

# AIRC ALERT

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## What's New

### Democracy Video Challenge

<http://www.videochallenge.america.gov/index.html>

The Democracy Video Challenge, a public-private partnership, engages youth in an online discussion on democracy through the creation of short videos completing the phrase, "Democracy Is....." and through social networking tools such as Facebook and Twitter. The U.S. Department of State and its partners will launch the second annual Democracy Video Challenge online and at the UN on International Democracy Day.

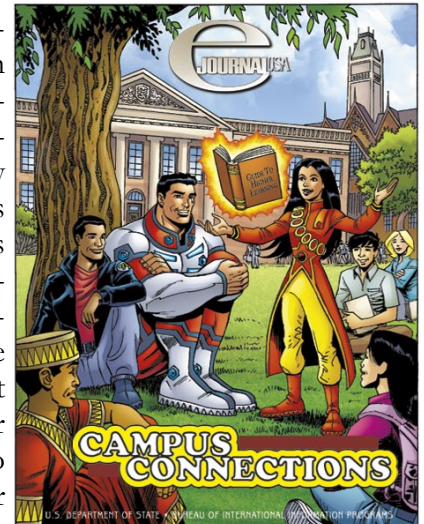
## HIGHLIGHT DOCUMENTS

4-1/H

### CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

eJournal USA, Department of State, Volume 14 / Number 8, August 2009.

A globalized economy makes business and employment spill across national boundaries, so an education abroad is likely to make a young person better prepared for the world's future. Almost double the numbers of students travel abroad for an education today as compared with 20 years ago. Campus Connections examines the international study experience and its influence on individual growth. In this issue of eJournal USA, we meet young people in the midst of an international study experience. We meet others who are just beginning to absorb the lessons of their recent study abroad. Some And parents describe how their children grow from the study-abroad experience to become bolder, brighter human beings. We also offer tips and guidance for the young reader who may close this book and decide that the next stage of learning lies abroad.



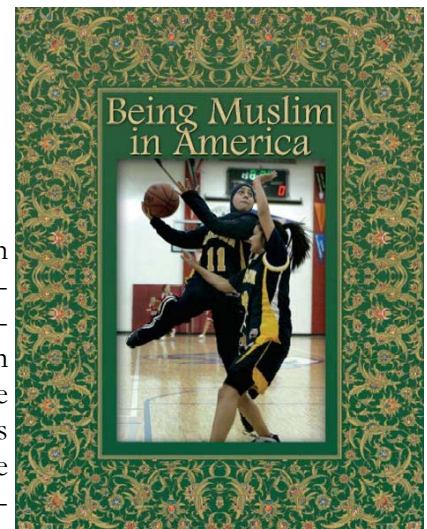
4-2/H

### BEING MUSLIM IN THE UNITED STATES

Department of State, Bureau of International Information Programs, 2009

<http://www.america.gov/>

The young women pictured on our cover are both Muslim. They live near Detroit, Michigan, in a community with many Arab-American residents. Each expresses her faith in her own way, with a combination of traditional and modern dress. Here, they compete fiercely on the basketball court in a sport that blends individual skills and team effort. They - along with the other men, women, and children in this publication - demonstrate every day what it is like to be Muslim in America.



## U.S.— PAKISTAN RELATIONS

4-3/UP

### **AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN RECONSTRUCTION OPPORTUNITY ZONES (ROZS), H.R. 1318/H.R. 1886/H.R. 2410 AND S. 496: ISSUES AND ARGUMENTS**

**By Mary Jane Bolle, Specialist in International Trade and Finance**

**Congressional Research Service, August 14, 2009**

On June 9, 2009, the House Rules Committee issued a rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 1886, the Pakistan Enduring Assistance and Cooperation Enhancement Act. The rule inserted, with modifications, H.R. 1318, The Afghanistan-Pakistan Security and Prosperity Enhancement Act, the ROZ legislation, into the base text of H.R. 1886. On June 11, 2009, the House passed H.R. 1886 by a vote of 234 to 185, and the clerk was directed to add it as new matter to the end of H.R. 2410, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011. The Afghanistan-Pakistan Security and Prosperity Enhancement Act (H.R. 1318) and the Afghanistan and Pakistan Reconstruction Opportunity Zones Act (S. 496) would establish a unilateral U.S. trade preference program for Afghanistan and parts of Pakistan. In an effort to promote economic development in both countries, the legislation would permit certain goods produced in designated geographic areas called Reconstruction Opportunity Zones (ROZs) to be imported into the United States duty-free.

