

C O N T E N T S

Focus Section: U.S. Foreign Policy: The Obama Agenda	3
Business & Economics	19
International Political Relations & Security	20
Democracy & Human Rights	21
Communication & Information	22
Global Issues	24
U.S. Society, Values & Politics	25
Science & Technology	28

Articles listed in *Article & Web Alert* are available at The American Library nearest to you. Should you wish to receive photocopy of any of the articles, please fill in the attached reply-paid card with your request and mail it to us. We shall mail you the requested articles. For your convenience, addresses of the four American Libraries in India are given on the inside front cover.

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.

*Researched, compiled and edited by Sanjay Kumar Bhagat,
Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi.
Email: BhagatSK@state.gov*

U.S. Foreign Policy: The Obama Agenda

A new chapter in the history of the United States began in November 2008 when Americans elected Barack Hussein Obama as the first African American president of the nation. The world looked upon Obama as an ambassador of change as he filled in the details of his campaign theme: "Change We Can Believe In." At a time when America continues to face unprecedented foreign policy and national security challenges, Obama has chosen to start with a full sprint, signing executive orders within hours of taking the oath of office. "Know that America is a friend of each nation and every man, woman and child who seeks a future of peace and dignity, and that we are ready to lead once more" the president said moments after taking office, sending ripples of optimistic signals to the entire world.

As president, Obama faces myriad upheavals on the international map including weakening economy, conflicts in Iran and Afghanistan, widespread terrorism, proliferation of nuclear weapons, increasing assertiveness of Russia, rising military power of China, global climate change, the spread of poverty, infectious diseases and ethnic and religious strife worldwide. Having completed his first 100 days as America's president, Barack Obama has given significant indications about the contemporary shifts and priorities in his foreign policies. In an hour-long nationally televised press conference on April 29, 2009, he said in his own analysis of his first 100 days, "I think we're off to a good start. But it's just a start. I'm proud of what we've achieved, but I'm not content."

During his tenure so far, Obama has committed himself and his administration to a foreign policy that ensures the safety of the American people. His foreign policy pledges to end the war in Iraq responsibly, finish the fight against the Taliban and al Qaeda in Afghanistan, secure nuclear weapons and nuclear materials from terrorists, and renew American diplomacy to support strong alliances and to seek a lasting peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. As promised in his election campaign, Obama is well on his way to change the direction of America's foreign policy.

In the first 48 hours of his presidency, Obama issued executive orders to close the detention center on the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba within a year, to address the treatment and legal status of detainees, and to ban enhanced interrogation

methods. He appointed Special Envoys for Climate Change, Southwest Asia, the Middle East, Sudan, and a Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan. But perhaps the greatest foreign policy shift during Obama's early days in office has been his approach towards Iraq, which dominated U.S. policy for about six years. On February 27, 2009, the president announced a plan to responsibly end the war in Iraq. In a speech to U.S. Marines at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, President Obama stated that by August 31, 2010, the U.S. combat mission in Iraq will end. An improved situation in Iraq will pave way for the new administration to look for opportunities to expand direct diplomatic engagement with Iran.

In the South and Central Asia region, Obama is setting a new U.S. course for Afghanistan and Pakistan. Stating that it is an international security challenge of the highest order, President Obama, on March 27, 2009, announced a new strategy for these two nations that aims to disrupt, dismantle and defeat al Qaeda and the Taliban. "We have to ensure that neither Afghanistan nor Pakistan can serve as a safe haven for al Qaeda." In an interview on March 29, 2009, Obama called the new plan "a comprehensive strategy that doesn't just rely on bullets or bombs, but also relies on agricultural specialists, on doctors, on engineers, to help create an environment in which people recognize that they have much more at stake in partnering with us, and the international community, than giving in to some of these extremist ideologies."

India continues to be a key partner of the United States. "The United States sees India as a global power and a critical partner in helping to deal with the challenges of the 21st century—everything from climate change to poverty to trade to science and innovation," Obama told reporters in London on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit on April 2, 2009. Discussing the ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan Obama suggested that the new strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan could be complemented by renewed diplomatic engagement between India and Pakistan. On 23rd April, 2009, testifying before a House Appropriations subcommittee hearing, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton observed that the strongest threat Pakistan faces is not from India, but from the insurgency. On May 16, 2009, President Obama congratulated India on its historic national elections and expressed his eagerness to continue working with the Indian government to enhance the warm partnership between the two countries.

