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WOMEN'S RIGHTS

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Millions of women worldwide, in all socio-economic and educational classes are deprived of their basic human rights in addition to their gender specific rights. Violence against women cuts across all barriers including cultural and religious barriers, and manifests itself in a variety of forms that range from domestic abuse and rape to child marriages. Violence against women is a universal problem and leads to the violation of their basic rights and is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace in the society.

Gender specific discrimination and abuses against women have been existent in a wide array of forms and situations including non-spousal violence, economic abuse, intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking of women across national and international borders, forced prostitution and so on.

Many women throughout the world are compelled to live in conditions of abject deprivation. Just by the virtue of their being women, their basic rights are subject to attack and they are denied their fundamental human rights. It is estimated that women represent approximately 70% of the people living in poverty throughout the world and that they control only 1% of the world's wealth. Women continue to lag behind men on the economic front including cash, credit, property, land, wealth, access to material goods as well as in terms of literacy, education, skills, employment opportunities, mobility, and political representation. Women are often poorer relative to men of the same household and social group. Disproportionate poverty and economic inequality also robs them of other human rights including their right to food, water, housing and the highest attainable standard of health.

Women's problems are also augmented by the restricted cultural rights granted to them. Tradition, history and culture, including religious attitudes often play significant role in keeping women away from the mainstream of the society. Diverse forms of social and cultural practices around the world should guide all human rights principles especially in recognition of the dignity and worth of women as full human beings. International human rights law has repeatedly stressed that women's human rights cannot be violated on the grounds of cultural or religious norms. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination

Against Women, adopted in 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly, stresses modifying the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customs which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women.

The conservative perception of women's work within the family is another object of serious discrimination. It is becoming almost impossible for a woman to dedicate herself solely to the home. With social reorganization, the value of work in the home needs to be publicly recognized. To date, this has not received adequate legal recognition. On the other hand, in today's fast changing world women are expected to perform beyond domestic boundaries and women all over the world have responded to this new challenge. More and more women are joining the national and international workforce. However, when it comes to the issues like remuneration and other workplace related issues, the situation is very daunting. Women are still seen through the prism of gender identity in the workplaces. They are often discriminated against their male counterpart on the remuneration front. Apart from the gender pay gap, they are also subjected to many other unsolicited circumstances. Sexual harassment at the workplace, underscoring powerlessness of women, is a manifestation of parts of society that places women in subservient, social stereotypes. Working women have faced hostility in countless subtle and direct ways including condescending attitudes, hostile behavior, unequal pay and delayed promotions.

Women are often still not equal in the fundamental law of the land. Equality in pay, job opportunities, insurance, social security, and education are an elusive dream for many women. Women have generally been granted fewer legal rights than men. Many women have been denied their legal and political rights. There is a need to increase the number of women law makers especially in developing countries. Although women in most nations now have right to vote and there is significant increase in their educational and employment status, there still is a long way to go. Women rights need to be brought under the strength of legal and constitutional foundations. Discriminatory laws and weak enforcement prevent women from exercising their full legal rights and seek protection under the judiciary system. Gender-equitable legislation and constitutional guarantees can create the basis for nations to

protect and guarantee the rights of women.

Women have been devoid of a dignified life both in public and private. The exigency of the existing scenario is reflected in UNICEF's statistics, which reflects the failure of our society to meet the challenges related to women's issues. Two thirds of the world's 875 million illiterate adults are women. In the developing countries (except China), half of the girls are expected to get married by the age of twenty. More than 80 per cent of the world's 35 million refugees and displaced people are women and children. Emergencies put women at greater risk of extreme sexual violence and abuse. As per a 1999 John Hopkins University global report, at least one in every three women is a survivor of some form of gender-based violence. These figures are difficult to believe, but then they reflect the actual face of our society and put a question mark on our stake as human beings – the wisest ones on the mother earth.

The United Nations' Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women was the first international human rights instrument to exclusively and explicitly address the issue of violence against women. It affirms that the phenomenon violates, impairs or nullifies women's human rights and their exercise of fundamental freedoms. On December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with 8 abstentions. Since then, December 10 is celebrated every year worldwide as Human Rights Day. The success of this endeavor is demonstrated by the virtually universal acceptance of the Declaration. Today, the Universal Declaration, translated into nearly 250 national and local languages, is the best known and most cited human rights document in the world. Realizing the gravity of the situation in the light of the alarming growth in the number of cases of women-targeted violence and masculine dominance in the society, the then United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in the Fourth World Conference on Women in September 1995, called for a universal condemnation of the violence against women.

Achieving global respect for women has always been a priority in U.S. foreign policy. President George W. Bush emphasized in his first State of the Union Address, and on numerous occasions since, that "respect for women" is one of the "non-negotiable demands of human dignity." The United States has worked towards substantial progress for women around the world, including the presidential

election in Afghanistan in October 2004, where it supported Afghan women by providing political and advocacy training. The United States provides hundreds of millions of dollars each year for various projects that benefit women everywhere in the areas of education and literacy, entrepreneurship, maternal and child health care programs, HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, anti-trafficking projects, leadership, and much more. Such endeavors have brought smiles on the face of millions of individual women around the globe.

