



What's New – September 2007

Significant Documents

Access to Government Information in the United States .

[Congressional Research Service (CRS), 97-71GOV, Library of Congress]. Updated June 13, 2007.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/secrecy/97-71.pdf> [pdf format, 6 pages]

Afro-Latinos In Latin America and Considerations for U.S. Policy.

[Congressional Research Service (CRS), RL32713, Library of Congress]. Updated July 13, 2007.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL32713.pdf> [pdf format, 28 pages]

Agricultural Prices: 2006 Summary.

[National Agricultural Statistics Service , U.S. Department of Agriculture]. Web posted July 21, 2007.

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/Todays_Reports/reports/agpran07.pdf [pdf format, 239 pages]

Are Cash Transfers Made to Women Spent Like Other Sources of Income?

[Policy Research Working Paper, WPS4282, World Bank]. Web posted July 25, 2007.

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2007/07/25/000158349_20070725090857/Rendered/PDF/WPS4282.pdf [pdf format, 32 pages]

Asia's Rising Science and Technology Strength: Comparative Indicators for Asia, the European Union, and the United States .

[Division of Science Resources Statistics, NSF07-319, Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences, National Science Foundation]. May 2007.

<http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/nsf07319/pdf/nsf07319.pdf> [pdf format, 50 pages]

Border Security: Security of New Passports and Visas Enhanced, but More Needs to Be Done to Prevent Their Fraudulent Use.

[GAO-07-1006, U.S. General Accountability Office (GAO)]. Web posted July 31, 2007.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d071006.pdf> [pdf format, 79 pages]

Building Democracy in Burma .

[Working Paper-02, U.S. Institute of Peace]. July 24, 2007.

http://www.usip.org/pubs/working_papers/wp2_democracy_burma.pdf [pdf format, 77 pages]

Child Health USA : 2006.

[Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services]. Web posted July 27, 2007.

ftp://ftp.hrsa.gov/mchb/chusa_06/c06.pdf [pdf format, 70 pages]

Climate Change Justice.

[AEI-Brookings Joint Center for Regulatory Studies, Brookings Institute]. July 2007.

<http://www.aei.brookings.org/admin/authorpdfs/page.php?id=1416> [pdf format, 47 pages]

Congress's Contempt Power: A Sketch.

[Congressional Research Service (CRS), RL34114, Library of Congress]. August 1, 2007.

http://opencrs.cdt.org/rpts/RL34114_20070801.pdf [pdf format, 22 pages]

The Cost of Disputes in Companies and the Use of ADR

[Alternative Dispute Resolution] Methods: Lessons from Nine Latin American Countries.

[Alternative Dispute Resolution Network, Multilateral Investment Fund, Inter-American Development Bank]. Web posted August 2007.

<http://idbdocs.iadb.org/wsdocs/getdocument.aspx?docnum=1078124> [pdf format, 122 pages]

Country Stakes in Climate Change Negotiations: Two Dimensions of Vulnerability.

[Policy Research Working Paper, WPS4300, World Bank]. Web posted August 2, 2007.

<http://www->

wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2007/08/02/000158349_20070802104550/Rendered/PDF/wps4300.pdf [pdf format, 101 pages]

Demography of HIV/AIDS in China : A Report of the Task Force on HIV/AIDS.

[Task Force on HIV/AIDS, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)]. Web posted July 24, 2007.

http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/070724_china_hiv_demography.pdf [pdf format, 45 pages]

Differential Characteristics of 2-Year Postsecondary Institutions: Postsecondary Education Descriptive Analysis Report.

[National Center for Education Statistics, NCES 2007-164, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education]. July 2007.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2007/2007164.pdf> [pdf format, 108 pages]

Digest of Education Statistics: 2006.

[National Center for Education Statistics, NCES 2007-017, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education]. Web posted July 26, 2007.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2007/2007017.pdf> [pdf format, 736 pages]

Economic Mobility of Immigrants in the United States .

[Economic Mobility Project, Pew Charitable Trusts]. Web posted July 25, 2007.

http://www.economicmobility.org/assets/pdfs/Pew_Economic_Mobility_Immigrants.pdf [pdf format, 14 pages]

Energy Market and Economic Impacts of S.280, the Climate Stewardship and Innovation Act of 2007.

[Energy Information Administration, Report No. SR-O1AF/2007-04, U.S. Department of Energy]. July 2007.

