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As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send your feedback to Mr. Steven P. Kerchoff, Information Resource Officer, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, The American Center, 24 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi 110001.

Note: *Internet sites included in this publication, other than those of the U.S. government, should not be construed as an endorsement of the views contained therein.*

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Global Warming

The existence of global warming is no longer in question among the scientific community, or in social debates. It is happening and is visible in the air, water, melting ice, rising sea-levels, shrinking glaciers, changing patterns of seasons, and shifts in different ecologies. In a report released in February 2007 in Paris, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said that the evidence of global warming is now "unequivocal." The focus of scientists and politicians has now largely shifted to seeking solutions to this worldwide phenomenon.

Global warming refers to an average increase in the Earth's temperature, which in turn causes changes in climate. A warmer Earth may lead to changes in rainfall patterns, a rise in sea level, and a wide range of impacts on plants, wildlife, and humans. When scientists talk about the issue of climate change, one of their main concerns is about rapid global warming caused by human activities. According to a report, the Earth's surface has warmed by 1.1° to 1.5° Fahrenheit since the Industrial Revolution. This warming appeared during a period when human activities were beginning to increase the carbon dioxide (CO_2) and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Many experts estimate that the average temperature can further rise by 2.5° to 10.4° Fahrenheit. Scientists are concerned that human beings and natural ecosystems might not adapt to this rapid increase in temperature. Such changes in the climatic condition could even reconfigure the patterns to which current human and ecological systems are adapted and could lead to abrupt changes. If the current trends and future forecasts are to be taken seriously, what we have observed to date is perhaps the beginning of a great disaster and an existential threat.

According to NASA, which employs world's largest concentration of climate scientists, global average surface temperature has never risen more quickly than during the latter half of the 20th century. Scientists generally attribute the increase in global temperature to human emissions of greenhouse gases and aerosols. The indiscriminate burning of fossil fuels has resulted in record levels of greenhouse gases – higher than they have been for at least the past 700,000 years. Different studies indicate significant rise in the greenhouse gases, which trap heat in the lower atmosphere resulting in warming in the lower parts of the atmosphere and a cooling in the upper atmosphere. Scientists have identified six types of heat-trapping gases called greenhouse

gases (GHG), which act as a greenhouse by retaining the sun's heat in Earth's atmosphere. These greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and Sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6). Scientists opine that increasing levels of these gases can bring about potentially dramatic climate changes including planetary warming, melting ice caps, rising sea levels and intensified droughts, flood and hurricanes.

Climatologists generally conclude that human activities including the burning of fossil fuels and felling in trees are responsible for most of global warming. On the one hand emissions from automobiles, factories, electric power plants add carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, while on the other clearing of land reduces the rate at which the gas is removed from the atmosphere. Some scientists also blame natural processes like an increase in the sun's activities for global warming. However, most climatologists rule out this argument. According to them solar variability cannot account for the warming observed since about 1950. Whatever the reason, the time has come when the world needs to ponder this universal problem and take all possible steps to revert or at least significantly slow down the process.

The United States is taking a leading role in addressing climate change by advancing an ever-expanding suite of measures. Although global warming during the Bush regime became an increasingly pressing topic, the growing public concern did not translate into serious policy breakthroughs. The Obama administration promises to be far more aggressive in addressing global warming than its immediate predecessor. President Obama wants the United States to assume a leadership role in global warming talks. He wants the United States to reduce emissions by approximately 15 percent (its 1990 levels) by 2020 – a stance tougher than Bush, who saw U.S. emissions peaking as late as 2025. Current policy attention has already focused on "cap and trade" strategies to reduce GHG emissions, with additional policy tools aimed at promoting the technology development considered necessary to slow climate change significantly.

In a significant move to curb greenhouse gas emissions, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and U.S. President Barack Obama have stressed the need for 2009 to be the year of climate change. Both leaders share a common commitment and have identified the importance of a comprehensive successor pact to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on emissions targets for advanced

economies, whose first commitment period ends in 2012. They also stressed the importance of 'green' investments in the contemporary global economic turmoil.

In April, the U.S. State Department hosted a climate change forum meeting where 16 major economies including India discussed climate change and clean energy ventures. The meeting touched on a range of issues including technology, financing and emissions trading.

With a host of endeavors from around the world converging towards a common goal, 2009 is going to be a crucial year in international efforts to address climate change, culminating in the 15th Conference of Parties (COP 15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Copenhagen during 7-18 December 2009. The conference will provide a platform for the world's nations to decide upon a new binding global climate agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol, before it expires in 2012. The first round of negotiations was held at Bonn, Germany in March and April 2009. U.S. Special Envoy for Climate Change Todd Stern, who was also the senior White House negotiator at the 1997 Kyoto Protocol talks, said at the Bonn conference, "We want to make up for lost time, and we are seized with the urgency of the task before us." In an interview with the Associated Press, Stern also observed, "we're back, we're serious, we're here, we're committed and we're going to try to get this thing done." The Bonn conference, which was attended by 175 countries, is the latest set of talks to seek a climate change mandate to replace the Kyoto Protocol. On the final day of the Bonn talks, the UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer said that the meeting had given important guidance on what a Copenhagen agreement must contain, and a first round of discussions had been held on what legal form an agreed outcome might take. Four more sessions will be scheduled prior to Copenhagen in December 2009.