Discrimination against women is incompatible with human dignity and with the welfare of the family and that of society in general. It prevents their participation on equal terms with men in the political, social, economic and cultural spheres of life. Equal rights for women and their human dignity have to be protected. Violence and discrimination against women are worldwide social epidemics. International institutions and agencies like the United Nations, all governments, inter-governmental as well as non-governmental organizations, private sector and voluntary groups, academic circles, and media – all have to work to generate awareness, and fight against the dehumanization and marginalization of women. The realization of women's rights is a global struggle based on universal human rights and it is our moral duty to rule out gender inequality in the society.

The articles included in this section explore different aspects of women's rights and their violations while focusing our attention in this area of grave concern.

For additional information, a weblibliography is presented here for your use. However, the inclusion of Internet sites other than those of the U.S. government should not be construed as an endorsement of the views contained therein. The websites are current as of date and are subject to change at any time.

Administration for Children and Families
<http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/>

American Civil Liberties Union: Women's Rights
<http://www.aclu.org/womensrights/index.html>

Amnesty International: Women's Human Rights
<http://www.amnestyusa.org/women/index.do>

Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/>

Center for Women's Global Leadership
<http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/globalcenter/about.html>

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>

Gender, Diversities, and Technology Institute
<http://www2.edc.org/GDI/>

Human Rights Watch: Women's Rights
<http://www.hrw.org/women/>

Independent Women's Forum
<http://www.iwf.org/default.asp>

Institute for Women's Policy Research
<http://www.iwpr.org/index.cfm>

MADRE An International Women's Human Rights Organization
<http://www.madre.org/>

Office of International Women's Issues
<http://www.state.gov/g/wi/>

The Office on Women's Health
<http://www.4woman.gov/owh/index.htm>

Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/>

Political Rights: Convention on the Political Rights of Women
http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php-URL_ID=3972&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

U.S. Department of State: Office of International Women's Issues
<http://www.state.gov/g/wi/>

U.S. Food and Drug Administration: Office of Women's Health
<http://www.fda.gov/womens/default.htm>

United Nations Development Fund for Women
<http://www.unifem.org>

Women and Gender Resources in the United Nations System
<http://www.un.org/issues/m-women.html>

Women and Violence
<http://www.un.org/rights/dpi1772e.htm>

Women in Development
http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/wid/

Women's Health: Facts About Violence Against Women
<http://www.idph.state.il.us/about/womenshealth/factsheets/viol.htm>

Women's Bureau
<http://www.dol.gov/wb/welcome.html>

Working for Women, Worldwide: The U.S. Commitment
<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/women/>

1. ABOUT AMERICA: WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State, November 2006, 32 p.
<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/womeninfln/womeninfln.pdf>

This collection chronicles how twenty one notable American women broke new ground, some by championing equal rights for all and others by their accomplishments in fields such as government, literature, and even in war. The publication offers a glimpse at how women in the United States have helped shape their society. It consists of seven mini-chapters featuring: Pocahontas, Sacagawea, Anne Marbury Hutchinson, Anne Dudley Bradstreet, Abigail Adams, Margaret Cochran Corbin, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Jeannette Rankin, Hattie Ophelia Wyatt Caraway, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, Sandra Day O'Connor, Wilma Mankiller, Clara Barton, Jane Addams, Nellie Bly, Rosalyn Yalow, Sheila C. Johnson, and Maya Lin. These notable women 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.

2. BEYOND THE POLITICS OF INCLUSION: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OF COLOR AND HUMAN RIGHTS

By Andrea Smith. Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism, Spring 2004, pp. 120-124.

This article talks about the strength of white supremacy within an anti-violence movement that has deprived women of color intervention. Safety of women in society and at home has always been under scrutiny. Smith discusses the anti-violence movement strategies on the premise that the criminal legal system is the primary tool to address violence against women. The racial element of gender violence necessitates an alternative approach that goes beyond mere inclusion to actually centering women of color in the organizing and analysis of providing strategic solutions to counteract repressive effects of violence.

3. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HOUSING RIGHTS: A REINTERPRETATION OF THE RIGHT TO HOUSING

By *Giulia Paglione*. *Human Rights Quarterly*, February 2006, pp. 120-147.

This study attempts to explore the bond between domestic violence and the right to housing. Further, it advocates that domestic violence is a blatant violation of the universally accepted human right to live somewhere securely and with peace and dignity. According to Paglione, the prevention and eradication of domestic violence should start with the protection of women's right to adequate housing, but an analysis of the currently existing international instruments discloses their limitation for women's protection from domestic violence. Focusing exclusively on civil and political rights, such instruments disregard women's housing and property rights in their provisions and do not protect battered women at home – a place where they need it most. The article also identifies some normative challenges and makes some observations about the solutions that require increased study and attention by international organizations and human rights organizations working with women's rights.