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/servicerpt/csia/pdf/sroiaf\(2007\)04.pdf](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/servicerpt/csia/pdf/sroiaf(2007)04.pdf) [pdf format, 92 pages]

Gangs in Central America .

[Congressional Research Service (CRS), RL34112, Library of Congress]. Updated August 2, 2007.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL34112.pdf> [pdf format, 19 pages]

Global E-Government, 2007.

[Center for Public Policy, Brown University]. Web posted July 28, 2007.

<http://www.insidepolitics.org/egovt07int.pdf> [pdf format, 25 pages]

Haiti : Developments and U.S. Policy Since 1991 and Current Congressional Concerns.

[Congressional Research Service (CRS), RL32294, Library of Congress]. Updated June 21, 2007.

<http://www.fas.org/sqp/crs/row/RL32294.pdf> [pdf format, 45 pages]

Indonesia : Domestic Politics, Strategic Dynamics, and American Interests.

[Congressional Research Service (CRS), RL32394, Library of Congress]. Updated June 20, 2007.

<http://www.fas.org/sqp/crs/row/RL32394.pdf> [pdf format, 33 pages]

International NGOs and Poverty Reduction Strategies: The Contribution of an Asset-based Approach.

[Brookings Global Economy and Development, Working Paper #08, Brookings Institution]. Web posted July 23, 2007.

<http://www3.brookings.edu/views/papers/200707moser.pdf> [pdf format, 44 pages]

Iraq and the Gulf States : The Balance of Fear.

[Special Report No. 189, U.S. Institute of Peace]. Web posted July 27, 2007.

<http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr189.pdf> [pdf format, 16 pages]

Latin America and the Caribbean : Fact Sheet on Economic and Social Indicators.

[Congressional Research Service (CRS), RS22657, Library of Congress]. May 2, 2007.

<http://ncseonline.org/NLE/CRSreports/07Jun/RS22657.pdf> [pdf format, 4 pages]

Market or State? Three Decades of Reform in the Latin American Electric Power Industry.

[Sustainable Development Department, Inter-American Development Bank]. Web posted July 2007.

<http://idbdocs.iadb.org/wsdocs/getdocument.aspx?docnum=1042168> [pdf format, 308 pages]

Measurement and Inference in International Reserve Diversification.

[Working Paper Series, WP07-6, Peterson Institute for International Economics]. Web posted August 8, 2007.

<http://www.petersoninstitute.org/publications/wp/wp07-6.pdf> [pdf format, 63 pages]

Milk Madness.

[Tax & Budget Bulletin, No. 47, Cato Institute]. July 2007.

http://www.cato.org/pubs/tbb/tbb_0707_47.pdf [pdf format, 2 pages]

Mixed Blessings: U.S. Government Engagement with Religion in Conflict-Prone Settings: A Report.

[Post-Conflict Reconstruction Project, Center for Strategic and International Studies]. Web posted July 20, 2007.

http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/070720_religion.pdf [pdf format, 92 pages]

The Nation's Report Card: Economics 2006: National Assessment of Educational Progress at Grade 12.

[National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, NCES 2007-475, U.S. Department of Education]. August 2007.

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/main2006/2007475.pdf> [pdf format, 32 pages]

The Perception of and Adaptation to Climate Change in Africa .
[Development Research Group, Sustainable Rural and Urban Development Team, Policy Research Working Paper 4308, World Bank]. Web posted August 6, 2007.
http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2007/08/06/000158349_20070806150940/Rendered/PDF/wps4308.pdf [pdf format, 53 pages]

Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) Status for Russia and U.S.-Russian Economic Ties.
[Congressional Research Service (CRS), RS21123, Library of Congress]. Updated July 10, 2007.
<http://www.fas.org/sqp/crs/row/RS21123.pdf> [pdf format, 6 pages]

Perspectives from America 's Economic Engine: US Middle Market Outlook 2007.
[Economist Intelligence Unit and CIT Group]. Web posted July 30, 2007.
<http://a330.g.akamai.net/7/330/25828/20070727180924/graphics.eiu.com/upload/Middle%20Market%20Outlook%202007.pdf> [pdf format, 32 pages]

Peru Trade Promotion Agreement: Labor Issues.
[Congressional Research Service (CRS), RS22521, Library of Congress]. Updated July 5, 2007.
<http://www.nationalaglawcenter.org/assets/crs/RS22521.pdf> [pdf format, 6 pages]

Political Violence and Democratic Uncertainty in Ethiopia .
[Special Report 192, U.S. Institute of Peace]. August 2007.
<http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr192.pdf> [pdf format, 20 pages]

