERICAN COURTS (The Journal of Politics, vol. 68, no. 3, August 2006, pp. 697-707)

The operation of the rule of law is the most fundamental requirement of government in a democracy, writes political scientist Benesh. Political philosophers debate what the rule of law is, how to protect it, and what requirements it demands, but there is agreement that institutions, or courts, within a democracy be charged with its keeping. In this article, Benesh addresses the critical importance of understanding what drives the public's support for courts and confidence in the justice system. Benesh's analysis shows that the American public understands the law and respects the court system. A highly educated individual with experience as a juror and a strong understanding of the court system who lives in a state where judges are appointed and the crime rate is low demonstrates the highest level of confidence in state courts. A person without much formal education who had been a defendant at least once in his or her life, who does not trust the institutions of government and who happens to live in a state with elected judges and a high crime rate has the lowest level of confidence. It is essential to consider what drives support for courts because, without a public constituency, courts could suffer greatly at the hands of those seeking to control them.

De Nevers, Renee THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THE NEW WARS (Political Science Quarterly, Vol. 121 No. 3, Fall 2006, pp. 369-395)

This article explores how the Geneva Conventions, adopted in 1949, apply to "new wars," such as the fight against terrorism, where those directly involved in fighting include non-traditional soldiers such as warlords, child soldiers and private security companies. The author argues that, although the nature of war and those who fight wars has changed dramatically since the conventions were adopted, the conventions should not be abandoned, but rather should address these changes. Applying the Geneva Conventions, she argues, will create greater international support for the U.S. war on terrorism because it will protect U.S. soldiers and citizens, garner multilateral support, and protect victims of war everywhere. "To ensure the cooperation that it needs to pursue terrorists, and to regain the high ground in this fight, the United States should lead the way...in creating a stronger framework to protect people from dangers they face in conflict zones and lawless societies," she writes.

Lemov, Penelope A DOSE OF TRANSPARENCY (Governing, September 2006, pp. 50-54) Increasingly, health-care costs and provider performance are becoming the business of patients, notes the author. Many states, including Florida, Maryland, New York, and Texas, are providing Web sites with comparative information on hospitals, physicians, prices, and performance rankings. However, one researcher notes that there is "little empirical evidence that consumers have altered their behavior" by being given this information. On the other hand, quality of performance of physicians and hospitals might improve, since they would be eager to remove themselves from the bottom of the list.

York, Byron THE DEATH OF THE MODERATE DEMOCRAT (National Review, vol. 58, no. 16, September 11, 2006, pp. 32-34)

The moderate, centrist Democrat is a thing of the past, York writes. Rankings of how liberal Democrats are compared to how conservative Republicans are show that Democrats in recent years have moved farther to the left than Republicans have to the right. Sen. Joe Lieberman's loss to Ned Lamont in the Connecticut Democratic primary election is a sign to Democrats to move more to the left. Moderates were successful in helping Clinton get elected and re-elected but at the same time lost control of Congress. Now, the author writes, instead of trying to find a middle ground between Democrats and Republicans, Democrats instead have to find a middle ground between liberal factions and mainstream Democratic voters.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Brittan, Samuel THE GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS OF A DOLLAR COLLAPSE (The International Economy, vol. 20, no. 3, Summer 2006, pp. 24-27)

The author, a columnist with Financial Times, discusses the political and economic implications of a dollar collapse and describes possible scenarios. He says that if the dollar collapsed, one result could be an offsetting boost given to demand in the Euro area and in Asia. At the other extreme, the U.S. would be accused of deliberately weakening its own currency for domestic political reasons and some politicians could retaliate through protectionist barriers, attempts at competitive devaluation, or ill-conceived taxes on international capital movements. The most likely trigger for a dollar collapse would be that of the U.S. housing market, but such a drastic fall in the dollar's external value could well be the signal for Asian authorities to cease stockpiling assets and even start dumping them. If the world is experiencing excess demand, as the pressure on oil and commodity markets and the abundance of credit suggest, a modest recessionary movement in the U.S. might be good. Both the immediate economic prospects and the behavior of international interest rate differentials would be bearish for the dollar. It is an unfortunate aspect of both financial commentary and journalism that a five percent movement up or down in any key variable in one day would create huge excitement, whereas a much bigger movement spread gradually over a couple of months may hardly be noticed.