4. FIRST LADIES AND FEMINISM: LAURA BUSH AS ADVOCATE FOR WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

By *Tasha N. Dubrivny*. *Women's Studies in Communication*, Spring 2005, pp. 84-114.

This essay focuses on the strategic use of feminist discourse in Laura Bush's six speeches between November 17, 2001 and May 21, 2002 about the rights of women and children in Afghanistan. Mrs. Bush used her speeches to bring a feminist issue to the center of U.S. foreign policy. Her use of the ideographs draws upon two traditions of feminism, using liberal feminist ideals of women's rights to education, health, and independence in concert with a traditional understanding of womanhood associated with maternal feminism. Her blending of liberal and maternal feminism is unique. The analysis begins with a salute to Laura Bush's rhetoric within the context of her position as First Lady, followed by her advocacy of the rights of women and children in terms of previous First Ladies' feminist discourse. Next is the ideographic analysis of the ways in which Bush's main ideograph (women and children) interacts with its main supporting ideograph (rights). Finally the author concludes by offering a discussion of the impact of Laura Bush's feminism on women's rights in the United States and abroad.

5. FROM GENOCIDE TO JUSTICE: WOMEN'S BODIES AS A LEGAL WRITING PAD

By *Debra B. Bergoffen*. *Feminist Studies*, Spring 2006, pp. 11-37.

In this article, Debra B. Bergoffen comments on the February 22, 2001 decision of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). In a groundbreaking judgment, the ICTY convicted three Bosnian Serb soldiers of crimes against humanity for raping and sexual enslavement of Muslim girls and women. Noting the ways in which the judgment pushed the legal understanding of the criminality of rape into new territory, news media, court watchers, human rights groups, and women's groups hailed these convictions as a landmark event. The ICTY 2/22 judgment deployed existing war crimes and human rights law to clarify and extend the reach of the international community's authority to define and prosecute rape as a crime against humanity.

6. THE GLOBAL PROMOTION OF GENDER EQUALITY—A PROPAGANDA APPROACH

By *Mark DaCosta Alleyne*. *Human Rights Review*, April-June 2004, pp. 103-116.

Mark DaCosta Alleyne suggests an alternate approach to measuring progress in international politics that focuses on the symbolic and ideological work of international organizations. In today's world both domestic and international discourse is more mediated than ever before by different means of mass communication like television, radio, Internet, newspapers etc. Alleyne argues that propaganda is another arena that must be taken into account when exploring the work of international organizations. The international organization in question here is the United Nations, which has been examined in the perspective of gender equality, a topic that is also variously described as "women's rights," "women's issues," or the "women's movement." This paper explains first why the topic of the United Nations and women's rights is important, it then examines the propaganda role of the United Nations in the struggle for gender equality. The paper finally concludes with a critical analysis of the United Nation's propaganda work in relation to the issue of gender equality.

7. GLOBAL WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS AT A CROSSROADS: SEEKING DEFINITION, NEW ALLIANCES AND GREATER IMPACT

By Carol Barton. Socialism and Democracy, June 30, 2004, p. 151.

This article gives an overview of global women's movements at the regional and international level, focused on global international fora, while recognizing that the success of work at the international level is measured by its impact on the lives of women at the local level. It explores responses to the current global political-economic challenges, as well as to specific problems within these international networks. Barton, as an activist fully engaged in these movements, recognizes the limitations as well as the benefits of an insider's vantage point. She seeks to pose questions and dilemmas, observe trends and point to some directions, without pretending to have answers for this "crossroad." The analysis offered here reflects an internal critique, towards her own organization and that of her colleagues, in a constructive effort towards more effective political work.

8. THE PAYOFF FROM WOMEN'S RIGHTS

By Isobel Coleman. Foreign Affairs, May/June 2004, pp. 80-95.

Isobel Coleman, in this article, emphasizes the social benefits of the advancement of women's rights. Women are critical to economic development, active civil society, and good governance, especially in developing countries. Focusing on women is often the best way to reduce birth rates and child mortality, improve health, nutrition, and education, stem the spread of HIV and AIDS, build robust and self-sustaining community organizations, and encourage grassroots democracy. Gender disparities hit women and girls the hardest, but the cost of inequality is ultimately paid by the whole society. Achieving gender equality is deemed so critical to reducing poverty and improving governance that it has become a development objective in its own right. Much like human rights a generation ago, women's rights were long considered too controversial for mainstream foreign policy. For decades, international development agencies skirted gender issues in highly patriarchal societies. Now, however, they increasingly see women's empowerment as critical to their mandate. The United States has advocated women's rights as a moral imperative or as a way to promote democracy. In so doing, it might have compounded the difficulty of its task, by irking conservative religious forces or the authoritarian regimes it otherwise supports. But the U.S. can also make an economic case for women's rights, which may be more acceptable to traditionalists. Promoting women's rights because they spur development and economic growth is a powerful

way for the U.S. to advance its foreign policy in the future while minimizing the ideological debates that have frustrated it in the past.