In the light of the fact that global warming has emerged as a major concern internationally, recent collective efforts in addressing this concern are welcome initiatives. The world community must work collaboratively to slow, stop, and reverse greenhouse gas emissions in a way that promotes sustainable economic growth, increases energy security, and helps nations deliver greater prosperity for their people. Further, these initiatives and awareness should also percolate down to each and every person in the society, so that everyone in the society is climate-literate and contributes towards this great mission. While global warming is a

challenge, it could also be seen as an opportunity for each of us to show that we can change our habits and make a collective difference in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions.

The articles included in this section explore various components of global warming and their consequences and detail the ongoing initiatives to save the Earth and its inhabitants from being subjected to the unsolicited consequences of global warming.

For additional information, a webliography is presented here for your use. 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 publication date and are subject to change at any time.

Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate
http://www.asiapacificpartnership.org

Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN)
http://www.ciesin.columbia.edu

Climate Communities
http://climatecommunities.us

Climate vision
http://www.climatevision.gov

Earth Day Network
http://www.earthday.net

The EnviroLink Network
http://www.envirolink.org/index.html

The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS)
http://www.ecos.org

Energy Information Administration (EIA)
http://www.eia.doe.gov

Environmental Law Institute
http://www2.eli.org/index.cfm

Global Warming: Early Warning Signs
http://www.climatehotmap.org

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
http://www.ipcc.ch

King County takes action against global warming
http://www.kingcounty.gov/exec/globalwarming.aspx

Knowing Your World
http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/world

Mayors Climate Protection Center
http://www.usmayors.org/climateprotection

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
http://www.nasa.gov

National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP)
http://www.ncep.noaa.gov

National Climatic Data Center - Climate Monitoring
http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/monitoring.html

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
http://www.niehs.nih.gov

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
http://www.noaa.gov

National Renewable Energy Laboratory
http://www.nrel.gov

Natural Resources Defense Council
http://www.nrdc.org

North American Association for Environmental Education
http://www.naaee.org

Pew Center on Global Climate Change
http://www.pewclimate.org

The Select Committee for Energy Independence and Global Warming
http://globalwarming.house.gov

Sierra Club
http://www.sierraclub.org

U.S. Climate Change Science Program
http://www.climatescience.gov

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
http://www.epa.gov

U.S. Geological Survey
http://www.usgs.gov

U.S. Government Portal–Earth Day
http://www.earthday.gov

United Nations Climate Change Conference – Copenhagen 2009
http://en.cop15.dk

United Nations Environment Programme
http://www.unep.org

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
http://unfccc.int

USAID -- Global Climate Change Program
http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/environment/climate

USDA -- Global Climate Change
http://www.usda.gov/oce/global_change

White House Council on Environmental Quality
http://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
http://www.wmo.ch

1. BIG BUCKS FOR GLOBAL WARMING

By Greg Mastel. The International Economy, v. 22, no. 1, Winter 2008, pp. 44-47, 81-81.

With scientific debates about the advent of global warming and its consequences over, the focus of political debate has shifted to approaches to lowering greenhouse gas emissions. Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of fossil fuels requires heavy investments in technology, infrastructure, and new power plants to either capture carbon emissions or create alternative energy sources. But the costs of taking an ostrich position to climate change resulting in rising sea levels, decreased agricultural production, and related problems would be greater than the costs of carbon dioxide emission control strategies.

2. THE BIG THAW

By Joshua Kucera. The Wilson Quarterly, v. 32, no. 4, Autumn 2008, pp. 36-42.
http://www.wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=wq.essay&essay_id=500524

A warming climate is melting Greenland's ice sheet, which contains 10 percent of the world's fresh water, and which is disappearing at a rate of 57 cubic miles a year. In 2007, the Northwest Passage, which runs south of Greenland and along Canada's northern coast, was free of ice for the first time since scientists began monitoring it. The Greenland ice sheet melt is unlocking mineral and petroleum resources, offering the prospect of considerable wealth to Greenland's citizens, who are seeking independence from Denmark. The seas off northeastern Greenland are among the most promising, with an estimated 8.9 billion barrels of oil and 86.2 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. A key U.S. interest in Greenland is the Thule Air Base, built immediately after World War II. The author chronicles how climate change is altering the Greenlanders' way of life, and the how newly-accessible mineral resources are changing political relations.