4-4/UP

### **DIRECT OVERT U.S. AID AND MILITARY REIMBURSEMENTS TO PAKISTAN, FY2002-FY2010**

**By K. Alan Kronstadt, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division**

**Congressional Research Service, August 3, 2009.**

A stable, democratic, prosperous Pakistan is considered vital to U.S. interests. U.S. concerns regarding Pakistan include regional and global terrorism; A U.S.-Pakistan relationship marked by periods of both cooperation and discord was transformed by the September 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States and the ensuing enlistment of Pakistan as a key ally in U.S.-led counterterrorism efforts. The report gives the facts

and figures of the direct overt U.S. AID and military reimbursements to Pakistan during 2002-2010.

4-5/UP

### **PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS: Proliferation and Security Issues**

**By Paul Kerr and Mary Beth Nikitin, Analysts in Nonproliferation**

**Congressional Research Service, July 30, 2009.**

Pakistani and some U.S. officials argue that Islamabad has taken a number of steps to prevent further proliferation of nuclear-related technologies and materials and improve its nuclear security. A number of important initiatives such as strengthened export control laws, improved personnel security, and international nuclear security cooperation programs have improved the security situation in recent years. Instability in Pakistan has called the extent and durability of these reforms into question. Some observers fear radical takeover of a government that possesses a nuclear bomb, or proliferation by radical sympathizers within Pakistan's nuclear complex in case of a breakdown of controls. While U.S. and Pakistani officials express confidence in controls over Pakistan's nuclear weapons, continued instability in the country could impact these safeguards. For a broader discussion, see CRS Report RL33498, Pakistan-U.S. Relations, by K. Alan Kronstadt.

## DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

4-6/DGI

### **AND DATA FOR ALL**

**By Nicholas Thompson**

**Wired, Vol. 17, No. 7, July 2009, pp. 68-71.**

Barack Obama is the first president to appoint a chief information officer for the federal government. Vivek Kundra, who comes to the office having served in a similar position for the District of Columbia, is planning Data.gov, a Web site where all government-produced information will be easy to find, sort and download. When that is done, according to Kundra, the private sector will find ways to use the data which will create new services for the public and new sources of profit for entrepreneurs. He points to the example of the Global Positioning System, which was once the exclusive property of the Department of Defense;

now, the system is publicly available and is used for a variety of commercial and public service purposes. “The key is recognizing that we don’t have a monopoly on good ideas,” Kundra told Thompson in an interview. “And that the federal government doesn’t have infinite resources.”

**4-7/DGI**  
**THE DELUSION REVOLUTION**  
**By Robert Jensen**  
**AlterNet, posted August 15, 2008.**

Jensen, journalism professor at the University of Texas at Austin, notes that “our current way of life is unsustainable -- we are the first species that will have to self-consciously impose limits on ourselves if we are to survive.” The industrial revolution of the past two centuries has produced unparalleled prosperity and comfort for a portion of humanity, but at a great expense to the biosphere, threatening its ability to support life. Following the agricultural and industrial revolutions is what Jensen refers to as the “delusional revolution” -- sophisticated propaganda techniques, in particular advertising, that have lulled the public in Western societies into believing that “unsustainable systems can be sustained because we want them to be”. The future may turn out very differently from what we want it to be, Jensen says; we will need to develop skills for a world of less energy and fewer material goods, which means “abandoning a sense of ourselves as consumption machines, which the contemporary culture promotes”, and developing a sense of community which is missing in modern life. However, he believes that we humans “should go easy on ourselves, precisely because we are a species out of context, facing a unique challenge.”

**4-8/DGI**  
**DISORDER IN THE RANKS**  
**By Robert I Rotberg**  
**Foreign Policy, No. 173, Jul/Aug 2009, pp. 91.**

The label "failed" remains a powerful way to describe those states that no longer serve their people. That harsh term sharpens the attention of policymakers and helps single out countries that should be of most concern. This year Failed States Index, using a different methodology, produces some puzzling results. Zimbabwe is the second-most failed state just ahead of Sudan, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Other results results are equally confusing. A more objective system of rankings would

better help policymakers and analyze the options available and choose the prescriptions that best fit the country in peril.