9. A PERSONAL JOURNEY FROM WOMEN'S RIGHTS TO CIVIL RIGHTS TO HUMAN RIGHTS

By Loretta J. Ross. The Black Scholar, Spring 2006, pp. 45-53.

Loretta J. Ross, a longtime activist, brings up the issues that bother the African-American women and the challenges faced by them in the contemporary U.S. society. Guided by her own experiences of being an African-American feminist in the United States, she has devoted her life to end male and white supremacy. According to Ross, white supremacist politics in the United States adversely affect African-American women. Nearly every social ill is blamed on them. Her first experience of sexual trauma was when she was kidnapped from a Girl Scout outing and raped when she was eleven years old. She then relates the other traumas in her life that made her committed to fight the oppression of women.

10. TOWARD EQUALITY FOR ALL: AN INTERVIEW WITH NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATE SHIRIN EBADI

By Elaina Loveland. International Educator, July/August 2006, pp. 20-23

In 2003, Shirin Ebadi became the first Iranian and Muslim woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts towards achieving democracy and human rights. Born in 1947 in Hamadan, Iran, Ebadi went on to become one of the country's first female judges at the age of 23. However, she had to step down from the judgeship in the aftermath of the Islamic Revolution. Since then, she has been promoting human rights in Iran – particularly for women and children. This Iranian lawyer and human rights activist has also written 14 books – mostly on subjects of rights for women and children. To advocate and support her causes, she has also opened three nongovernmental organizations. She is still continuing with her mission of achieving human rights for every woman and child in Iran, her native country.

11. WOMEN AND CLASS: WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN FORTY YEARS?

By Stephanie Luce, Mark Brenner. Monthly Review, July/August 2006, pp. 80-93.

The article discusses the developments in the social status of women in the United States and explores the developments in the social rank of women in the United States. It explores the overall labor force

participation of women, changes in the gender make-up of occupations, upward mobility of U.S. women workers with college degree, wages of women workers, and reasons for the poverty of women. The authors argue that in order to understand the conditions for working women today and the potential for a new women's movement, it is essential to understand what has really changed over the past forty years, and the consequences of those changes.

12. WOMEN IN IRAQ: BACKGROUND AND ISSUES FOR U.S. POLICY

By Aaron D. Pina. CRS Report for Congress, March 13, 2006, 17 p.

The United States commitment to Iraqi women's issues has evolved into greater programming for women in Iraq. As part of the approximately \$21 billion in U.S. funding for Iraqi reconstruction in FY2004, the United States allocated substantial amounts that specifically help Iraqi women with democratic organization, education, advocacy, and entrepreneurship. Still U.S.-sponsored Iraqi reconstruction projects that address women's issues face challenges. Elements of Iraqi civil society and culture continue to undervalue the role of women in areas such as political participation and private industry. Furthermore, issues of personal status, like polygamy, continue to hamper gender equality in Iraq. This report begins with an overview of Iraqi women's situation under Baathist rule (1968-2003) and then in the second section discusses the position of women in the immediate post-Hussein period, examining the role of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA). The third section takes a closer look into the current situation of Iraqi women, recent elections, and the impact the Transitional National Assembly (TNA) has upon women. The fourth section outlines significant issues affecting U.S. policies toward Iraqi women, highlighting the possible outcomes of a volatile security situation, indigenous challenges to women's rights (like the rise of Islamic conservatism), and of the transition to Iraqi sovereignty. The fifth and the final section highlights key U.S.-sponsored programs that address Iraqi women's issues.

13. WOMEN IN THE LABOR FORCE: A DATABOOK

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, September 2006, 83 p.

The past several decades have witnessed some remarkable reorientations in women's labor force activities in comparison to that of men's. These changes are evident in the areas of rising labor force participation, employment growth in higher-paying occupations, and earning increases. There has been a positive shift in these areas. Women have increasingly been employed in higher-paying occupations. This has

gone hand in hand with their pursuit of higher education. This report presents historical and current labor force and earning data for women and men from the Current Population Survey (CPS), which is America's national monthly survey of approximately 60,000 households conducted by the United States Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

14. WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS IN KORAN: AN INTERPRETIVE APPROACH

By Niaz A. Shah. Human Rights Quarterly, November 2006, pp. 868-903.

Religion plays a pivotal role in influencing the ways women are treated across the world, both socially and legally. Forces of religious extremism and economic globalization are two major challenges of the 21st century to all human rights especially in context of women. Religious fundamentalism poses the most acute problems for women's equality. This article discusses three different Islamic approaches towards human rights – secular, non-compatible, and reconciliatory. It further 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, and not to relegate them to subordination as is commonly believed and practiced in much of the Muslim world today.