3. CLIMATE CHANGE: CURRENT ISSUES AND POLICY TOOLS

By Jane A. Leggett. CRS Report for Congress, March 6, 2009, 28 p.

This Congressional Research Service (CRS) report for Congress introduces readers to fundamentals of the climate change issue. The report is segregated into three primary sections that update on various fronts of climatic concerns and

endeavors. Part one summarizes current understandings and controversies concerning the science, economics, international cooperation, and other aspects of the climate change policy problem. Part two is a brief update on the status of domestic and international policies. Part three outlines the policy toolbox available to policymakers to address the challenge as they define the emerging legislative agenda.

4. CLIMATE LITERACY: THE ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES OF CLIMATE SCIENCES

Climate Program Office (CPO), March 2009, 18 p.
http://www.climatescience.gov/Library/Literacy/default.php

The Essential Principles of Climate Science reflects a broad and current effort to define climate literacy. It presents the basics of Earth's climate, impacts of climate change, and the approaches to adaptation or mitigation. It is a guide for scientific query and to promote climate science literacy. It elaborates the essential principles of climate science for greater awareness and increased literacy about the science of climate and climatic changes. It illustrates the complex interactions among the components of the Earth system and assesses how human activities are impacting our climate system.

5. EXPLORING THE SOCIOPOLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF GLOBAL WARMING

By Troy D. Sadler and Michelle L. Klosterman. Science Activities, v. 45, no. 4, Winter 2009, pp. 9-12.

This article outlines an activity designed to help school students conceptualize the sociopolitical complexity of global warming through an exploration of varied perspectives on the issue. The activity is based on a jigsaw strategy in which all the members of a group of five students read different materials and then share their findings with the rest of the group. While doing so, they explore many perspectives on the issue of global warming as they work to develop recommendations for national policy.

6. GLOBAL WARMING AND THE NEXT ICE AGE

By Manvendra K. Dubey, et al. Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society. v. 89, no. 12, December 2008, pp. 1905-1909.

This article talks about papers discussed at the Second International Conference on Global Warming and the Next Ice Age (GWNIA) held at Santa Fe, New Mexico on July 17-21, 2006. More than 120 scientists from 14 countries came onto a common platform for exploring possibilities on a common agenda. They shared their varied expertise in theory, observation, and modeling of climate change. Delegates discussed the shortcomings of current models, observations, and theory and developed a path towards using observational data to refine these models. The conference focused on understanding how global climate responses to natural and anthropogenic influences besides long-lived greenhouse gases.

7. THE GREENHOUSE HAMBURGER

By Nathan Fiala. Scientific American, v. 300, no. 2, February 2009, pp. 72-75.
http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=the-greenhouse-hamburger

Producing beef creates prodigious amounts of heat-trapping greenhouse gases, notes the author. Pound for pound, beef production generates 13 times as much greenhouse gas emissions than chicken. For potatoes, the multiplier is 57. Beef consumption is rising rapidly due to global population growth and people eating more meat. Producing the annual beef diet of the average American emits as much greenhouse gas as a car driven more than 1,800 miles. The author notes that improving waste management and farming practices can help reduce the "carbon footprint" of beef, however dietary changes and eating less beef would be more effective.

8. IN HOT WATER: GLOBAL WARMING TAKES A TOLL ON CORAL REEFS

By Charles W Schmidt. Environmental Health Perspectives, v. 116, no. 7, July 2008, pp. A292-A299.

Apart from other ecologies, global warming is adversely affecting the marine ecology. During the twentieth century, seawater has warmed by a global average of nearly 1oC. This study assesses the impact of rising ocean temperatures on the coral animals along the Eastern Caribbean region. The rise in mercury has disturbed the symbiotic partnership of coral animals with a type of algae called zooxanthellae. Episodes of coral bleaching and disease are occurring with mounting frequency around the world. In the coming decades, scientists warn, reefs could suffer cataclysmic changes, as coral populations dwindle past the point of return.

9. NATURE'S TRUST: A LEGAL, POLITICAL AND MORAL FRAME FOR GLOBAL WARMING

By Mary Christina Wood. Boston College Environmental Affairs Law Review, v. 34, no. 3, 2007, pp. 577-603.

In this article, Mary Christina Wood draws our attention to the consequences of global warming and calls for immediate action to deal with this global problem. She briefly explains the dynamics of global warming and explores reasons why this problem has been ignored for such a long period. She offers important perspective into framing government's responsibility in dealing with climate crisis. She feels that if people seek a secure climate ahead, they need to persuade their government to act urgently.

10. THE POLLS-TRENDS: TWENTY YEARS OF PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING

By Matthew C Nisbet and Teresa Myers. Public Opinion Quarterly, v. 71, no. 3, Fall 2007, pp. 444-470.