Another priority of the Obama administration is to keep nuclear weapons out of the hands of terrorists. On April 5, 2009 in

Prague, President Obama presented an ambitious strategy to address the international nuclear threat. He proposed measures-to reduce and eventually eliminate existing nuclear arsenals, including negotiations on further nuclear reductions with Russia, ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and completion of a verified Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty; halt proliferation of nuclear weapons to additional states, and prevent terrorists from acquiring nuclear weapons or materials.

In remarks on national security delivered on May 21, 2009, President Obama spoke at length on the values that guide his foreign policy decision. He observed, "We have re-energized a global non-proliferation regime to deny the world's most dangerous people access to the world's deadliest weapons. And we've launched an effort to secure all loose nuclear materials within four years. We're better protecting our border, and increasing our preparedness for any future attack or natural disaster. We're building new partnerships around the world to disrupt, dismantle, and defeat al Qaeda and its affiliates. And we have renewed American diplomacy so that we once again have the strength and standing to truly lead the world."

In a May 23, 2009 telephone conversation, President Obama congratulated Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on being sworn-in for a second term as prime minister. He also congratulated India on successfully completing the largest democratic exercise that the world has ever seen, calling it a testament to the strength of India's democracy. The two leaders recalled their warm meeting in London on April 2 and discussed their mutual desire to strengthen U.S.-India relations and work together to address common global challenges, such as the economic downturn, climate change, and counterterrorism.

The U.S. stance on environment and climate change has also witnessed a new approach during the Obama administration. The United States recognizes the need to break from old ways that threaten U.S. economy and our planet and President Obama has committed to investing \$150 billion in clean energy research and development over ten years. The United States will be a leader in addressing global climate change both by making contributions of its own and engaging other countries to do the same.

The United States Mission to the United Nations (USUN), led by Ambassador Susan E. Rice, is at the forefront of advancing the Obama administration's "new era of engagement" and securing America's interests at the United Nations. In an era of transnational

security threats, the United Nations is an essential forum for addressing global challenges that undermine U.S. national security and that no nation can solve alone. On this important stage, USUN is demonstrating to the world every day the changes that have come to U.S. foreign policy under President Obama.

President Obama had set three major foreign policy goals at the beginning of his administration—re-establish America's standing in the world; create dialogue with friends, partners and adversaries based on mutual respect; and work together in building partnerships. At the end of his much awaited first 100 days in the office, he has already demonstrated that he is a man of action. On February 24, 2009, President Obama observed, "In words and deeds, we are showing the world that a new era of engagement has begun. For we know that America cannot meet the threats of this century alone, but the world cannot meet them without America." Now in his second 100 days, President Obama acknowledged that he is pleased with the progress his administration has made since taking office, but he is not satisfied with the present. "I'm confident in the future, but I'm not content with the present," the president said at a brief town-hall meeting in a suburb of St. Louis on April 29. The world is watching President Obama, eager to see how he will continue to shape U.S. policies and relationships with the international community.

The articles included in this section discuss major foreign policy initiatives taken by President Obama so far and explore how they are ushering the United States into a new era of international engagement and public diplomacy.

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.

U.S. Government Sites

2008: A Foreign Policy Year in Review

http://photos.america.gov/galleries/amgov/30145/ps_2008.html

America.gov

<http://www.america.gov>

America.gov – South & Central Asia

<http://www.america.gov/world/scasia.html>

Appointment of Special Envoy on Climate Change Todd Stern
<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/01/115409.htm>

Barack Obama: 44th President of the United States
<http://www.america.gov/publications/books/obama.html>

Beyond Ping-Pong and Pandas – U.S.-China Relations
<http://www.america.gov/china.html>

Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs
<http://web.eap.state.gov>

Country Reports on Terrorism 2008
<http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/2008/index.htm>

eJournal USA – U.S. Presidential Transitions
<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0109.html>

Foreign Policy and Diplomacy – Remarks by Secretary of State
Hillary Rodham Clinton
<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/01/115450.htm>

Foreign Press Centers
<http://fpc.state.gov>

The National Archives
<http://www.archives.gov>

Obama Today
<http://blogs.america.gov/obama>

Partnering for a Better Life in Afghanistan
http://photos.america.gov/galleries/amgov/30145/afghan_partner