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

15. FAST TRACK FOREVER?

By Greg Mastel, Hal Shapiro. International Economy, Summer 2006, pp. 50-55.

The authors note that there has been a nearly five-fold increase in Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) since fast-track negotiating authority was reestablished in 2002 by the Trade Promotion Authority Act. Fast-track authority is due to expire in 2007, and historically there have been long breaks before being reinstated, they claim. Although it is possible to negotiate FTAs without fast-track authority, say the authors, it is much more difficult and prone to delays – which discourages trade and is detrimental to both U.S. trade policy and global growth. Therefore, they recommend that some form of permanent fast-track authority be established. A permanent fast track would need to include mechanisms to improve the balance of

powers between the President and Congress, and it should provide more guidance on determination of a specific authority to negotiate.

16. INVESTING IN THE YOUTH BULGE

By Emmanuel Y. Jimenez, Mamta Murthi. *Finance and Development*, September 2006, pp. 40-43.
<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2006/09/jimenez.htm>

Jimenez and Murthi, both with the World Bank, say that many developing countries are experiencing the largest "youth bulge" in history. The authors discuss the risks and opportunities that this youth prominence can have on economic growth and poverty reduction. They recommend focusing on policies and goals that promote high employment, such as achieving universal primary and secondary education, making reforms in the trade and labor markets, and improving the investment climate for human capital. With the right investments, they write, developing countries can turn their large youth populations into a boon.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL RELATIONS & SECURITY

17. AL QAEDA'S PANDEMIC

By James Kitfield. *National Journal*, September 2, 2006, pp. 20-27.

The author, a defense and foreign affairs correspondent for the *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."

18. BOUNDARY CONTROL: SUBNATIONAL AUTHORITARIANISM IN DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES

By Edward L. Gibson. *World Politics*, October 2005, pp. 101-132.

Gibson, a political science professor specializing in Latin America at Northwestern University, takes stock of a novel phenomenon: authoritarian provincial governments operating within democratic countries. In a case study of Oaxaca in Mexico and Santiago del Estero in Argentina, Gibson identifies "boundary control" – the provincial government's success in maintaining territorial politics by keeping local conflicts local and by resisting efforts by the national government to intervene – to be the key determinant whether the province succeeds in efforts to pursue greater democratization.

19. EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE: ENABLER OF INSURGENT SUCCESS

By Jeffrey Record. *Parameters*, 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 and war, 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."

20. GLOBAL NATO

By Ivo Daalder, James Goldgeier. *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2006, pp.105-113.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization's functions have evolved since it was established in 1949. As the world's premier multinational military organization, NATO is essential to the management of current international crises, varying from peacekeeping in Afghanistan to tsunami relief in Indonesia. Ivo Daalder, Senior Fellow at the

Brookings Institution, and James Goldgeier, Professor of Political Science at George Washington University and Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, argue that NATO would "enjoy greater legitimacy" if it were to open its membership to non-European democracies aligned with NATO's goals. Countries like Japan and Australia would contribute to NATO's efforts because an increasingly global world demands an increasingly global coalition, and "global threats cannot be tackled by a regional organization," the authors note.

21. HAMAS, ISRAEL, AND THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE

By Casimir Yost. *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, Summer 2006, pp. 139-145.

The author, director of the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University, describes the recent changes in the Israel-Palestine situation caused by the elections of Hamas and Olmert and presents Israeli and Palestinian "myths" that he sees as barriers to a negotiated settlement of the problems. He points out that Fatah and its allies actually received 56% of the votes, but won only 43% of the seats because Hamas was better organized – the Fatah vote was divided among multiple candidates. "Now much depends on how Hamas's success or failure is viewed by the Palestinian people. If Hamas is viewed as standing up for the rights and dignity of the Palestinian people, it could emerge strengthened. If, on the other hand, Hamas is perceived by Palestinians as a barrier to a better future, the 2006 elections could well have been the party's high-water mark." Given the current situation, the best outcome may be an unstable tolerance between the two parties, "but the more likely eventuality will be renewed conflict with a third Intifada."

22. REHABILITATING A ROGUE: LIBYA'S WMD REVERSAL AND LESSONS FOR US POLICY

By Dafna Hochman. *Parameters*, Spring 2006, pp. 63-78.

<http://www.carlisle.army.mil/usawc/Parameters/06spring/hochman.htm>

The author cites Libya as a model for other rogue nations that wish to engage in voluntary disarmament. This approach recognizes the motivation for voluntary disarmament as attributable to multiple causes. In Libya's case, this motivation came from three sources: Libyan concern about al-Qaeda caused a desire to ally with the U.S.; Libyan preoccupation with its reputation and international image; and the pressure exerted on Congress by the families of the victims of Pan Am Flight 103. The combination of these threats caused Libya to perceive greater danger in maintaining its nuclear and chemical programs than in destroying them.