Despite the fact that global warming has been in the news for quite some time now, and several academic and nonpartisan public opinion surveys have been conducted on the topic, we have never attempted to see them in a collective perspective. This article seeks to do the same by providing a systematic review of trends in public opinion about global warming. In doing so the authors have culled polling question from more than 70 surveys conducted over the previous two decades that summarizes public opinion across several key dimensions.

11. SEEING GLOBAL WARMING: CONTEMPORARY ART AND THE FATE OF THE PLANET

By Finis Dunaway. Environmental History, v. 14, no. 1, January 2009, pp. 9-31.

The issue of global warming has percolated from the agenda of the scientific community onto the works of the contemporary environmental artists. In an exhibition at the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art in Colorado curated by the renowned art critic Lucy R. Lippart, more than fifty artists either addressed the subject of climate change or related environmental issues. Dunaway selects some to reveal how contemporary art can generate new ways of seeing global warming.

12. WHAT OBAMA MUST DO ON THE ROAD TO COPENHAGEN

By Michael Northrop and David Sassoon. Yale Environment 360, February 2, 2009.
http://www.e360.yale.edu/content/feature.msp?id=2116

The authors write that President Barack Obama will face one of the most important moments of his presidency this December, during the climate negotiations in Copenhagen, and he needs his entire cabinet to help him prepare in the coming months. They note that Obama spoke forcefully about the need to rein in greenhouse gas emissions during his campaign, and that after eight years of inaction, U.S. leadership offers the only hope of success in combating climate change. They note that the American public has been intentionally led astray about the nature of global warming, and Obama needs to communicate the urgency of dealing with it, preferably in a prime-time address to the nation. He should also make use of his executive powers to expedite action under the Clean Air Act and lead the government to enact comprehensive federal climate legislation.

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

13. THE BIG FIX

By David Leonhardt. The New York Times Magazine, February 1, 2009, pp. 22-29, 48-51.
http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/01/magazine/01Economy-t.html

The author, an economics columnist for *The New York Times*, discusses the biggest challenge for the Obama administration in bringing the economy back to life. The economy will recover, but it is likely to get significantly worse over the course of 2009, no matter what President Obama and the Congress do. Washington will not merely be given the task of pulling the economy out of the crisis, but in putting it on a more sustainable path. Leonhardt notes that private sector investment in research and infrastructure has not changed much since the 1950s, and investment by government has even dropped. Leonhardt notes that the U.S. has significant capacity to expand and sell Treasury debt; without that, the economy would be in even more dire straits. He notes that the norms of the last two decades – consume before investing, worry about the short term more than the long term – have been detrimental to American economic standing.

14. THE MYTH OF THE EFFICIENT CAR

By Alec Dubro. The Progressive, posted February 2, 2009.
http://www.progressive.org/mag/mpdubro020309.html

Developing fuel-efficient cars may be good for business, job creation and reinvigorating a struggling economy, but it is a myth to think that building more cars, efficient or otherwise, will reduce global pollution, according to Alec Dubro of The Progressive. "Increasing fuel efficiency has never led to an overall reduction in pollutants – in fact, efficiency has always led to more production and consumption," Dubro writes. He cites the widely-observed paradox that the more efficient machines become, the more energy they use because they are more widely used, noting that "people everywhere are buying more of the better, cheaper, more efficient cars and are driving them more." The only solution is to abandon the personal automobile, the author states. He notes that, because of their mass, "cars don't move people, cars move cars" – even proposed lightweight hypercars are several times the driver's body weight, and would still require the existing infrastructure of roads, bridges, parking areas and energy distribution. Dubro advocates developing the "20-minute neighborhood" where home, work, shopping and recreation are all within walking distance.

15. RISK MISMANAGEMENT

By Joe Nocera. The New York Times Magazine, January 4, 2009, pp. 24 -33, 46, 50-51.
http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/04/magazine/04risk-t.html

Nocera notes that stabilizing the U.S. economy is probably the most important issue the Obama administration will face; the risks taken by the U.S. and European investment firms have threatened to bring down the entire financial system. Many have suggested that the cause of the catastrophe was the widespread institutional reliance on a value-at-risk (VaR) financial model that did not take into account the biggest risk of all – the possibility of a financial meltdown. This was one of Alan Greenspan's primary excuses when he testified about the financial crisis before Congress in 2008. The late 1980s and the early 1990s were a time when many firms were trying to devise more sophisticated risk models because the world was changing around them. Banks, whose primary role was assessing credit risk, were merging with investment banks, which traded stocks and bonds. Derivatives and securitizations – pools of mortgages or credit-card loans that were bundled by investment firms and sold to investors – were becoming an important component of Wall Street activity, but were very difficult to value. Nocera notes that at the height of the bubble, there was so much money to be made that any firm that turned away deals because of misgivings about the risk would miss out on huge

short-term gains to less-cautious rivals; all the incentives were on the side of taking on more risk. The fact that VaR didn't measure the possibility of an extreme event was a relief to the heads of investment firms, making such a possibility easy to ignore.