Population Issues in the 21st Century: The Role of the World Bank.
[Technical Discussion Paper, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, World Bank]. Web posted July 19, 2007.
<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/HEALTHNUTRITIONANDPOPULATION/Resources/281627-1095698140167/PopulationDiscussionPaperApril07Final.pdf> [pdf format, 83 pages]

Radicalization in the West: The Homegrown Threat.
[NYPD Intelligence Division, New York Police Department (NYPD), New York City]. Web posted August 15, 2007.
http://www.nyc.gov/html/nypd/pdf/dcp/NYPD_Report-Radicalization_in_the_West.pdf [pdf format, 90 pages]

Reconfiguring the Federal Pell Grant Program: Effect of Selected Changes on Program Costs and on Students in Different Income Groups. [Congressional Research Service (CRS), RL34084, Library of Congress]. July 9, 2007.
http://openocrs.cdt.org/rpts/RL34084_20070709.pdf [pdf format, 33 pages]

Rethinking Economic Reform in Jordan : Confronting Socioeconomic Realities.
[Carnegie Middle East Center , No. 4, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace]. Web posted July 31, 2007.
http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/cmec4_alissa_jordan_final.pdf [pdf format, 32 pages]

A Rising Tide Lifts Mood in the Developing World: Sharp Decline in Support for Suicide Bombing in Muslim Countries.
[Pew Global Attitudes Project, Pew Research Center]. July 24, 2007.
<http://pewglobal.org/reports/pdf/257.pdf> [pdf format, 168 pages]

Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America : An Overview and Selected Issues.
[Congressional Research Service (CRS), RS22701, Library of Congress]. August 2, 2007.
<http://www.fas.org/sqp/crs/row/RS22701.pdf> [pdf format, 6 pages]

Security Requirements for Post-Transition Cuba .

[Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College]. Web posted July 30, 2007.

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdffiles/PUB785.pdf> [pdf format, 39 pages]

Shared Values, Shared Fate: Muslim Identity in the Global Age.

[Muslim Networks Conference, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)]. Web posted July 23, 2007.

http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/muslim_networks_conference_summary.pdf [pdf format, 4 pages]

Sovereign Wealth Funds: The Need for Greater Transparency and Accountability.

[Policy Brief, PB07-6, Peterson Institute for International Economics]. Web posted August 8, 2007.

<http://www.petersoninstitute.org/publications/pb/pb07-6.pdf> [pdf format, 9 pages]

Special Court of Sierra Leone Briefing: The Taylor Trial and Lessons from Capacity-Building and Outreach.

[USIPeace Briefing, U.S. Institute of Peace]. August 2007.

http://www.usip.org/pubs/usipeace_briefings/2007/0821_special_court.html [html format, various pagings]

State Department: Staffing and Foreign Language Shortfalls Persist Despite Initiatives to Address Gaps: Testimony Before the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, The Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia , Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

[Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, U.S. Senate]. August 1, 2007.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d071154t.pdf> [pdf format, 22 pages]

State E-Government Strategies: Identifying Best Practices and Applications.

[Congressional Research Service (CRS), RL34104, Library of Congress]. July 23, 2007.

http://opencrs.cdt.org/rpts/RL34104_20070723.pdf [pdf format, 61 pages]

Terrorist Threats in the Horn of Africa : A Net Assessment.

[National Security Outlook, American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research]. Web posted July 30, 2007.

http://www.aei.org/docLib/20070730_22011JulyNSOg.pdf [pdf format, 8 pages]

Trade Deficit in Food Safety: Proposed NAFTA Expansions Replicate Limits on U.S. Food Safety Policy That Are Contributing to Unsafe Food Imports.

[Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch, Public Citizen]. July 2007.

<http://www.citizen.org/documents/FoodSafetyReportFINAL.pdf> [pdf format, 32 pages]

Treaties in Force: A List of Treaties and Other International Agreements of the United States in Force on January 1, 2007.

[Office of Legal Advisor, U.S. Department of States]. Web posted August 3, 2007.

Section 1: Bilateral Agreements

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/83046.pdf> [pdf format, 419 pages]

Section 2: Multilateral Agreements

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/89668.pdf> [pdf format, 196 pages]

The Uncertain Cost of the Global War on Terror.

[Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)]. Web posted August 8, 2007.

http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/080907_thecostsofwar.pdf [pdf format, 20 pages]

U.S.-China Relations After Resolution of Taiwan's Status.