**4-9/DGI**  
**EXPENSIVE GIFTS**  
**By Alissa Quart**  
**Columbia Journalism Review, Vol. 48, No. 2, July/August 2009.**

Shepard Fairey, famous for his red and blue Obama silkscreen “Hope,” is a proponent of “free culture,” a stance that advocates open sharing of intellectual property. This “economy of giving” is a hallmark of the new digital reality. However, the Associated Press (AP) and the photographer who shot the photo Fairey appropriated for his art claim copyright, and the AP sued the artist for copyright infringement. For many, the debate hinges on whether or not open, participatory culture will destroy useful, traditional journalism institutions. It also illuminates the vagueness of “fair use” under copyright law. The author examines the ethics and importance of money and attribution in the emerging dispensation of the “gift economy.”

**4-10/DGI**  
**THE FAILED STATES INDEX**  
**Foreign Policy, No. 173, Jul/Aug 2009, pp. 80-82.**

Yemen may not yet be front-page news, but it's being watched intently these days in capitals worldwide. A perfect storm of state is now brewing there: disappearing oil and water reserves; a mob of migrants, some allegedly with al Qaeda ties, flooding in from Somalia, the failed state next door; and a weak government increasingly unable to keep things running. Many worry Yemen is the next Afghanistan: a global problem wrapped in a failed state. Using 12 indicators of state cohesion and performance, compiled through a close examination of more than 30,000 publicly available sources, the researchers ranked 177 states in order from most to least at risk of failure. Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo are failing because their governments are chronically weak to nonexistent; Zimbabwe and Burma are failing because their governments are strong enough to choke the life out of their societies.

4-11/DGI

## **HABITAT SAVED**

**By Roger Di Silvestro**

**National Wildlife, Vol. 47, No. 5, August-September 2009.**

The author describes how a non-governmental organization and the publisher of this magazine, the National Wildlife Federation, has successfully challenged environmentally destructive government policies in court. One decision limiting the availability of federally-issued flood-plain insurance, that encourages development of habitat uninsurable by private companies, will help preserve endangered Key deer in Florida, killer whales in Washington State's Puget Sound, and black bears and cypress forests in Mississippi's Yazoo River Basin. Global warming, the author says, makes such areas more vulnerable to flooding, and "business as usual in floodplains is changing."

4-12/DGI

## **JOURNALISM AS A CIVIC PRACTICE**

**By Doug Oplinger**

**Connections: The Kettering Foundation's annual newsletter, 2009, pp. 14-15.**

Even financially imperiled news organization can continue to be "chronicler and conscience" of their communities, says Oplinger. He uses the Akron (Ohio) Beacon Journal as an example. Without compromising its journalistic integrity, he writes, the newspaper collaborated with its media competitors and the city's special interests on a civic journalism project that explored, starting in 2006, the hopes and fears of America's "disappearing middle class." The project blossomed into a long series of stories and several public events. "Collaborations such as the Beacon Journal's middle-class project may begin to rewrite the rules of engagement for civic journalism," Oplinger writes.

4-13/DGI

## **THE LIMITS OF CONTROL**

**By Pamela Podger**

**American Journalism Review, June/July 2009.**

For journalists today, social networking sites are increasingly blurring the line between the personal and professional. This creates a host of ethics and etiquette questions for news organizations, which are crafting guidelines for the growing number of staffers using social networks. Generally speaking, the advice to journalists is to identify themselves as journalists,

tell recipients they are using social networks in a professional capacity, and remain mindful that people will regard them as representatives of their news organizations. Amy Webb, principal consultant at Webmedia Group in Baltimore, says news organizations should be pondering the privacy and safety issues of a new crop of tools, including location-aware services. "When a New York Times reporter logs on to Facebook from his mobile phone, he's sharing a lot more information than his status updates. He's sharing the content he wrote and his location," Webb says. "There are safety and privacy issues around this."