16. SAFE SEAS ARE BIG BUSINESS

By APDF staff. Asia Pacific Defense Forum, v. 33, iss. 4, 4th Quarter 2008, pp. 28-33.
http://forum.apan-info.net/2008-4th_quarter/APDF_V33N4_Final.pdf

The growth of seaborne trade has raised the importance of maritime security in recent years. The threats to maritime security include piracy, terrorism, drug trafficking, gun-running, human smuggling, pollution, accidents and interstate conflicts. A recent study noted several factors affecting maritime security – more traffic, congested "choke points," the difficulty of sea surveillance, poor coastal and portside security, corrupt officials, and the availability of small arms. The mere threat of piracy deters trade, and piracy and other maritime crimes increase shipping costs by raising insurance rates and forcing shippers to hire armed guards. Another threat to maritime security is the lack of standardized global regulations which permit activities such as open registries with lax regulations that allow ship owners to conceal their true identities. Ports are also a weak link, as officials even in major ports are able to inspect less than 10 percent of shipments. Among the international initiatives to promote maritime security are the piracy reporting centers in Southeast Asia that cover the Indian Ocean region, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL RELATIONS & SECURITY

17. A BALANCED STRATEGY: REPROGRAMMING THE PENTAGON FOR A NEW AGE

By Robert M. Gates. Foreign Affairs, v. 88, no. 1, January/February 2009, pp. 28-40.

Defense Secretary Gates writes that U.S. credibility would be dealt a disastrous blow if the United States fails, or is perceived to fail, in Iraq or Afghanistan. As an active participant in U.S. national security decisions for 42 years, the author writes that the U.S. is unlikely to pursue another "forced regime change followed by nation-building under fire anytime soon." In the future, he says the U.S. should take an indirect approach, whenever possible, by building up the capacity of partner governments and security forces "to prevent festering

problems from turning into crises that require costly and controversial direct military intervention." Whenever possible, he says, military operations should be subordinated to efforts designed to promote better governance, economic development, and programs to address grievances of the discontented – a ready pool from which terrorists recruit. He laments the wholescale downsizing of the U.S. Agency for International Development and the folding of the U.S. Information Agency "into a corner of the State Department." Gates says the military and civilian elements of national security are out of balance, and that the cultural, political, psychological and human dimensions of warfare must not be neglected. While the military's global reach is an indispensable contributor to ensuring peace, the Secretary also concludes that "not every act of aggression or crisis can or should elicit a U.S. military response."

18. THE GENERAL'S NEXT WAR

By Susan Glasser. Foreign Policy, no. 170, January/February 2009, pp. 48-50.

Foreign Policy Executive Editor Susan Glasser interviewed General David Petraeus shortly after he assumed control of the U.S. Central Command. He told her that the challenges of Afghanistan cannot be addressed adequately without also addressing Pakistan's requirements. Nations that want to help Afghanistan, the general said, should look well beyond the region to include India, Iran, China and Russia. Speaking as a military strategist, Petraeus said the tactics and procedures that were used in Iraq successfully cannot be imported wholesale to Afghanistan. For one thing, Afghans are not able to watch television like the Iraqis and Afghanistan doesn't have the literacy rate of Iraq. He advocates communicating with the Afghans via local radio broadcasts, tribal elders and Shura Councils. He also emphasized the importance of creating a climate to promote reconciliation in Afghanistan, although it will likely be a different process than that which was employed in Iraq.

19. HIGHER EDUCATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

By Alan Dessoff. International Educator, v. 17, no. 5, September/October 2008, pp. 16 - 20.
http://www.nafsa.org/_/File/_/ie_sepoct08_voices.pdf

Former Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs and current President and CEO of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Patricia de Stacy Harrison, gives an interview urging patience on waiting for returns on investments made in international education. Ultimately, international education is an incredible value as it fosters a community of people of goodwill with mutual respect

and understanding. A joint Department of State and Homeland Security advisory panel recently issued a report specifically advocating international education as a key component of public diplomacy. Harrison concludes this interview by citing the need for international education to be a two-way street with American students also studying abroad.

20. THE TERRORIST THREAT: EXISTENTIAL OR EXAGGERATED? A "RED CELL" PERSPECTIVE

By George C. Fidas. International Journal of Intelligence and CounterIntelligence, v. 22, no. 3, 01 September 2008, pp. 519-529.
http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~content=a793513501~db=all~jumptype=rss

The author, a veteran of more than thirty years in the U.S. intelligence community, examines the impact that the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks has had on intelligence services. He concludes that the terrorist threat to the U.S. has been real, but exaggerated by the intelligence community. There has been no major terrorist attack on America since 9/11, al-Qaeda has been severely hobbled, anti-terror actions of law enforcement officials have been effective and there is an absence of a social support base for terrorism in the U.S. To the extent that America faces a terrorist threat, it is likely to continue to come from abroad, particularly from Europe. Although Europe has a more pervasive terrorism problem than does the U.S., it is also manageable, given the amateurism of European terrorist groups and the effectiveness of government counterterrorism measures.

DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS

21. THE HEART OF THE MATTER: THE SECURITY OF WOMEN AND THE SECURITY OF STATES

By Valerie M. Hudson, et al. International Security, v. 33, no. 3, Winter 2008/09, pp. 7-45.
http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/files/IS3303_pp007-045.pdf

The authors argue that the treatment of females within a society is a major and underappreciated factor in matters of high politics, such as national security and conflict. They believe that not only is the physical security and well-being of women directly linked to the security of the state, but it explains more of the variance in state peacefulness than do conventional measures such as democracy, wealth, and tradition of civilization. Drawing from disparate fields such as evolutionary biology and psychology, the authors make the case that societies that tolerate violence against women and girls have

male-dominated power structures that are more prone to internal and external conflict; those societies that have depersonalized political power and have improved the status of women are less likely to engage in violent conflict. They argue that policymakers should analyze the security of women when considering the linkage between state security and peacefulness.

22. INSIDE THE PRESIDENCY

By Elisabeth Bumiller. National Geographic, v. 215, no. 1, January 2009, pp. 130-149.
http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/print/2009/01/president/bumiller-text

Although the occupant of the White House changes, most of the routines for the staff that assist the president stay the same. Bumiller gives an inside look at life in the White House or on the road with the president; she interviews Gary Walters, former chief usher of the Executive Mansion, who served as a manager of the White House for 31 years, spanning six presidencies. A staff of 90, including butlers, maids, chefs, elevator operators, florists, carpenters and electricians, runs the White House residence, which has been known to welcome up to 30,000 guests in a single week. The White House staff knows how the first family wants their bedrooms set up, what snacks they like, what toothpaste they use. But these perks come at a price – first families foot the bill for personal items such as food and dry cleaning. In the article Joe Hagin, former deputy chief of staff in charge of operations, describes what it is like traveling on the road or on the plane with the president. He describes Air Force One as equipped with beds, exercise equipment and a fully functioning kitchen. He explains that the president travels with a contingent of hundreds overseas, but typically is in a "bubble" surrounded by close staffers and Secret Service agents. The article ends with a quote from former First Lady Barbara Bush: "presidents come and go. Butlers stay."

COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION

23. AGENCIES STRUGGLING TO MAKE CONNECTIONS ONLINE

By David Herbert. National Journal, February 2, 2009.
http://www.nationaljournal.com/njonline/no_20090126_4207.php

President Obama wants government agencies to be more transparent and communicate more with their audiences online. Many agencies have been using social-networking media long before Obama's directives, but with little success, the author says. Bureaucratic inefficiency and outdated and inflexible laws are partially to blame,

Herbert writes, but "the biggest problem facing most agencies isn't the trap of outdated regulations but the failure to attract an audience." The article examines how web managers need to think about how to use Web 2.0 tools, not just to use them for the sake of using them. It also examines how successful government social networking sites allow open discussion.

24. POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE

By Rob Gurwitt. Governing, January 2009
http://www.governing.com/articles/0901pressc.htm

Gurwitt discusses the decline of statehouse journalism. As media outlets struggle to stay afloat in a weak economy, coverage of state legislatures faces severe cuts. For example, Gurwitt notes that the *Hartford Courant*, the largest newspaper in Connecticut, used to have a dozen reporters covering state agencies, but today they have only one; with such limited staff, coverage of important legislative and budget issues has disappeared. The author talks with current and former statehouse reporters who discuss the current state of statehouse journalism.

25. A SEE-THROUGH SOCIETY

By Micah L. Sifry. Columbia Journalism Review, v. 47, no. 5, January-February 2009, pp. 43-47.
http://www.cjr.org/transparency/a_see-through_society.php

The public reaction to the Congressional emergency bailout legislation in September 2008 was overwhelming; an unprecedented number of e-mails crashed the House of Representatives web site, and several independent web sites that track Congressional activity were swamped. That explosion of public engagement online signals the beginning of a new age of political transparency. As more people go online to find, create, and share vital political information with one another, and as the tools for analyzing data and connecting people become more powerful and easier to use, politics and governance alike are inexorably becoming more open. Citizens will have more opportunity at all levels of government to take an active part in understanding and participating in the democratic decisions that affect their lives. City governments are leading the way; the District of Columbia, for example, since 2006 has put online all the raw data it has collected on government operations, education, health care, crime, and other topics on the CapStat online service. The new Obama administration has expressed a commitment to expanding government transparency with online databases.