[Document No. MG-567-AF, RAND Project Air Force, RAND Corporation]. July 2007.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2007/RAND_MG567.pdf [pdf format, 40 pages]

U.S. Clothing and Textile Trade with China and the World: Trends Since the End of Quotas.

[Congressional Research Service (CRS), RL34106, Library of Congress]. July 10, 2007.

<http://www.fas.org/sqp/crs/row/RL34106.pdf> [pdf format, 32 pages]

U.S. Living Standards in an Era of Globalization.

[Policy Brief, No. 33, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace]. July 2007.

http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/pb_53_polaski_us_living_standards_final.pdf [pdf format, 8 pages]

Violence in the Terai Region and the Madhesi Movement: Prospects for Peace in Nepal .

[USIPeace Briefing, U.S. Institute of Peace]. August 3, 2007.

http://www.usip.org/pubs/usipeace_briefings/2007/0803_violence_nepal.html#violence [html format, various pagings]

Will Security Council Resolution 1769 Make a Difference in Darfur ? Commentary.

[Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement, Brookings Institution]. August 9, 2007.

http://www3.brookings.edu/fp/projects/idp/cohen_20070809.pdf [pdf format, 5 pages]

The Year in Trade 2006: Operation of the Trade Agreements Program: 58th Report.

[Publication 3927, U.S. International Trade Commission]. July 2007.

http://hotdocs.usitc.gov/docs/pubs/year_in_trade/pub3927.pdf [pdf format, 210 pages]

Young People and News: A Report.

[Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University]. July 2007.

http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/presspol/carnegie_knight/young_news_web.pdf [pdf format, 35 pages]

ARTICLES

DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Continetti, Matthew SEE RUDY RUN (Weekly Standard, Vol. 12, No. 44, August 6, 2007, pp. 17-20)

Continetti, associate editor of The Weekly Standard, looks at former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani's presidential campaign and why he remains the front-runner among Republican Party nominees. Giuliani has received his share of negative publicity, and the conventional wisdom is that conservative voters will abandon their support due to his pro-choice abortion position and other liberal social views. Nevertheless, Giuliani continues to lead the national polls, many state polls, and his organization and fundraising are going well. Continetti says support for Giuliani boils down to 2 issues: most believe he can win against Hillary Clinton in the general election

and others trust him to deal with the Iraq war and successfully counter possible terrorist attacks in the future. A Giuliani presidential nomination might force the Republican Party to recruit new volunteers who are less socially conservative or subsume party differences over abortion to get a Republican president elected. Other Republican candidates, hopeful that Giuliani will slide in the polls, may be underestimating his appeal.

Herskovits, Jean NIGERIA'S RIGGED DEMOCRACY (Foreign Affairs, vol. 86, no. 4, July/August 2007, pp. 115-130)

Nigeria's elections last April were among the most seriously flawed in the country's history, thanks largely to the manipulations of the U.S.-backed ruling party. With Nigerians increasingly clamoring for accountability, Washington's continuing support could generate more unrest -- and could pose a risk both to oil supplies coming out of Nigeria and to the stability of West Africa.

Walker, Edward CRIME WITHOUT PUNISHMENT: THE LITVENENKO AFFAIR AND PUTIN'S CULTURE OF VIOLENCE (Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, vol. 8, no. 2, Summer/Fall 2007, pp. 97-105)

The author argues that the ongoing aftermath from the November 2006 radioactive poisoning of former Russian intelligence officer Alexander Litvenenko is only one of several illustrations of the continued lawlessness in Russian politics, business and society. While president Vladimir Putin has succeeded in his goals of establishing a "verticality of power" by centralizing control of the regions in Moscow and "sovereign democracy" by using its energy wealth to pay off its debts and become a more aggressive regional player, he has been less successful in his pursuit of what he called a "dictatorship of law," -- achieving at best what the author describes as "rule by law" which seems to constrain all but the political leadership and their associates. A prevailing culture of corruption, the elevation of many security services veterans into senior positions, and a shift from the business-related murders of the 1990s to the seemingly politically-motivated killings of critical journalists, bankers, and government officials of today bode ill for Russia's future, regardless of who succeed Putin in next year's elections.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Dollar, David; Wei, Shang-Jin UNDERUTILIZED CAPITAL (Finance and Development, vol. 44, no. 2, June 2007, pp. 30-33) China continues to experience rapid economic growth. However, the authors, both with the IMF, contend that China could improve by running the state-owned enterprises (SOEs) more efficiently. Even though there is a larger number of private and foreign firms, state-owned companies account for one-third of the manufacturing assets. Nevertheless, the SOEs have lower returns to capital than the private and foreign firms. The Chinese financial system is dominated by state-owned banks, which tend to favor SOEs and do not expend much effort in expanding commercialization. Furthermore, the authors point out the SOEs' tendency to reinvest with very low marginal returns. They see receiving dividends, rather than just collecting taxes, as one way to increase its investment. With some of these and other changes, the China's economy could boost its growth and free up resources for increased consumption.