4-14/DGI

## **MINILATERALISM: The Magic Number to Get Real International Action**

**By Moisés Naím**

**Foreign Policy, No. 137, July/August 2009, pp. 136-137.**

Not only globalization is falling out of favor in many countries but multilateralism is going through a crisis too, says the author, editor-in-chief of the magazine. The need for effective multicountry collaboration on such issues as climate change, nuclear proliferation and pandemics has soared, but related multilateral talks have failed or execution of agreed solutions has stalled. Naím proposes what he views as a smarter, more targeted approach: bringing to the table the smallest possible number of countries needed to have the largest possible impact on solving a particular problem. The magic number will vary greatly depending on the problem, but the author suggests that between a dozen and 20 countries should be able to effectively handle all important global problems. Countries not invited to such "minilateral" talks will denounce this approach as undemocratic and exclusionary, but Naím notes that agreements reached in smaller groups can provide the foundation on which more-inclusive deals can be subsequently built.

4-15/DGI

## **THE MONSTER FOOTPRINT OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY**

**By De Kris Kecker**

**Low-Tech Magazine, posted June 16, 2009.**

The author notes that, for most of the modern industrial era, durable equipment such as cars, refrigerators or washing machines consumed more energy over their lifetime of use and operation than during their manufacture. The advent of computer technology has

turned this situation upside down — vastly more energy is required in the manufacture of computers and other electronic gadgets than they consume. Most of that embodied energy is in the microprocessors, which can be six orders of magnitude greater than for conventional manufacturing processes, and the energy required during manufacture keeps growing, as bigger and more powerful computer chips are needed for graphics and video games. This is exacerbated by the fact that high technology is evolving quickly, and equipment becomes obsolete after only a few years.

**4-16/DGI**

**REDISCOVERING CENTRAL ASIA**

**By S. Frederick Starr**

**Wilson Quarterly, Vol. 33, No. 3, Summer 2009, pp. 33-43.**

The author, chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, notes that a thousand years ago, Central Asia was the center of the intellectual world, and that it was once the "land of a thousand cities" and home to some of the world's most renowned scientists, poets, and philosophers. Today, says Starr, "it is barely a blip on the radar except when trouble erupts;" however, that may change if Central Asians take inspiration from their past. Starr writes that, to imagine Central Asia's future, "one must journey into its remarkable past" -- many of the notable intellectual figures of the Islamic world, who lived between 800 and 1100, were in fact Persian or Turkic and hailed from Central Asia.

**4-17/DGI**

**SECOND LIFE**

**By Erin Biba**

**Wired, Vol. 17, No. 8, August 2009, pp. 98-101 and 122-123.**

Raul Cano is a microbiologist who made a huge sensation in the scientific world in the 1990s when he successfully revived a microbe extracted from a lump of amber. This feat, performed on bacteria similar to yeast, opened a new understanding of the capabilities of microorganisms, and made real what had only been considered theoretically possible prior to that time. Cano had hopes that his process might bring back to life other organisms that could have potential as medicines or antibiotics, but no biomedical miracles emerged from the company he started. The effort folded in the late 1990s and Cano went on to other

work, but in 2006 a chance encounter put the prehistoric yeast in the hands of a brewmaster. His experimentation has led to the creation of Fossil Fuel, a beer that is soon to be marketed in California restaurants and bars

**4-18/DGI**

**SMALL SIZE, BIG POTENTIAL**

**By Govindasmy Agoramoorthy and others.**

**Environment, Vol. 50, No. 4, July/August 2008, pp. 22-35.**

Across the developing world, large numbers of major dams have been built, having been promoted as the best means of improving the supplies of fresh water. However, they have come at a great environmental and social cost; millions of acres of wilderness and arable land have been submerged, wildlife habitat has been destroyed and large numbers of people displaced. In this article, the authors study the small dams in drought-prone western India, concluding that smaller dams offer much more benefits with a much smaller environmental footprint. A network of smaller dams store as much water over a larger area than would a single large dam, the water supply can be managed more equitably, and can be controlled at the local community level, which is not possible with megadams.

**INTERNATIONAL SECURITY**

**4-19/IS**

**AFGHANISTAN: Politics, Elections, and Government Formation**

**By Kenneth Katzman, Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs**

**Congressional Research Service, August 17, 2009.**

Under an FY2009 supplemental appropriation (P.L. 111-32), the Administration is required to develop, by September 23, 2009, "metrics" by which to judge progress in Afghanistan, including the performance and legitimacy of the Afghan government and its efforts to curb official corruption. Small amounts of U.S. funds are tied to Afghanistan's performance on such metrics. For further information, see CRS Report RL30588, Afghanistan: Post-Taliban Governance, Security, and U.S. Policy, by Kenneth Katzman.