Hackett, Ken THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT (MCA): A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO FOREIGN ASSISTANCE (Vital Speeches of the Day, vol. 72, no. 20/21, August 2006, pp. 586-589)

Hackett, President of Catholic Relief Services and member of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Board of Directors, says the MCA is an approach to foreign assistance that isn't just new -- it is bold. The MCA is a fresh approach that aims to improve aid effectiveness by requiring recipients to make difficult policy reforms that are necessary for successful development, he explains. He discusses some of the innovative aspects of the MCA -- funding is performance-based; MCA provides incentives to change policies for the better; countries who qualify can lose funding if their scores fall; recipient countries control MCA development efforts, from deciding which projects to pursue to implementation. He also talks about some of the challenges MCA has faced, noting that results have been slow in coming, and the negative perceptions many Americans have about foreign aid and its effectiveness; the MCA has not yet

received full congressional funding. Hackett remains optimistic about MCA's potential to make a real difference, but also notes that while it is an innovative and important advancement in foreign aid, it will never be a panacea.

Tarullo, Daniel K. THE END OF THE BIG TRADE DEAL (The International Economy, vol. 20, no. 3, Summer 2006, pp. 46-49)

The author, a professor of law at Georgetown University and a former Clinton assistant for international economic policy, asserts that the Doha Round will be the last of the grand multilateral trade negotiations. It has been characterized by missed deadlines and recurring charges by the protagonists that someone else is to blame for the lack of progress. Also, he notes, the slow erosion of the U.S.-European alliance following the end of the Cold War has had a subtle but real impact on most areas of cooperation, including trade. He discusses several other factors contributing to the decline of big multilateral trade deals, including a growing reliance on non-controversial bilateral trade agreements. Many committed free traders now question how extensively the WTO should govern domestic regulation. Historically, American, European, and Japanese multinationals have provided a major part of the domestic support for trade agreements. Ironically, the very success of past rounds has given many of these companies most of the trade liberalization they need.

GLOBAL ISSUES / INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

KATRINA - THE FAILURES OF SUCCESS (World Watch, Vol. 19, No. 5, September/October 2006)

To mark the one-year anniversary since Hurricane Katrina struck the U.S. Gulf Coast in August 2005, World Watch magazine devotes this entire issue to reporting on the causes and the results of the devastation. Editor Thomas Pugh notes that while Katrina was not the worst storm to ever hit the U.S., the global media coverage provided vivid and compelling images of the destruction. According to Pugh, the scale of Katrina's disaster was magnified due to three successful government policies which had disastrous results -- first, reengineering the Mississippi River to support marine traffic destroyed natural soil accretion and eroded protective wetlands. Additionally, global warming has made extreme weather events more frequent and the U.S. government has not done enough to recognize and mitigate the problem. Finally, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, due to tax cuts and its effects on agency budgets, did not have the resources to respond effectively. Ten separate articles describe such diverse topics as the geography of New Orleans and the role of the levees, the sequence of events as the hurricane ran its course, the national security impacts on energy, trade and port security, a reflection on race relations in America caused by the slowness of the Katrina response, an ode to the city and culture of New Orleans, and a plea to work harder to combat climate change and its potential effects in coastal areas. Taken together, the articles explore the relationship of people to the environment in the aftermath of a disaster using diverse perspectives.

Bowen, Mark; Talbot, David THE MESSENGER (Technology Review, vol. 109, no. 3, July/August 2006, pg. 38-43)

James Hansen, director of NASA's climate research center, the Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York, nearly single-handedly turned global warming into an international issue in 1988 when he told a group of reporters, after testifying before a Senate committee, that the greenhouse effect was already affecting climate. He continued over the years to predict the progress of global warming; earlier this year, the Bush Administration tried to silence him because Hansen's scientific views were in conflict with the political position on global warming. Hansen took this attempt to silence him to the New York Times and the television show 60 Minutes, propelling the global warming story into the headlines. The author, who wrote THIN ICE: UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF CLIMATE IN THE WORLD'S HIGHEST MOUNTAINS, discusses the science behind Hansen's beliefs, and the ideas of Hansen and his team of experts

for holding future temperatures below the danger level. It is "technically possible to avoid the grim 'business-as-usual' climate change," Hansen said in December 2005. "If an alternative scenario is practical, why are we not doing it?"