23. SUSPENDED ANIMATION: THE US AND RUSSIA AFTER THE G-8

By Celeste Wallander. *Current History*, October 2006, pp. 315-320.

Relations between Moscow and Washington are likely to deteriorate over the next two years, as the leaders struggle to cooperate on proliferation and terrorism, but find the rest of their diplomacy in "suspended animation." Recent disputes since this year's G-8 summit in St. Petersburg illustrate the depth of disconnect, including the breakdown Russia's WTO entry negotiations, recent U.S. sanctions imposed against two major Russian firms doing business with Iran, and international reaction to Russia's state-controlled energy companies' dealings with its neighbors. The fundamental problem, the author argues, is that each wants what the other will not give: the United States wants a free, democratic and secure future for Russia and its neighbors, while Russia wants to be considered a great power on its own terms ("sovereign democracy"), as well as undisputed influence in the former Soviet republics. As long as their respective leaderships persist in defining their interests in these opposing terms, the U.S. and Russia can look forward to only periodic tactical cooperation in areas of urgent mutual interest.

DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS

24. THE LEGACY OF THE SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE

By Vincent Nmebielle, Charles Chernor Jalloh. *Fletcher Forum of World Affairs*, Summer 2006, pp. 107-124.

The Special Court established by the United Nations and the government of Sierra Leone to investigate and prosecute crimes related to the 1996-2002 conflict represents an innovation in international human rights law. It was unique in many respects, most significantly in its establishment of a strong, independent legal defense office, located within the country, and a conscious effort to help the small West African nation to transform its judicial system. The court collaborated with the Sierra Leone government to develop this legacy by sponsoring projects aimed at four major themes: promoting the rule of law, promoting international human rights and humanitarian law, promoting civil society and the judicial sector, and developing the legal profession in Sierra Leone. The authors argue that the international community should carefully consider the Special Court's success and support similar processes in other global hotspots.

25. NAVIGATING THE MAZE: CORPORATE INFLUENCE OVER FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL RULEMAKING

By Sheldon Kamieniecki. *Environment*, June 2006, pp. 8-20.

The author, dean of social sciences at the University of California at Santa Cruz, notes that because of the stalemate in Congress over environmental and natural resource policy in recent years, business interests and environmental groups have made increasing efforts to influence the rulemaking process at federal agencies as a way to change existing policy. Kamieniecki provides an overview of the rulemaking process at several federal agencies, and describes a study of the treatment of several important environmental laws during the Clinton and George W. Bush administrations. He notes that the study's results do not suggest that business or environmental groups had undue influence over the rulemaking process; better indicators would be the type of rules initially proposed, the ideological and partisan makeup of appointees in federal agencies, and pressure to alter scientific findings. Kamieniecki believes that a stronger effort must be made not to inject politics into scientific data, which would unduly influence public policy.

26. PRESIDENTIAL VISITS AND MIDTERM SENATE ELECTIONS

By Patrick J. Sellers, Laura M. Denton. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, September 2006, pp. 410-432.

This article examines domestic presidential visits during midterm Senate elections between 1982 and 2002. While presidential visits can boost Senate candidates' popularity, presidents are not always working to further the collective goals of their party when making these visits. A president's individual electoral interests lead him to visit places where he can strengthen his electoral coalition or bolster his supporters' commitment, the authors argue. Presidents are also likely to visit states with higher electoral votes more often. "The president will always have the opportunity, and possibly the incentive, to place his own interests first," the authors write.

COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION

27. 10 IMPERATIVES FOR PEACE

By John Richardson. *The Futurist*, November/December 2006, pp. 14-17.

The author, a development expert who spent 17 years in the midst of Sri Lanka's civil wars, says peace must move beyond diplomacy and into the development arena, and outlines 10 imperatives. Many are simple and obvious, but still frequently ignored when a country is strangling on the rage and violence of civil strife. Some of Richardson's maxims: maintain public order; meet the aspirations for opportunity of young men of fighting age; aim for development policies that fulfill commonly held aspirations in order to keep conflict at bay; development should strike a middle ground between capitalism and socialism; craft development strategies with a long-term view beyond the next election; rigorously examine the costs of military options if a military solution is sought for complex development solutions.

28. ME TRANSLATE PRETTY ONE DAY

By Evan Ratliff. *Wired*, December 2006, pp. 210-213.
<http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/14.12/translate.html>

Since the dawn of the computer age, engineers have been trying to develop a program that will translate text from one language to another. It's proven a far more difficult problem than anyone ever anticipated. A New York-based company, Meaningful Machines, is getting closer however, with the adoption of a totally new concept as the basis of its translation program. Most programs have tried to apply traditional rules of grammar to a body of text to eke out a translation, but the programs fail to grasp the nuances and context of language use. They produce garbled, awkward or simply embarrassing translations. In contrast, the Meaningful Machines method attempts a translation by analyzing statistical probabilities for the juxtaposition of phrases and common usages in the text subject to translation as compared to large bodies of text stored in its databanks. A couple of generations of engineers have struggled with the problem, but it was an untrained Israeli inventor who conceived the "decoder" that may prove to crack one of the oldest problems in computer science.