4-20/IS

**THE DEFAULT POWER: The False Prophecy of America's Decline**

By Josef Joffe

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 88, No. 5, Sep/Oct 2009, pp. 21-25.

According to Joffe, co-editor of *Die Zeit*, predicting the demise of U.S. global dominance has been an intellectual sport for 50 years. Yet he argues that still no other country comes close to the United States' economic or military heft. Joffe doubts that China will eclipse the United States as a world power any time soon. "Alas, global standing is not measured by the low prices of nontradable goods, such as haircuts, bootlegged software, and government services," he says. Export dependence hurts China both by risky reliance on foreign customers and risky denial of domestic welfare. Even if China avoids internal upheaval, Joffe says, it faces the problem of a rapidly aging population. He doubts that Europe will eclipse the United States -- Europe lacks the will to use armed force as required by a global power. And the United States, alone among contending powers, shows the enlightened self-interest that breeds foreign influence, he says.

4-21/IS

**EXPEDIENCY OF THE ANGELS**

By Suzanne Katzenstein and others.

National Interest, No. 100, March/April 2009, pp. 58-65.

According to the Chicago Council on Global Affairs' Global Views 2008 survey, a plurality of U.S. public opinion has downgraded "promoting and defending human rights" from a "very important" to a "somewhat important" goal; a majority wants to "move cautiously," rather than either "aggressively" or "slowly" in promoting human rights abroad. The Obama administration will face human-rights issues at every turn in confronting terrorism, insurgency and ethnic cleansing, from South Asia to Sudan. To tackle these strategic challenges as well as chronic rights abuses, the new administration and nongovernmental advocacy groups need a new, more pragmatic approach. Wary of overpromising, the U.S. public has become skeptical about promoting American ideals abroad. Yet the real lesson of these setbacks should not be to abandon idealistic goals, but to pursue them in more pragmatic ways. Without developing a more effective human-rights policy, the United States will

neither recover its tarnished reputation nor accomplish its strategic goals.

4-22/IS

**FLIPPING THE TALIBAN**

By Fotini Christia and others.

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 88, No. 4, July-August 2009)

According to Christia, assistant professor of political science at MIT, and Semple, a regional specialist on Afghanistan and Pakistan, peace in Afghanistan requires the sort of reconciliation that enables insurgents to realign with the Afghan government. That is not so fanciful in Afghanistan, where one of the rules, after decades of war, is to side with the winner. "Thus in Afghanistan, battles have often been decided less by fighting than by defections," the authors say. "Changing sides, realigning, flipping -- whatever one wants to call it -- is the Afghan way of war." Neither the Karzai government nor the U.S. government has made reconciliation a high priority and, worse, both have harassed potential cooperators sufficiently to drive them to the insurgency.

4-23/IS

**NUCLEAR ABOLITION, A REVERIE**

By Fred C Iklé

National Interest, No. 103, Sep/Oct 2009, pp. 4-7.

It would have to generate irresistible political pressure to convince all nations with nuclear weapons that they must ratify the new treaty obligating them to abolish all of their nuclear armaments. Fifth, to cope with the threat of terrorists who might acquire nuclear weapons, the organization would have to be authorized to request that the International Criminal Court punish every one of these terrorists for war crimes, plus all of their supporters and providers of weapons technology. [...] the organization would need a Praetorian Guard endorsed by the United Nations to annihilate terrorists who prepare, or who have carried out, an attack with a nuclear weapon.

4-24/IS

**SPREADING TEMPTATION: Proliferation and Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation Agreements**

By Matthew Fuhrmann

International Security, Vol. 34, No. 1, Summer 2009, pp. 7-41.

The author notes that "proliferation-proof" nuclear assistance does not exist. Transfer of nuclear technol-

ogy and know-how for peaceful purposes invariably leads to the development of weapons programs, and countries that have received such assistance are more likely to produce nuclear weapons, especially when facing security threats. A study of two thousand civilian nuclear cooperation agreements over the past half-century bears this out. Fuhrmann writes that the link between civilian nuclear cooperation and proliferation is surprisingly broad, and casts doubt on convention wisdom. He argues that major nuclear suppliers such as the U.S. should reconsider their willingness to assist other countries in peaceful nuclear cooperation.