Plum Book – United States Government Policy and Supporting
Positions
http://www.gpoaccess.gov/plumbook/2008/2008_plum_book.pdf

State Department 100-Day Report
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/rls/dos/122390.htm>

Treaties in Force 2009
<http://www.state.gov/s/l/treaty/treaties/2009/index.htm>

U.S. Department of State
<http://www.state.gov>

U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs
<http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov>

U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
<http://foreign.senate.gov>

USAID Asia
<http://www.usaid.gov/locations/asia>

Voice of America – Pakistan in Crisis
<http://www.voanews.com/english/Pakistan.cfm>

Voice of America – Spotlight on Afghanistan
<http://www.voanews.com/english/Afghanistan.cfm>

The White House
<http://www.whitehouse.gov>

The White House – Foreign Policy
http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/foreign_policy

The White House – Homeland Security and Counterterrorism
http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/homeland_security

The White House – Remarks by the President on National Security
http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-the-President-On-National-Security-5-21-09/

Think Tanks

American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research
<http://www.aei.org>

American Foreign Policy Council (AFPC)
<http://www.afpc.org>

Asia Society
<http://www.asiasociety.org>

The Association on Third World Affairs, Inc.
<http://atwa.org>

Atlantic Council of the United States
<http://www.acus.org>

The Brookings Institution
<http://www.brookings.edu>

Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs (CCEIA)
<http://www.cceia.org>

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
<http://www.carnegieendowment.org>

Cascade Policy Institute
<http://www.cascadepolicy.org>

The Cato Institute
<http://www.cato.org>

Center for a New American Security
<http://www.cnas.org>

Center for American Progress
<http://www.americanprogress.org>

Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR)
<http://www.cepr.net>

Center for Global Development
<http://www.cgdev.org>

The Center for National Policy
<http://www.cnponline.org>

Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)
<http://www.csis.org>

Center for Transatlantic Relations
<http://transatlantic.sais-jhu.edu/>

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs
<http://www.ccftr.org>

Council on Foreign Relations
<http://www.cfr.org>

East West Institute
<http://www.ewi.info>

East-West Center (EWC)
<http://www.eastwestcenter.org>

Foreign Policy and National Security
<http://www.cato.org/researcharea.php?display=13>

Foreign Policy Association
<http://www.fpa.org>

Foreign Policy Research Institute (FPRI)
<http://www.fpri.org>

The Henry L. Stimson Center
<http://www.stimson.org>

The Heritage Foundation
<http://www.heritage.org>

Hoover Institution
<http://www.hoover.org>

Hudson Institute
<http://www.hudson.org>

The Independent Institute
<http://www.independent.org>

International Peace Institute
<http://www.ipacademy.org>

James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy
<http://www.bakerinstitute.org>

The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies
<http://www.jointcenter.org>

Manhattan Institute for Policy Research
<http://www.manhattan-institute.org>

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation (MMMMF)
<http://www.mansfieldfdn.org>

Mercatus Center
<http://www.mercatus.org>

National Center for Policy Analysis
<http://www.ncpa.org>

The New America Foundation
<http://www.newamerica.net>

The Nixon Center
<http://www.nixoncenter.org>

Peterson Institute for International Economics
<http://www.piie.com>

Pew Research Center
<http://pewresearch.org>

Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC)
<http://www.ppic.org/main/home.asp>

RAND Corporation
<http://www.rand.org>

Resources for the Future
<http://www.rff.org>

Social Science Research Council (SSRC)
<http://www.ssrc.org>

United States Institute of Peace
<http://www.usip.org>

Urban Institute
<http://www.urban.org>

The Washington Institute for Near East Policy
<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org>

Weatherhead East Asian Institute (WEAI)
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/weai/>

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (WWICS)
<http://www.wilsoncenter.org>

The World Policy Institute
<http://www.worldpolicy.org/wpi/index.html>

Media & Publications

CNN Political Ticker – President Obama

<http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/category/president-obama/>