26. WHAT WE DIDN'T KNOW HAS HURT US

By Clint Hendler. Columbia Journalism Review, v. 47, no. 5, January/February 2009, pp. 28-32.
http://www.cjr.org/feature/what_we_didnt_know_has_hurt_us.php

The author contends that some of the measures to maintain the extreme secrecy of the executive branch enacted by the Bush presidency may be easy to unpick by an executive order of the Obama administration. Others, resulting from court rulings or entrenched bureaucratic traditions, will be more difficult to reverse. President Obama promised in his campaign and since his election that he would restore transparency and improve information sharing. The author details some of the battles fought over freedom of information during the Bush administration, including the "Sunshine in Government Initiative" formed by the Associated Press.

GLOBAL ISSUES

27. ENERGY AND PUBLIC HEALTH: THE CHALLENGE OF PEAK PETROLEUM

By Howard Frumkin, Jeremy Hess and Stephen Vindigni. Public Health Reports, v. 124, January-February 2009, pp. 5-19.
http://www.injurycontrol.com/Hank/reprints/EnergyFrumkin.pdf

The authors note that "dramatic improvements in human health during the last 150 years have coincided with unprecedented economic growth and prosperity." Many of the advances in public health have been made possible by intensive energy use, largely from fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas; they note that the modern health-care sector is heavily dependent on petroleum and natural gas for pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and equipment, the energy requirements of hospitals, transportation and food production. They highlight the growing consensus that the global production of petroleum is expected to peak and go into terminal decline in the next few decades; this will have a profound effect on health care. While the health-care sector has dealt with short-term energy shortages in the 1970s, a long-term and terminal decline in energy supply over decades has little precedent, and will require collaboration with those in the energy, transportation, urban planning and other fields. Modern medicine and health care will need to completely rethink its approach to public health, such as the types of products and procedures it employs, how it obtains energy, how food is produced, and how low-income households obtain access to health care.

28. HOWLING SUCCESS

By Frank Clifford. Smithsonian, v. 39, no. 11, February 2009, pp. 76-90.

The fourteen-year old experiment to reintroduce the gray wolf to the Northern Rocky Mountains is a remarkable success, yet also a cautionary tale about the difficulties of restoring an endangered species. A bane to ranchers and settlers, wolves were ruthlessly hunted in the early 20th century to the point of being wiped out in that region. A program to reintroduce the wolf to Yellowstone Park began in 1995, in part, to restore an ecosystem thrown out of balance by an elk population overgrazing the landscape. The original group of 41 animals imported to Yellowstone from Canada has grown to more than 1,000 in a decade. But the roaming packs could not be restricted to the parklands, and began to raid the herds on neighboring ranchlands; now, however, ranchers, environmentalists, government officials and lawmakers work to find solutions. "Wolves have to be part of the equation," Clifford quotes rancher Robert Lang; "The trick is how to create a détente with them."

29. SILENT SERVANTS

Asia-Pacific Defense Forum, v. 33, no 3, 3rd Quarter 2008, pp. 44-51.
http://forum.apan-info.net/2008-3rd_quarter/APDF-Threat-Final.pdf

Trafficking in people is the modern-day form of slavery, the world's third most profitable organized crime which principally targets women and children, and one of the fastest-growing criminal activities. Trafficking victims are typically defrauded or coerced into sex services industries or into situations where their labor is exploited. Traffickers often rely on the confiscation of travel documents to exercise control over a victim. Between 600,000-800,000 people annually are transported across borders worldwide, including 14,500-17,500 persons into the United States alone. The U.S. is committed to putting an end to human trafficking; the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (G/TIP) provides the tools to combat trafficking in persons and assists in the coordination of anti-trafficking efforts, and its annual Trafficking in Persons Report serves as the primary diplomatic tool through which the U.S. Government encourages partnership and increased determination in the fight against human trafficking. Another effort is the U.N. Convention against Transnational Crime, adopted by the U.N. General Assembly during its Millennium Meeting in November 2000 and considered the first serious attempt by the international community to answer the global challenge of transnational organized crime with a global response in the form of international law.

30. TURNING THE TIDES

By David Wolman. Wired, v. 17, no. 1, January 2009, pp. 108-113.
http://www.wired.com/science/planetearth/magazine/17-01/ff_dutch_delta

The Netherlands, which has long experience with reclamation and flood protection, is embarking on an ambitious plan to protect the country from floods and rising sea levels due to climate change. The Delta Commission, created by the Dutch parliament, made projections for the next 200 years, based on data submitted by engineers and ocean experts on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; the projects envisioned by the plan will cost $1.5 billion a year for the next 100 years. The author, a contributing editor to the magazine, notes that the Dutch plan includes extending the coastlines, raising Lake Ijssel to above sea level and adding extensive dams & reinforcing levees to control the water coming from both the sea and the Alps. The author notes that the portion of the country to benefit from these measures generates 65 percent of the Netherlands' GDP. Says Wolman, the Dutch "are giving engineers and urban planners from New Orleans to Singapore a preview of what it will take to keep rising waters at bay."