**4-25/IS**

**THE UNITED STATES, INDIA, AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE: Can They Work Together?**

**By Teresita C. Schaffer.**

**The Washington Quarterly, Vol. 32, No. 3, July 2009.**

At the moment, neither India nor the United States wants very strong global governance, but that may change over the next decade as each reconciles their concept of global leadership with different foreign policy styles and interests.

**4-26/IS**

**TOWARD EFFECTIVE MULTILATERALISM: Why bigger may not be better**

**By Thomas Wright**

**The Washington Quarterly, Vol. 32, No. 3, July 2009.**

Over the next decade, the United States may be able to reorder the architecture of international cooperation to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. Whether or not this effort succeeds will depend, in large part, on the problem reform seeks to solve.

**4-27/IS**

**UNDERSTANDING THE U.S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS POLICY DEBATE**

**By Christopher F. Chyba and J. D. Crouch.**

**The Washington Quarterly, Vol. 32, No. 3, July 2009.**

Together, a former NSC official from each of the last two administrations identify eight key divergent views in the ongoing U.S. nuclear weapons policy, posture, and programs debates, and explain the most important areas of disagreement and consensus.

**4-28/IS**

**UNRAVELING THE AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN RIDDLE**

**By Lawrence Ziring**

**Asian Affairs, Vol. 36 Issue 2, Summer 2009, pp. 59-78.**

U.S. President Barack Obama made a campaign promise to the nation that, if elected, he would withdraw combat forces from Iraq and shift the focus of U.S. strategy from the Middle East to the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan, where a renascent and spreading Taliban movement harbors al Qaeda leaders and foot soldiers and threatens to reverse the forces of change in Afghanistan. Obama's declared intention to increase the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan appears not only to have the general approval of his military advisers, but also to have won over many of the foreign and national security analysts both within and outside the administration. The author examines the wisdom of this policy now, before a thorough debate has occurred and before several significant issues have been addressed.

**4-29/IS**

**WITHOUT CONDITIONS: The Case for Negotiating With the Enemy**

**By Deepak Malhotra**

**Foreign Affairs, Vol. 88, No. 5, Sep/Oct 2009, pp. 84-90.**

Diplomacy appears ready to make a comeback. The US, after years of reluctance, is reconsidering the role of negotiation in confronting extremism and managing international conflict. India has resisted an aggressive response to the 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai and is open to diplomatic engagement with Pakistan over Kashmir. Participants in the six-party talks have been scrambling to decide whether, when, and how to engage North Korea since its nuclear test of May 2009. Determining the precise conditions for such talks is never easy. The cessation of violence is perhaps the most common precondition that governments evaluate when considering diplomatic engagement. But it is far from the only one. A wise foreign policy errs on the side of negotiation and removes as many impediments to diplomacy as possible. Carelessly conceived preconditions remain among the greatest barriers to achieving negotiated peace.

4-30/ES

### **THE COMING CONSEQUENCES OF BANKING FRAUD**

By J.S. Kim

Seeking Alpha, posted September 9, 2009.

The author, an independent financial advisor and analyst, writes that the rally in Western stock markets in recent months has been the result of financial fraud, a “scheme executed by an elite global financial oligarchy ... to fool the world into believing that global economies are recovering.” Kim contends that the banking and financial establishment have engaged in transactions that have been kept secret from the public and “will have severe and negative consequences in the not-so-distant future,” and the blowback from these activities will exceed the downturn the world experienced in 2008. In view of the worsening economic data, the current stock market rally makes sense only when viewed through the prism of fraud, with the rise of computerized ultra-fast high-frequency proprietary trading programs, and the fact that much of the trading volume in recent weeks has been in only a handful of financial firms. He adds that all government-produced economic statistics “have been massively distorted towards the side of optimism and away from reality” during financial crisis, and this false front of optimism has been abetted by financial journalists.

4-31/ES

### **THE DOLLAR DILEMMA: The World's Top Currency Faces Competition**

By Barry Eichengreen

Foreign Affairs, Vol. 88, No. 5, Sep/Oct 2009, pp. 53-68.