Ethnic Lobbies and U.S. Foreign Policy

<http://www.rienner.com/uploads/48e3ce9d83653.pdf>

Foreign Affairs

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com>

Foreign Policy

<http://www.foreignpolicy.com>

National Public Radio (NPR) – 100 Days on the Road in Troubled Times

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=99912003>

NBC News – Inside the Obama White House

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/30892505/>

The New York Times – Barack Obama News

http://topics.nytimes.com/topics/reference/timestopics/people/o/barack_obama/

TIME – U.S. News

<http://www.time.com/time/nation>

U.S. News and World Report – Obama administration

http://www.usnews.com/Topics/tag/Subject/o/obama_administration/index.html

The Washington Post – Post Politics

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/politics/>

1. AFGHANISTAN: POST-TALIBAN GOVERNANCE, SECURITY, AND U.S. POLICY

By Kenneth Katzman. CRS Report for Congress, April 30, 2009, 78 p.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL30588.pdf>

When President Obama took office, Afghanistan was facing a deteriorating security environment. Increasing numbers of militants, expanding numbers of civilian and military deaths, growing disillusionment with corruption in the government of Afghan President Hamid Karzai, and Pakistan's inability to prevent Taliban and other militant infiltration into Afghanistan were the major concerns before Obama. His administration conducted its own "strategic review," the results of which were announced on March 27, 2009. This Congressional Research Service (CRS) report provides thorough background on the prevailing disturbances in Afghanistan. It offers both historical perspective and current policy directions regarding Afghanistan.

2. AMERICA'S HARD SELL

By Bruce W Jentleson and Steven Weber. Foreign Policy, November/December 2008, pp. 43-49.

Jentleson and Weber, professors of political science at Duke University and the University of California at Berkeley respectively, argue that the public diplomacy strategies of the last century won't work as well in the 21st century. The "War of Ideas" metaphor is outdated and should be replaced with the "Marketplace of Ideas," where the U.S. competes against other ideologies for market share. The authors contend that ideology is the most important component of national powers, that technology massively multiplies soft power, and that "domestic values" and "international values" must be consistent. The authors write that the U.S. will have to compete with countries, global corporations, religious movements, Internet communities—each with strengths and shortcomings—on a level playing field.

3. BEYOND IRAQ: A NEW U.S. STRATEGY FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

By Richard N. Haass and Martin S. Indyk. Foreign Affairs, v. 88, no. 1, January/February 2009, p. 41.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/63718/richard-n-haass-and-martin-indyk/beyond-iraq>

After figuring Iraq in its foreign policy priorities for the last six years, the United States now needs to shift its focus and reduce its presence in Iraq. Reducing the number of U.S. troops in Iraq, limiting their combat role, and transferring increased responsibility to Iraqi forces will allow the new administration to shift its focus to Iran. This also will allow the administration to pay more attention to its other

foreign policy aims in the Middle East. Renewing diplomacy in the Middle East will be a tall order for Obama especially reducing tensions with Iran, promote peace between Israel and Syria and a resolution to the Palestinian-Israel question.

4. CHANGE THEY CAN BELIEVE IN: TO MAKE ISRAEL SAFE, GIVE PALESTINIANS THEIR DUE

By Walter Russell Mead. Foreign Affairs, v. 88, no. 1, January/February 2009, p. 59.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/63719/walter-russell-mead/change-they-can-believe-in>

Seeking a solution for easing tension between Israel and the Palestinian state, Mead proposes that the Obama administration give more importance to this problem in its foreign policy. Although the Palestinian question should be the focal point of efforts to bring peace to the Middle East, the new administration need not choose between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Rather, it must engage with both sides more deeply than past U.S. administrations and use the full power of the U.S. presidency to develop a comprehensive peace strategy.

5. FOREIGN AID: AN INTRODUCTION TO U.S. PROGRAMS AND POLICY

By Curt Tarnoff and Marian L. Lawson. CRS Report for Congress, February 10, 2009, 35 p.

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40213_20090210.pdf

U.S. foreign aid is a fundamental component of the international affairs budget and is considered an essential instrument of U.S. foreign policy. The amount of foreign aid provided by the United States, which was declining for several decades, has grown in the past few years. The U.S. is the largest international economic aid donor in absolute dollar terms, although it is the smallest contributor among the major donor governments when calculated as a percent of gross national income. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the focus of U.S. aid policy has transformed significantly. This CRS report addresses a number of the more frequently asked queries regarding the U.S. foreign aid program, its objectives, costs, organization, the role of Congress, and how it compares to those of other aid donors.