U.S. SOCIETY, VALUES & POLITICS

31. THE END OF SOLITUDE

By William Deresiewicz. Chronicle of Higher Education, v. 55, no. 21, January 30, 2009, p. B6.

The author notes that where "the camera has created a culture of celebrity, the computer is creating a culture of connectivity." As the two technologies merge, they are feeding a common urge to become recognized and visible. Deresiewicz writes that it is becoming increasingly difficult to be alone; in fact, the proliferation of social-networking web sites such as Facebook and Twitter are ways that modern humans stave off loneliness. He notes that solitude was not always stigmatized; in earlier times, the ability to be alone was recognized as a necessary part of the religious experience, or a prerequisite to appreciate nature. The modern age has cast solitude in a harsher light, and the spread of suburbia, which has put more distance between people, coincided with the spread of telephone and television, technologies that enabled connectedness. Deresiewicz worries that we are losing the ability for introspection – "no real excellence, personal or social, artistic, philosophical, scientific or moral, can arise without solitude."

32. NEW ORLEANS REPORT

By Lilly Wei. Art in America, v. 97, no. 2, February 2009, pp. 43-52.

The "Prospect.1" biennial art exhibition held in New Orleans from November 2008 to January 2009 was different from most art exhibitions – it was conceived as a "stimulus package," a way to help a city still battered from Hurricane Katrina. Many artists declined payment, which helped the organizers mount an ambitious multi-venue exhibition. The majority of the international artists were from developing countries, and much of their work focused on housing. Many of the works were scattered throughout the city, in neighborhoods that were ravaged by Katrina. The author notes that such an approach would not have worked in other settings, but it motivated visitors to explore various parts of New Orleans. The Lower Ninth Ward, the area most devastated by the hurricane, became "ground zero" for the exhibition, and the artists whose work was created there focused on the loss of shelter and the neighborhood's complex history.

33. U.S. COLLEGES GET SERIOUS WITH PARTNERS OVERSEAS

By Karin Fischer. Chronicle of Higher Education, v. 55, no. 25, February 27, 2009, pp. A1, A28-A29.

Some U.S. universities are focusing more on the depth of their relationships with institutions in other countries than on the numbers. Fischer's prime example is Washington University in St. Louis, which has sought to build a network of outstanding institutions united by a common research agenda. Washington University's Chancellor, Mark Wrighton, says his university and its partners are looking for significant topics on which they share outstanding faculty expertise and can have both a global and a local impact. Significant money is being invested in the network, with a $100 million endowment the goal. For its "clean coal" collaboration, for example, Washington University faculty members are competing for $1.25 million in research grants, each of which must involve a colleague at an overseas partner. The network partners also plan to exchange course content and develop curricula that can be taught jointly. Last year, for example, Washington University students joined counterparts from Peking and Tsinghua Universities in studying air quality during the Olympics. While other university leaders acknowledge the need to get away from "handshake-and-paper agreements" that have no institutional impact, they raise the issue of whether the kind of sophisticated, substantive relationships being developed by Washington University are realistic for institutions with fewer resources.

34. CANCER AND THE NEW SCIENCE OF EARLY DETECTION

By Thomas Goetz. Wired, v. 17, no. 1, January 2009, pp 80-89, 121-122.
http://www.wired.com/medtech/health/magazine/17-01/ff_cancer

Early detection of cancer, an afterthought by the cancer research community, is slowly being proven to be a crucial step to save many lives affected by the disease, writes the author, deputy editor of the *Wired* magazine. The Canary Foundation, founded by Don Listwin, is the only organization of its kind in the cancer research field, with the goal to find by 2015 a series of screening techniques that can be widely used across the world in detecting cancer in its early stages, giving patients a 90% chance of survival. The foundation's realization that "data instead of drugs should be used to reveal a cancer before a cancer reveals itself" is driving the work of some of the nation's best medical researchers, who are assigned to various teams to concentrate on a specific type of cancer.

35. NEW TACTICS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

By Clifton E. Barry III and Maija S. Cheung. Scientific American, v. 300, no. 3, March 2009, pp. 62-69.
http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=new-tactics-in-fight

Tuberculosis is second only to HIV as the worldwide cause of death from infection. The pandemic is growing in many places and strains resistant to all existing drugs are emerging. To fight back, biologists are applying a host of cutting-edge drug development strategies. TB is caused by a bacterium. Most cases are treatable but strains resistant to first- and second-line drugs are on the rise. Conventional approaches to developing new antibiotics and vaccines against the disease have mostly failed. New tools are enabling scientists to study the TB-causing bacterium in greater detail, offering unprecedented insight into the interactions between pathogen and host. The results are exposing promising new targets for drug therapy.

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