Legions of pundits have argued that the dollar's status as an international currency has been damaged by the great credit crisis of 2007-2009 -- and not a few have argued that the injury may prove fatal. There is a growing feeling among economists and government officials that any system that uses a national currency such as the dollar, as international reserves is seriously flawed. Like its economic logic, the political logic for a dollar-based international monetary and financial system also seems less compelling today. The only problem is that, for all the talk about change, the dollar's importance to the world has not diminished. In the foreign exchange market, the dollar actually strength-

ened following the outbreak of the crisis. Reserve-currency competition ratchets up the market discipline felt by policymakers. The more alternatives central banks and other international investors possess, the more pressure policymakers will feel to take the steps needed to maintain those investors' confidence. Given the proclivities of most policymakers, this is not a bad thing.

4-32/ES

### **A NEW CAPITALISM – OR A NEW WORLD?**

By David Schweickart

World Watch, Vol. 22, No. 5, September-October 2009, pp. 12-19.

Schweickart, philosophy professor at Loyola University Chicago, argues that “we must move beyond capitalism if humanity is to flourish” – capitalism, as currently practiced, depends on nonstop growth to remain healthy, and discounts the natural resources and ecological systems that it exploits. Schweickart proposes a system of democratized labor, in which businesses are communities, not legal entities that can be bought and sold, and democratized capital, in which financing is arranged through government taxation or public banks. He points to the Mondragon Corporation Cooperativa in the Basque region of Spain, an enterprise already half a century old, as evidence that such an economy would be viable.

4-33/ES

### **THE SCIENCE OF ECONOMIC BUBBLES AND BUSTS**

By Gary Stix

Scientific American, July 2009.

The worst economic crisis since the Great Depression has prompted a reassessment of how financial markets work and how people make decisions about money. The worldwide financial meltdown has caused a new examination of why markets sometimes become overheated and then come crashing down. The dot-com blowup and the subsequent housing and credit crises highlight how psychological quirks sometimes trump rationality in investment decision making. Understanding these behaviors elucidates the genesis of booms and busts. New models of market dynamics try to protect against financial blowups by mirroring more accurately how markets work. Meanwhile, more intelligent regulation may gently steer the home buyer or the retirement saver away from bad decisions.

4-34/ES

**TOWARD A FUTURE WITHOUT WANT**

By Frederic Mousseau

World Policy Journal, Vol. 26, No. 2, Summer 2009, pp. 73-81.

With food riots, high food prices, increasing number of the world's hungry and declining food production in developing countries, the world has to change its agriculture and food policies drastically, says the author, a policy adviser for Oxfam Great Britain. He argues against strategies supported by many developed countries, such as genetically engineered crop varieties, a free-market approach to food production and distribution, and the World Bank's proposal to create a global food reserve. He writes that genetically modified crops have been largely irrelevant to most farmers in the developing world. Governmental support for and protection of farmers against market fluctuations, including floor prices for certain commodities, have in fact worked in Brazil and Indonesia. In his view, the food crisis should be addressed at the local, national and regional levels rather than through creation of a new global mechanism. Mousseau concludes that each nation must find the right combination of policies and interventions adapted to its specific context.

4-35/ES

**WIND POWER'S WEIRD EFFECT**

By Jonathan Fahey

Forbes Magazine, September 7, 2009.

The news about wind power is mixed, notes the author. The good news is that, thanks to cheap wind energy, in some parts of the country when there is too much power on the grid, wholesale power prices are now dropping to zero or below at certain times of the day. The bad news is that wind turbines spin the most at night when demand is low and least during afternoons when power is needed. Some power plants are hard pressed to power down when wind power is at its highest. In the long run, the wind power boom could push daytime prices higher. To balance out fickle wind turbines, utilities will need electricity during peak times from gas-fired plants; that intermittent power will be expensive.

4-36/SV

**AMERICAN LITERARY BIOGRAPHY: History of the Genre, 1950-2000**

By Carl Rollyson

Choice, Vol. 46, No. 11, July 2009, pp. 2059-2067.