6. HOW TO GET ASIA RIGHT: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION

*By Ralph A. Cossa. American Foreign Policy Interests, v. 31, no. 1, 2009, pp. 3-11.
http://pdfserve.informaworld.com/649694_731211589_909061329.pdf*

Taking stock of the domestic and foreign policy challenges before Obama administration, Cossa analyses the status of U.S. relationships with the countries of Asia as well as Russia and makes necessary recommendations for the future. While addressing the immediate daunting challenges, the administration must send the right signals and make the right gestures to reassure friends and potential foes alike that the United States, despite distractions elsewhere, intends to remain fully engaged in the Asia-Pacific region. In Asia, continuity is needed as much as change and a little reassurance still goes a long way. The Obama administration must remember that America's long-term future rest in and with Asia.

7. INDIA: AMERICA'S INDISPENSABLE ALLY

*By Xenia Dormandy. The Christian Science Monitor, March 11, 2009, p. 9.
<http://www.csmonitor.com/2009/0311/p09s01-coop.html>*

It appears tempting for the United States to put India on the back burner when so much of the Middle East and South Asia is in disarray. But if President Obama is to achieve his ambitious foreign policy objectives, he will need to forge an even stronger relationship with India. India is a friend and ally of U.S. and it will be hard for Washington to stabilize either Afghanistan or Pakistan without India. For several other top priorities of President Obama, including climate change, energy security, stopping nuclear proliferation, combating terrorism and many more, India continues to be an indispensable ally of Washington calling for a more robust diplomacy between the two great nations.

8. INDIA-U. S. RELATIONS

*By K. Alan Kronstadt. CRS Report for Congress, January 30, 2009, 79 p.
http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL33529_20090130.pdf*

Since 2004, Washington and New Delhi have been pursuing a "strategic partnership" that is based on shared values such as democracy, pluralism, and rule of law. Numerous economic, security, and global initiatives, including plans for "full civilian nuclear energy cooperation," are underway. Apart from President Bush's initiatives for a civil nuclear deal, the United States and India also signed a ten-year defense framework agreement in 2005, which calls for

expanding bilateral security cooperation. This CRS report takes stock of various aspects of U.S.-India cooperation and highlights major U.S. concerns such as ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan, cross-border terrorism, human rights, business interests, and health issues like HIV/AIDS. It looks at the future of U.S.-India relationship and attempts to explore how the momentum set by the Bush administration will be maintained by his successor.

9. IRAN: U.S. CONCERNS AND POLICY RESPONSES

By Kenneth Katzman. CRS Report for Congress, April 14, 2009, 63 p.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RL32048.pdf>

President Obama has indicated that his administration shares the goals of the previous administration on Iran, but the strategies being formulated by the current administration take a different approach to achieving those goals. The Obama administration is looking for opportunities to expand direct diplomatic engagement with Iran. Experts disagree on the potentials of this shift in policy. This report captures the Bush administration's approach towards Iran along with Obama's policy and explores the connections between the approaches of the two administrations.

10. ISRAELI-ARAB NEGOTIATIONS: BACKGROUND, CONFLICTS, AND U.S. POLICY

By Carol Migdalovitz. CRS Report for Congress, March 9, 2009, 44 p.

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL33530_20090309.pdf

This CRS report offers a wider perspective on the Israeli-Arab negotiations in pursuit of a lasting peace in the region and how this situation has figured in the United States foreign policy priorities. After presenting a historical overview of efforts taken to stabilize peace in the region, the report examines some of the more recent developments. The U.S. Congress is interested in Middle East peace issues because of Congress' oversight role in the conduct of U.S. foreign policy, its support for Israel, and keen constituent interest in Israel.

11. THE MAKING OF GEORGE W. OBAMA

By Christian Brose. Foreign Policy, January/February 2009, pp. 53-55.

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=4588

Three weeks after winning the 2008 U.S. presidential election, Barack Obama announced his national security team which included President George Bush's secretary of defense (Robert Gates),

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's special envoy for Middle East security (James Jones), and the doyenne of Democratic centrism (Hillary Clinton). This was seen by many as the political cover needed by Obama to lead U.S. foreign policy in an entirely different direction after Bush. But Christian Brose—a former speechwriter for former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice—does not fully agree with this notion. He comments on the likely direction of Obama's foreign policy initiatives. According to Brose, the foreign policy inherited by Obama is better than many realize. Although changes in Obama's policy cannot be ruled out, it won't depart radically from Bush's.