Jacoby, Ulrich GETTING TOGETHER (Finance & Development, vol. 44, no. 2, June 2007, pp. 34-35)

China is fast becoming a major player in the economies of sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), offering trade and investment in a drive to secure oil and minerals needed for its own development, writes Ulrich Jacoby, a senior economist in the IMF's African Department. Jacoby's figures indicate that from 2000-2005, SSA's exports to China surged nearly 400 percent, accounting for about one-fifth of the region's total export growth. In 2005 China received 25 percent of SSA's raw materials exports and 17 percent of its fuel exports. Conversely, China's exports to SSA, mostly manufactured goods, rocketed 370 percent during the same period to more than \$13 billion, accounting for almost 15 percent of the region's imports. On the investment front, Jacoby wrote that China has launched multi-billion projects to build an oil refinery in Angola, and a railway, a

port and a hydroelectric power station in Gabon in return for exclusive rights to extract iron ore from a Gabonese mine. The major beneficiaries of China's loans and credit lines to SSA, totaling about \$19 billion, are Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo and Nigeria, all of which are endowed with abundant resources.

Klare, Michael T. ENTERING THE TOUGH OIL ERA: THE NEW ENERGY PESSIMISM (TomDispatch.com, posted August 16, 2007)

The author, professor at Hampshire College (Amherst, Massachusetts), notes that when "peak oil" — the theory that global oil production will peak and decline due to shrinking worldwide petroleum reserves — gained public attention several years ago, many in the oil industry and business establishment dismissed it as a fringe notion. Klare writes that "recently, however, a spate of high-level government and industry reports have begun to suggest that the original peak-oil theorists were far closer to the grim reality of global-oil availability than industry analysts were willing to admit." Notably, the usually conservative Paris-based International Energy Agency released a report in early July that global oil production is unlikely to keep up with demand over the next five years, a situation that may result in oil shortages. He notes that most of the "easy oil" — the high-quality, low-sulfur oil in on-land reservoirs near the surface -- has already been found and consumed; what is left is the "tough oil", the fields in deep locations, the heavy, high-sulfur-content oils that require more processing, or that are in countries experiencing political instability. Over the next five years, oil production will need to increase by several million barrels per day per year, to account for growing demand and depletion of existing fields, and infrastructure to exploit the "tough-oil" reserves over the next two decades will cost on the order of USD 20 trillion — an unlikely prospect in a world increasingly dominated by national-government-owned oil companies. Klare concludes, "whether or not the peak in world oil output is at hand, the future of the global oil supply in a world of endlessly growing demand appears grim."

Available online at http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/174829/michael_klare_tough_oil_on_tap

Noland, Marcus THE LOOMING ARAB EMPLOYMENT CRISIS (International Economy, vol. 21, no. 2, Spring 2007, pp. 54-57)

The author, a Senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics and a visiting professor at Yale University, notes that the Middle East is facing a demographic challenge with expected population growth of 150 million people over the next decade. He suggests that expansion of labor-intensive manufacturing or services exports could create a sustainable increase in employment, but such a development is inhibited by the poor integration of the Arab economies into the global trading system and the scarcity of foreign investment outside the petroleum industry. The author asserts that political uncertainty discourages foreign businesses and investors from a lasting engagement in the region. However, some countries are doing better than the others, so improvements in economic outcomes could be achieved by sharing the best economic and business development practices within the region. The broader international community can help, particularly the U.S., which can try to reduce its current account deficit (thus helping to redirect oil states' current account surpluses to internal investment), strengthening progressive democratic forces in the Arab world, entering into internally consistent preferential trade agreements with Arab countries and improving coordination with multilateral institutions and other developed countries. This article is based on the book Noland co-authored with Howard Pack, THE ARAB ECONOMIES IN A CHANGING WORLD.