Rosenberg, Tina WHEN A PILL IS NOT ENOUGH (New York Times Magazine, August 6, 2006, pp. 40-59)

"Shame, stigma and the pathologies of intimate relationships are the new frontier in the fight against AIDS in Africa. How do you treat what is lodged in people's minds?" This, according to the author, is the central question of AIDS treatment in Africa today. Modern medical treatments are increasingly available to those who need it, but success remains uneven across the continent. The reasons are more social and behavioral than medical or even educational. This phenomenon of denial is not limited to Africa. "None of this should be foreign to Americans. We know we should quit smoking. We know we should go have that lump checked out. We know we should give up the French fries. But we don't. In America, as around the world, a good amount of sickness and death is at least in part self-inflicted." The article details theories and programs now being developed, or already in use, to persuade people to change their customs to save their lives.

Skerry, Peter HOW NOT TO BUILD A FENCE (Foreign Policy, no. 156, September-October 2006, pp. 64-67)

The current intense political debate about immigration to the U.S. from Mexico has focused attention on extending and fortifying the physical barrier between the two countries. The author, a political science professor at Boston College, describes how the current 125-mile fence developed over time and how it evolved to address different, and sometimes competing, interests, including free movement of wildlife and other environmental concerns, issues of sovereignty where the border structures cross tribal lands, and even insurance liability. Skerry compares the efficacy of fences and other types of border barriers in other countries. Accompanying graphics illustrate the design, placement, and materials features of the fence.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Escude, Carlos FROM CAPTIVE TO FAILED STATE: ARGENTINA UNDER SYSTEMIC POPULISM, 1975-2006 (Fletcher Forum of World Affairs, vol. 30, no. 2, Summer 2006, pp. 125-148) Thanks to a virtually unbroken cycle of "systemic populism," Argentineans below the poverty line has ballooned in the past 50 years from 10 percent in 1945 to 45 percent in 2005. This practice of modest handouts to the poor for electoral purposes while authorizing massive transfers of wealth to "client" business sectors has serious security consequences, putting a "captive state" on the road to becoming a "failing state." Populism remains deeply entrenched in contemporary Argentinean society, with favored industries continuing to benefit, and growing protests of the unemployed are leading to violence. Meanwhile, with the government renationalizing industries to make up lost revenue, and increasing financial speculation, Argentina's regression is unlikely to turn around in the near future.

Holmes, James R. LESSONS OF THE KOREAN WAR FOR THE "SIX-PARTY TALKS" (World Affairs, vol. 169, no. 1, Summer 2006, pp.3-24)

Through a detailed case study of the negotiating process that ended the Korean War, the author illustrates what he considers key lessons to resolve today's nuclear standoff on the Korean peninsula. In both cases, North Korea, China, and the United States came to the table with vital interests at stake, but unlike in 1953, none of the negotiating parties today will be able to improve their bargaining position and undercut others -- the U.S. is averse to using military force, and North Korea has hardened its facilities and its regime remains firmly in control. Another key difference is that while China's support helped to sustain Pyongyang in the 1950s, particularly

after Stalin's death, which helped during the Korean War negotiations, its influence on Kim Jong-Il today has been greatly exaggerated. Until North Korea's disastrous socioeconomic conditions threaten its regime, Holmes concludes, "The United States and its partners have few obvious options other than to keep North Korea hemmed in, encourage China to use such influence as it possesses, and pursue patient negotiations."

Kitfield, James AL QAEDA'S PANDEMIC (National Journal, Vol. 38, No. 35, September 2, 2006, pp. 20-27)

The author, a defense and foreign affairs correspondent for National Journal, declares, "In the collective body that is Islamic extremism, often only a few synapses stand between a spoken word and an act of wanton bloodshed halfway around the world. Tracking exactly how the organism of global jihad translates such violent impulses into distant actions is critical to grasping how the virulent terrorism that struck the United States on September 11, 2001, has mutated in the past five years. And that knowledge is key to understanding the degree to which the virus is still spreading." He then goes on to describe various aspects of the planning and execution of recent terrorist attacks, especially the March 2004 train bombing in Madrid. He also discusses "how central the Iraq war has become to the schemes of the Islamic jihad movement" and the use of the war as "an organizing magnet." In his conclusion, he explains, "broad counterinsurgencies are almost never won on the battlefield. Victory will have to come in the political arena."