29. REBUILDING MICROSOFT

By Fred Vogelstein. *Wired*, October 2006, pp. 171-177.
<http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/14.10/microsoft.html>

Microsoft Founder Bill Gates has announced plans to give up many of his responsibilities at the software company he created more than 30 years ago, naming Ray Ozzie as the company's chief software architect. The inventor and principal executive behind the Lotus Notes application, Ozzie has a reputation for technological brilliance, but he takes the leadership role at Microsoft at a time when the company needs a new direction. The company's traditional desktop software products are no longer cutting-edge and Web-based applications are overtaking the industry. Long the leader in supplying PC programs, Microsoft is lagging behind in software development for the hot new gadgets in technology – PDAs, cell phones, and iPods. In a memo to executives, Ozzie has said the company must move toward software services, and faster development of applications. While Microsoft is known for the creation of complex software products, Ozzie says, "Complexity kills. It sucks the life out of developers, it makes products difficult to plan build, and test, it introduces security challenges and it causes end-user and administrator frustration." He's already introduced new, edgier products, but fundamentally, Vogelstein reports, Ozzie's challenge will convince Microsoft workers to change how they think about their product development, probably one of the hardest things the company has ever attempted.

30. TINY SLICE, BIG MARKET

By Clay Shirky. *Wired*, November 2006, pp. 163-168
<http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/14.11/meganiche.html>

One billion people are now regular Internet users, and their sheer numbers have changed the basic strategy for building a successful Web site. "Get big, get niche, or get out" is the former conventional wisdom, Shirky writes, but the vastness of the online audience now allows a Web site to serve a meganiche, an audience with very specialized, even obscure, interests. If a Web site identifies the right niche – devotees of cell phone software, or Japanese animation, for instance – it may attract a large, active and loyal audience from the vast universe of Web users. The trend is also causing advertisers to reevaluate their standards for placement of their brand. Not long ago, an advertiser was cautious about placing his brand in chat groups or audience-made content. Now advertisers are dropping some of those old conventions of the print world, and are willing to place their product, and spend advertising dollars, to reach targeted audiences.

GLOBAL ISSUES

31. GOOD GONE WILD

By Eric Jaffe. *Science News*, September 30, 2006, pp. 218-220.
<http://www.sciencenews.org/articles/20060930/bob9.asp>

Ecotourism allows tourists to learn about exotic habitats and rare plant and animal species while generating income for local populations, giving them an incentive to protect the environment rather than exploiting it. In reality, there are problems with ecotourism, especially where it is insufficiently regulated by governments eager to protect a source of income. Some species may be so shy that the presence of humans harms the mating or nesting habits of animals; tourists may unwittingly damage flora or fauna. Governments may also be unable or unwilling to process trash left behind by tourists, which can cause an ingestion hazard to wild animals. Tour operators may construct facilities for visitors that have a detrimental effect on the local habitat. Local populations may also suffer from the lack of access to resources they previously used to survive. Yet making the situation even more complex is the lack of baseline information on habitats before the tourists descend. Says one scientist: "One of the things I've lately begun to think is we're asking too much from the so-called idea of ecotourism. Trying to find a balance between the social, economic, and environmental elements – it's ambitious and it's complex."

32. HOW NOT TO BUILD A FENCE

By Peter Skerry. *Foreign Policy*, September/October 2006, pp. 64-67.

The current intense political debate about immigration to the United States 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.

33. KATRINA: THE FAILURES OF SUCCESS

By Thomas Prugh. *World Watch*, September/October 2006, p. 7.

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.

34. THE SCOOP ON DIRT

By Tamsyn Jones. *E: the Environmental Magazine*, September/October 2006, pp. 27-39.

This article is a comprehensive basic primer on soil and its role in the environment: how soil works, its relationship to climate, carbon and water cycles and the threats to healthy soils, including pollution, erosion and human management practices. Interwoven throughout is the relationship of soil and its processes to environmental health, human development and farming. The article concludes with a review of factory farming practices and the increase in organic farming in the U.S. Five sidebars cover desertification, the use of waste sludge as fertilizer and its possible toxic content, an interview with soil scientist John Havlin on soils management, a brief history of the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service of the Department

of Agriculture, and a status report on the shrinking number of soil scientists in the U.S. and how universities are trying to attract students to the field.