GLOBAL ISSUES / INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

Kolbert, Elizabeth STUNG: THE MYSTERIOUS DECLINE OF THE HONEYBEE (New Yorker, August 6, 2007, pp. 52-59) The mysterious and rapid decline of honeybee populations in the United States beginning in the fall of 2006 has dismayed and alarmed scientists and beekeepers.

The cause of this calamity, known as colony-collapse disorder, in which honeybee colonies suddenly and nearly completely disappear, is still unknown. Honeybees are crucial to U.S. agriculture, and the spread of colony-collapse disorder represents a major threat to the U.S. food supply. Because the country's vast commercial orchards must be pollinated on a scale beyond the capacity of any local population of pollinators, growers hire traveling beekeepers to bring in honeybee colonies for short periods of time; the bees have become, in effect, migrant farm workers who do their jobs and move on. Evidence suggests that a kind of "honeybee AIDS" virus, spread by the long-distance transport of bee colonies during harvest season, is attacking the bees' immune systems. In the words of a recent report, "pollinator decline is one form of global change that actually does have credible potential to alter the shape and structure of the terrestrial world."

Motavalli, Jim THE CAN-DO CONGRESS? (E Magazine, Vol. 18, No. 3, May/June 2007, pp. 34-39)

The Democrats, now in charge of the U.S. Congress, have introduced a flood of climate change and energy legislation during the current session. Motavalli, editor of E, reviews the pros and cons of each. All claim to reduce fossil fuel dependence and greenhouse gas emissions. Clean energy advocates and environmental groups see this as the best opportunity in many years to influence climate change legislation. But passage of any new laws is uncertain — the U.S. energy industry has more coal-fired plants on the drawing board than at any previous time. Major concerns about the effects of emissions reductions on the economy means that any climate legislation will be challenged from inside and outside the Congress. One likely piece of legislation to be enacted will be new Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards which would raise the fuel economy of vehicles. The standard has not changed in 20 years despite new technologies and would be easier for Congress to pass than other bills. A sidebar notes that Congress has begun a big push on other environmental legislation including wildlife refuges, clean water management and reducing chemical exposure.

Nash, J. Madeleine CHRONICLING THE ICE (Smithsonian, July 2007, vol. 38, no. 4, pp. 66-74)

Glaciologist Lonnie Thompson has been studying ice cores from mountain glaciers for more than 30 years, long before the public or policymakers learned the term "global warming." But the Ohio State University professor has been able to read the ice cores to create new insights into atmospheric composition and weather patterns from millennia past. He has found how the glaciers contribute to global weather patterns and provide a natural mechanism for neutralizing carbon in the atmosphere. Thompson, a 2006 winner of the National Medal of Science, has also found correlations between what the ice reveals about weather conditions and aberrations of the past and the downfall and what historians know about the disappearance of once-flourishing civilizations. Available online at <http://www.smithsonianmagazine.com/issues/2007/july/ice.php>

Ricchiardi, Sherry DISTORTED PICTURE (American Journalism Review, vol. 29, no. 4, August/September 2007, pp. 36-43) Affordable and user-friendly, the photo-editing computer program Adobe Photoshop makes it easy to manipulate photographs, and the increasing misuse of the technology poses a serious threat to photojournalism's credibility, says the author. A number of trends are leading to a greater likelihood of using altered photo images, including: staff cutbacks that require news organizations to rely on long-distance freelancers, who are largely free of newsroom accountability; competition for newspaper space that increases pressure for dramatic images; and the fact that digital photography leaves no original negatives with which to compare an image. Doctoring photos — either to deceive the viewer or enhance the image's esthetics — has been around since the advent of photography, but the thorny issue remains of defining the limits of what is and is not acceptable. There have been incidents in which photos of public figures have been removed from web sites, after the images were found to have been manipulated, to change their physical appearance. So far, there is no fast and effective software to detect altered images — a major problem for AP, which receives between 2,000 and 3,000

photographs each day. So, in the meantime, viewers will have to accept that “seeing is not believing.”

Trenberth, Kevin E. WARMER OCEANS, STRONGER HURRICANES (Scientific American, Vol. 297, No. 1, July 2007, pp. 44-51)

The author, head of the climate analysis section at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), reviews how tropical depressions become hurricanes (also called cyclones or typhoons). Heat from the ocean influences a hurricane’s wind and rainfall intensity. An increase in the number and intensity of hurricanes in the tropical North Atlantic Ocean since 1994 coincided with an increase in sea surface temperatures greater than expected from naturally occurring cycles. Global climate models developed at NCAR show that warming of the Atlantic since 1994 is related to atmospheric heating caused by human activities. Other scientists have confirmed a similar occurrence in the tropical Pacific Ocean. The author concludes, “global warming has led to more intense storms” and “we all would be wise to plan for more extreme hurricane threats.”