Record, Jeffrey EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE: ENABLER OF INSURGENT SUCCESS (Parameters, Vol. 36, No. 3, Autumn 2006, pp. 36-49)

The author, a professor of strategy at the Air War College in Montgomery, Alabama, says, "Victorious insurgencies are exceptional because the strong usually beat the weak. But all power is relative, and if an insurgency has access to external assistance, such assistance can alter the insurgent-government power ratio even to the point where the insurgency becomes the stronger side." For example, French assistance to the colonists helped the Americans win the Revolution, whereas the lack of sufficient external assistance led to the defeat of the Confederacy in the Civil War. He cites experts who argue that other elements can explain insurgent success -- such as political will, willingness to sacrifice, and superior strategy -- but contends, "even the most committed and cunning insurgency cannot hope to win without material resources." The author uses analyses of other conflicts, including the Chinese Communists' defeat of Chiang Kai-shek and the French defeats in Indochina and Algeria to support his contention that "External assistance can favorably, even decisively, alter the material power ratio between an insurgency and an enemy government or foreign occupier."

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

Chappell, Kevin 20 YEARS LATER: SPIKE LEE STILL GOTTA HAVE IT (Ebony, September 2006, pp. 98-103)

Spike Lee has been described as "the most important African-American filmmaker ever." But he says he's come a long way since his famous first studio film, SHE'S GOTTA HAVE IT, debuted at the Cannes Film Festival in 1986. In fact, Lee says he's learned not only about his inner self, but also about the outside world -- and not to have preconceived notions about anything or anyone, especially his audience. Now the father of two children, Lee has branched out into everything from directing commercials to writing children's books with his wife, and serves as artistic director at the New York University graduate film school, and as a mentor to many young filmmakers. Lee is looking to do great things in the future. "It's been a great 20 years," he says. "But I'm not done yet."

Huntington, Tom THE EVOLUTION OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (American Legacy, vol. 12, no. 3, Fall 2006, pp. 46-50)

"Over his long life the founding father slowly changed from an unabashed slaveholder to a true

abolitionist," contends Huntington, who traces the contradictions and ambivalence in Franklin's attitude toward slavery in this detailed article. Ironically, Franklin himself had been an indentured apprentice; however, he was a man of his time with an eighteenth-century man's prejudices. While he never actively freed his slaves, he became president of the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery and the Relief of the Free Negroes Unlawfully Held in Bondage in 1787, and, shortly before his death, wrote a satirical defense of slavery that pointedly exposed the injustice of Congress's refusal to accept an antislavery petition the society had presented.

Odell, Jennifer ALL IN THE FAMILY (Downbeat, vol. 73, no. 9, September 2006, pp. 30-35)
This special issue of Downbeat, edited by Branton Marsalis, pays tribute to the musical traditions of New Orleans one year after Hurricane Katrina and floods devastated the city. In the lead article, Odell sets the scene, focusing on the city's musical families who have passed down New Orleans jazz traditions from generation to generation. Brass bands, Dixieland, jazz, gospel, rhythm and blues, and funk all grew out of the roots of these musical dynasties, which embody the history and the future of New Orleans. Since many family members are still unable to return home, the question as to whether or not they will ever be able to rebuild their homes and neighborhoods remains open. Other feature articles in this issue focus on New Orleans musicians Harry Connick, Jr. and Dr. John, the legacy of New Orleans drummers, and the architecture of the city's musical culture.

IIP Publications

Electronic Journals

[Sharing Science: Global Partnerships](#)

An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State, October 2006

Webchats

Webchats allow foreign audiences to interact with American citizens on wide range of topics using a chat tool over the Internet. U.S. government and private sector subject experts, academics, journalists, and everyday citizens are brought on as guests to do webchats on USINFO. You may visit the [USINFO Webchat Homepage](#) to see upcoming ones, and read the transcripts of the previous webchats.

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