U.S. SOCIETY, VALUES & POLITICS

35. THE 2006 JEFFERSON LECTURE

By Bruce Cole, Marc Weingarten, Tom Wolfe. *Humanities*, May/June 2006, pp. 6-13, 28-37.
<http://www.neh.gov/news/humanities/2006-05/contents.html>

The Jefferson Lecturer in the Humanities is the highest honor bestowed by the federal government in the field of the humanities. In the first article in this three-part series, "Not Just Another Ice-Cream-Suit-Wearing, Pen-Wielding, Master of the Statusphere: A Conversation with Tom Wolfe," the 2006 honoree is interviewed by National Endowment for the Humanities chairman, Bruce Cole, where he touches upon everything from his PhD. dissertation ("Communist Activity Among American Writers, 1927 to '42") to his tailor. Mark Weingarten writes about how Wolfe broke the rules of journalism to become a better writer in "The New Journalism: Capturing the 'Mad, Hulking Carnival of American Life." Finally, "Tom Wolfe in His Own Words" provides excerpts from some of his most famous works, including *The Right Stuff*, *The Bonfire of the Vanities*, and *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*.

36. ALL IN THE FAMILY

By Jennifer Odell. *Downbeat*, 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.

37. FABRIC OF THEIR LIVES

By Amei Wallach. *Smithsonian*, October 2006, pp. 66-75.

A new exhibition features works by the quilters of Gee's Bend, Alabama, a small rural community that had developed a quilting tradition in the early 1800s. Gee's Bend women made the quilts to keep their families warm in unheated shacks with no water or electricity. The author notes that "along the way, they developed a distinctive style [of quilting], noted for its lively improvisations and geometric simplicity." Many families suffered from foreclosures in the Depression, and during the 1960s civil-rights era, the ferry which connected them with the outside world was cut off. Only recently rediscovered, the unique style of Gee's Bend quilts have attracted worldwide acclaim; says one art critic, they are "some of the most miraculous works of modern art America has produced."

38. SURVIVAL BY SONG

By John McDonough. *Downbeat*, October 2006, pp. 34-41.

Focusing on some of the reasons Tony Bennett has had such a long and prosperous career, McDonough describes his visit to the studio where Bennett is recording his album of American classics with a number of top contemporary artists. Prompt, courteous, and professional, Bennett reminisces about his career, his standard repertoire, his love of jazz, and his legacy. At 80, Bennett "still works as hard as ever, grateful that he has the opportunity to entertain audiences around the world." An interview with three of Bennett's musical directors, John Bunch, Lee Musiker, and Torrie Zito, accompanies the article.

39. WHERE THE BRAINS ARE

By Richard Florida. *Atlantic Monthly*, October 2006, pp. 34-36.

The author notes that America's educated elite is clustering in a few major metropolitan areas, leaving the rest of the country behind – a demographic realignment that is every bit as significant as previous migrations in U.S. history. Calling it "means migration", Florida writes that the growing concentration of affluent, educated and talented people to areas such as San Francisco, Boston, New York, Washington, D.C., Seattle and Denver has a multiplier effect on local economic growth. The growing wealth disparity between these magnet regions and the rest of the country will continue to grow, predicts the author, a phenomenon that "will be one of the great political and cultural challenges of the next generation."

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

40. BREAKING THE CYCLE

By Michael Leaby. *Washington Post Magazine*, October 8, 2006.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/10/04/AR2006100400127.html>

Researchers at the Walter Reed Army Institute in the Washington, D.C. area, are trying to develop a vaccine that will wipe out malaria, a disease that kills at least one million a year and leaves its survivors with long-term effects that can impede their future productivity. A variety of obstacles stand in their way, not the least of which is the parasite itself. "They've survived the attempts of the body's [immune system] to wipe them out for millions of years," researcher David Lanar told the author. An array of health problems are always vying to win policymakers' attention in the competition for research funding, and malaria researchers are at a disadvantage because the disease is considered a relic in the West, where it rarely occurs, since pharmaceuticals to cure it have been developed. But for areas where drugs are often not available, and the disease undercuts the productivity of citizens and the development of nations, the Walter Reed team believes a vaccine is the best strategy for beating malaria.

41. CAN A NEW KIND OF HEAT PUMP CHANGE THE WORLD?

By Charles Linn. *Architectural Record*, March 2006, pp. 163-168.

<http://archrecord.construction.com/resources/conteduc/archives/0603edit-1.asp>

Heat pumps – refrigerant-based interior heating and cooling systems – are widely used in the U.S. and other countries. Their primary drawback is that as the outside air temperature drops below freezing, heat pumps are less and less efficient. About ten years ago, David Shaw, a retired refrigeration engineer, was shocked at a USD 400 electric bill one month for heating with an air-source heat pump; he set about developing a system that would provide heating even at sub-zero temperatures – an innovation that the big U.S. manufacturers traditionally expressed little interest in researching. The key to his system was the addition of a secondary booster compressor and other devices to maximize heat absorption and extraction by the refrigerant. Originally marketed as the Cold Climate Heat Pump, about two hundred units were installed in the last few years, and Shaw's firm has plans to install and test about 2000 more this year. The author notes that soaring energy costs and concern over global warming may spur demand for all-temperature heat pumps.

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