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Haas, Mark L. A GERIATRIC PEACE? THE FUTURE OF U.S. POWER IN A WORLD OF AGING POPULATIONS (International Security, Vol. 32, No. 1, Summer 2007, pp. 112-147)

This provocative article looks at the aging of the global population in coming decades, and attempts to sketch out international consequences. The author, assistant professor of political science at Duquesne University, describes a world where the U.S. population is aging, but so are the populations of allies and rivals. Japan and China will have more oldsters to support; Germany and Russia will see population loss. Since U.S. rivals have less efficient economies than the U.S., this will impede their military spending, resulting in continuation of a balance of power that favors the U.S. This is particularly true as the American population is aging less slowly than the population of its key rivals. Ironically, one of the drags on the global economy will be military pensions, making the development of advanced weapons too expensive for every country except the U.S. However, the author notes, the relative burden of an aging population will also affect the U.S., and cause it to rein in some of its more activist foreign policy initiatives. In addition, developing nations with faltering economies, with the added burden of aging populations, may become terrorist havens.

Kilcullen, David J. SUBVERSION AND COUNTERSUBVERSION IN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM IN EUROPE (Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, vol. 30, no. 8, August 2007, pp. 647-666)

The author, a former Australian Army officer and currently a counterinsurgency advisor with the multinational force in Iraq, examines in this article how Europe fits into the campaign against terrorism. Europe has found itself both as a source and a target for terrorist activity. Kilcullen says that Europe faces, as a primary threat, terrorist-linked subversion with two key objectives — to manipulate and exploit immigrant communities. Noteworthy in Kilcullen's analysis is that counterterrorism analysis focused on the nature of Islam in Europe is a dead-end, offering no value to how best to arrest the trend. The threats facing western nations requires terrorism analysts to re-think existing paradigms of warfare, intelligence, law enforcement, terrorism and insurgency, Kilcullen says. He notes that Europe has become a transit area for extremists, a source of intellectual capital, exploitable grievances, and a legislative safe haven, in addition to becoming part of the battleground in terrorists' international campaign.

Kupchan, Charles; Trubowitz, Peter GRAND STRATEGY FOR A DIVIDED AMERICA (Foreign Affairs, Vol. 86, No. 4, July-August 2007, pp. 71-84)

Kupchan, of Georgetown University, and Trubowitz, of the University of Texas, argue that the

bipartisan consensus on foreign affairs during World War II and the Cold War was a departure from the divisions far more typical in U.S. history. With the Iraq war, the consensus has disappeared again, exposing the U.S. to the dangers of an incoherent foreign policy. Congressional Republicans mostly prefer pursuing U.S. influence in the world by military might; Democrats prefer multilateral persuasion. Continued partisanship threatens failed leadership abroad and possibly a return to isolationism. "The United States needs to pursue a new grand strategy that is politically solvent," the authors write. "In today's polarized landscape ... restoring solvency means bringing U.S. commitments back in line with political means." The authors make some recommendations: sharing more foreign burdens with other countries, targeting terrorists rather than seeking regime change, rebuilding the spent U.S. military, restraining adversaries through engagement, becoming less dependent of foreign oil, and building new pragmatic partnerships for specific international problems.

Markey, Daniel A FALSE CHOICE IN PAKISTAN (Foreign Affairs, vol. 86, no. 4, July/August 2007, pp. 85-102)

The author, a veteran of the Policy Planning staff of the U.S. Department State, defends Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf from critics, claiming that his government has taken billions in U.S. aid while covertly undermining counterterrorism efforts, and calls for strong, but discreet, pressure to ensure the return of democracy in October 2007 and expansion of U.S. diplomatic contacts with civilian leaders. Tough talk and aid suspensions, says the author, will only entrench Pakistan's influential security services, confirming suspicions about U.S. reliability and causing them to strengthen their ties with Islamist groups they developed in the 1980s as strategic counterweights against encirclement from Afghanistan and India. Instead, the author says that the U.S. must work to convince the Pakistani military of its long-term commitment by demonstrating the tangible benefits of partnership with more aid and training as well as stepped-up efforts to stabilize Afghanistan and facilitate discussions between India and Pakistan. Domestically, the U.S. must strongly insist on free and fair elections, human rights, and the rule of law as part of a larger effort to helping Pakistanis strengthen democracy, which is ultimately its true long-term defense against extremism. Currently available online at <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20070701faessay86407/daniel-markey/a-false-choice-in-pakistan.html>