The author, a biographer and professor of journalism at Baruch College at the City University of New York, notes that literary biography came of age in America after the Second World War, exceeding the output of every other period in America's literary history. Although biographies of American writers appeared before 1950, most of them tended to be scholarly studies aimed at presenting the facts of a literary figure's life and the sources writers used to create their prose and their poetry. Rollyson surveys the literature by decade, beginning with the "Edel/Ellmann Age," with Leon Edel's much-discussed book, HENRY JAMES: THE UNTRIED YEARS, 1843-1870, and Richard Ellmann's well-received biography of James Joyce, both considered the first masterpieces of the genre. The author then heads his discussion into the 1960s and the decades that followed, including the New Millennium. He evaluates over ninety works, including six biographies of poet Sylvia Plath. As much as some literary critics want to diminish the importance of American literary biography, in fact the genre has grown in importance, highlighting many different kinds of writers, including many academics who a generation ago would most likely not have considered this field of study.

4-37/SV

**HEALTH INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET: SEEKING THE GOLD STANDARD**

By Charles L. Brown and others.

Choice, Vol. 46, No. 12, August 2009, pp. 2239-2249.

The "gold standard" refers to an assessment algorithm used to identify high-quality health-related sites. In medical lingo, it is also known as a criterion standard, a benchmark, of the best comparison tool currently available. Interest in health-related websites has existed since the beginning of the Internet, and they continue to escalate in the present economic climate, as more Americans experience loss of jobs and medical insurance and turn to online resources for health in-

formation. This bibliographical essay describes various health websites, beginning with the substantial amount of material available from the U.S. government, including the National Institutes of Health and the National Library of Medicine; associations and organizations, like the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization; the American Medical Association; websites for medical, allied health and nursing students; and electronic resources and e-books for students and professionals. The most popular commercial consumer health site is WebMD, which provides authoritative, multidimensional health information services.

4-38/SV

### **OUT OF THE KITCHEN, ONTO THE COUCH**

By Michael Pollan

New York Times Magazine, August 2, 2009, pp. 26-35, 44, 46-47.

The author notes that the increasing popularity of cooking shows on television has coincided with a decrease in home cooking. The rise of cooking celebrities such as Julia Child, Alice Waters or Martha Stewart has been paralleled by the rise of fast food and home-meal replacements. The decline of home cooking has several causes -- women working outside the home; food companies persuading Americans to let them do the cooking; and advances in technology that made it easier for them to do so. Cooking is no longer obligatory, and for many people that has been a blessing. Ironically, the year Julia Child went on the air, 1963, was the same year Betty Friedan published *THE FEMININE MYSTIQUE*, the book that taught millions of American women to regard housework and cooking as drudgery. Julia Child, the author notes, never referred to her viewers as "housewives" and never condescended to them; she tried to show that cooking, approached in the proper spirit, offered fulfillment and deserved attention.

4-39/SV

### **THIS IS NOT A MAP**

By Max Byrd

Wilson Quarterly, Vol. 33, No. 3, Summer 2009, 26-32.

The author notes that maps are not always "works of dutiful representation ... sometimes they are tickets to flights of the imagination," along with other childhood mainstays such as model trains and dollhouses. Writ-

ers such as Robert Louis Stevenson, Daniel Defoe, Thomas Hardy and A.A. Milne have used maps to create a fictional reality for their characters to live in. Fictional maps, like the one of Brobdingnag in *Gulliver's Travels*, are intended to persuade readers that a story is true. One of the most poignant of all maps was drawn by William Blake to illustrate the land of "Allestone," an amazingly complex world invented by a friend's son who died young after a long and difficult illness, whose imagined country was an alternative to the painful one he lived in. Storytellers know there is a "powerful connection between a child's imagination and the blank spaces of earth."

4-40/SV

### **THE WAR ON PHILANTHROPY**

By David Billet

Commentary, Vol. 127, No. 7, Jul/Aug 2009, pp. 11-15.

Nor was this the only virtue of the proposal, for it would also present the American people with a new pot of money to direct toward worthy societal aims: I think it is a realistic way for us to raise some revenue from people who've benefited enormously over the last several years. [...] you know, ultimately, if we're going to tackle the serious problems that we've got, then, in some cases, those who are more fortunate are going to have to pay a little bit more. [...] the plan would eliminate an unfair privilege for the rich without hurting the poor- or, at least, without hurting the poor who receive charity from entirely selfless people who are certain to maintain their level of giving no matter what the federal government does.