Niblett, Robin CHOOSING BETWEEN AMERICA AND EUROPE: A NEW CONTEXT FOR BRITISH FOREIGN POLICY (International Affairs, Vol. 83, No. 4, July 2007, pp. 627-641)

The author, former director of the Europe Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, notes that power in Britain has changed hands from a prime minister who sought to balance intense U.K.-U.S. consultation on foreign policy with the ambition to be "at the heart of Europe", to one whose approach towards both the U.S. and the EU has yet to be tested. Niblett argues that the days are now largely over when the UK could build an Anglo-US foreign-policy position before bringing in Europe. The UK is now a central player in the development of increasingly activist European foreign policies, whether these can later be coordinated effectively with the U.S. or not. A strong, bilateral relationship continues to serve the interests of both sides, but this relationship does not sit upon the same foundations as during the Cold War. There are now significant underlying factors, especially since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 and the July 7, 2005 attacks in the UK, that pull the US away from Europe and the UK, while pushing the UK towards Europe as the first step in developing foreign policy strategies. The author notes that, today, UK positions on most global issues and foreign policy challenges tend to conform more closely to the dominant EU line than to the U.S. On balance, the UK might think about European integration more from a U.S. than from a European perspective, but it now thinks about global problems more from a European than from a U.S. or transatlantic perspective.

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

Cooper, Andrew F. BEYOND HOLLYWOOD AND THE BOARDROOM: CELEBRITY DIPLOMACY (Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, vol. 8, no. 2, Summer/Fall 2007, pp. 125-132)

The author, associate director of the Centre for International Governance Innovation (Canada), considers the challenges of how best to harness “the buzz” of celebrity activists and “the bite” of business elites to forward worthy transnational causes. While lacking in the refinement of the traditional diplomatic corps, celebrity diplomats should not be discounted or dismissed when Bono, Angelina Jolie, and George Clooney can call attention to global poverty and Bill Gates, Ted Turner, and Warren Buffett can contribute billions to solve it. While they can be criticized as potentially unwieldy to manage and distracting from the detailed negotiations needed to resolve global issues, their activism speaks to the adaptive quality of diplomacy and new ways to redefine priorities in the age of global media.

Odell, Jennifer BROOKLYN JAZZ UNDERGROUND PROMOTES BOROUGH'S MUSICAL INNOVATORS (Downbeat, Vol. 74, No. 4, April 2007, pp. 13-14)

While rap music emanated from the South Bronx in the 1970s, another New York borough is fast becoming a musical brand name. When hip-hop artist Mos Def calls out, “Where Brooklyn at?” during a show, Odell points out, it is because commercially successful hip-hop and jazz groups identify themselves with Brooklyn. In January, a collective of jazz musicians formed the Brooklyn Jazz Underground, in order to pool business skills and preserve their Brooklyn-based identities. They are focusing on booking weekend festivals to highlight all the group members’ music, selling CDs and bringing more fans to the collective’s Web site. The BJU may even pursue non-profit status to reach its goals related to school and community outreach. The BJU’s democratic structure promotes shared decision-making and work. If one person shoulders an unfair portion of the work, said pianist Benny Lackner, “people would care less and the dynamic would be off. I see that on a small scale in my trio ... the other musicians are more active because they have input.”

IIP Publications

Historians on America

Historians on America is a series of individual essays that selects specific moments, decisions, and intellectual or legislative or legal developments and explains how they altered the course of U.S. history. The book consists of 11 separate essays by major historians, ranging from The Trial of John Peter Zenger in 1735 to The Immigration Act of 1965. (September 2007)

Electronic Journals

eJournalUSA: Economic Perspectives | Sep 2007

U.S. Food Aid: Reducing World Hunger

It is estimated that some 850 million people around the world suffer from hunger and malnutrition. Through articles written by NGO representatives and U.S. government officials, this edition of eJournal USA describes some of the ways in which the United States government works through its agencies and in conjunction with international organizations and NGOs to provide food and assistance to save lives and to help hungry people feed themselves. [View eJournalUSA](#)

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.

**If you have any questions, please contact the
American Information Resource Center at Tel: 0-312-457 72 77**