12. A NEW ERA OF ENGAGEMENT: ADVANCING AMERICA'S INTERESTS IN THE WORLD

Progress Report by the United States Mission to the United Nations, USUN Press Release #082#(09), April 29, 2009.

http://www.usunnewyork.usmission.gov/press_releases/20090429_082.html

The United Nations must be strengthened to meet the challenges of the 21st century. As the UN's principal founder, largest financial contributor, and its host country, the U.S. has the onus of shaping the UN's actions and leading to fix this important institution's shortcomings. As worldwide expectations for the UN's performance grow, a better-run and cost-effective United Nations is clearly in America's interest. The Obama administration fully recognizes the UN's limitations and it is working to advance reforms that will strengthen the institution and increase accountability. United States Mission to the United Nations (USUN) actively promotes UN reforms in the areas of human resources, procurement, information technology, and results-based management.

13. OBAMA'S WISE APPROACH TOWARD AFGHANISTAN

By Christopher Preble and Malou Innocent. [cato.org](http://www.cato.org), April 13, 2009.

http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=10117

Preble and Innocent state that President Obama deserves credit for his approach towards Afghanistan and Pakistan. He has increased assistance and training of Afghan forces instead of continuing to support an indefinite military mission with large number of U.S. troops deployed in Afghanistan. This is an important step towards seeking a more pragmatic solution to the existing problems in the region. Obama's plan to continue building up the Afghan National Army (ANA) to 134,000 troops is an important move in the right direction. While the U.S. will be essential partners for the Afghans,

their assistance must be targeted, results-based, and tied to clear, achievable metrics.

14. PAKISTAN AND THE FUTURE OF U.S. POLICY

By Malou Innocent. Policy Analysis, no. 636, April 13, 2009, 25 p.
<http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa636.pdf>

In the light of the alarming movement of Taliban and al Qaeda militants from Afghanistan to Pakistan's rugged northwest border areas, Pakistan has drawn the interest of the U.S. policymakers in the country. For better or worse, Pakistan will remain the fulcrum of U.S. policy in the region. The idea is to train Pakistani officers through the U.S. Department of Defense International Military Education and Training program to enhance their fighting capabilities against the militants. But U.S. policymakers must stop embracing a single Pakistani leader as they did in the past with Parvez Musharraf and the late Benazir Bhutto. Further, it is extremely important to closely monitor U.S. aid to Pakistan to make sure that it does not get diverted for purchasing weapons systems.

15. REBALANCING AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY

By Paul K. MacDonald. Dædalus, v. 138, no. 2, Spring 2009, pp. 115-125.
<http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1162/daed.2009.138.2.115>

Amidst the ongoing financial crisis and an economic recession, the Obama administration faces multiple foreign policy challenges. At the same time, the administration also has a unique opportunity to reorient American foreign policy, effectively striking a balance between the ends it seeks and the resources it possesses. MacDonald advocates moving away from maintaining hegemony and developing bilateral security agreements with regional powers. The United States should promote greater coordination between the military and civilian agencies, especially in the context of counterinsurgency and nation-building efforts.

16. UNITED NATIONS REFORM: U.S. POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

By Luisa Blanchfield. CRS Report for Congress, January 27, 2009, 33 p.
http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL33848_20090127.pdf

Since its establishment in 1945, the United Nations has undergone continuous transitions in an effort to improve its effectiveness. The

current need for changing and improving the United Nations has been driven mainly by the controversies like corruption of the Iraq Oil-For-Food Program, allegations of sexual abuse by U.N. peacekeepers, and instances of waste, fraud and abuse by U.N. staff. The United States Congress has maintained a significant interest in the overall effectiveness of the United Nations. In the past, Congress enacted legislation that linked U.S. funding of the United Nations to specific U.N. reform benchmarks. The 111th Congress is likely to continue to focus on U.N. reform as it considers appropriate levels of U.S. funding to the UN and monitors the progress and implementation of ongoing and previously-approved reform measures.

BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

17. FARM FUTURES: BRINGING AGRICULTURE BACK TO U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

By Catherine Bertini and Dan Glickman. Foreign Affairs, v. 88, no. 3, May/June 2009, pp. 93-105.

The U.S. should make agricultural development its top foreign aid priority and get other international donors to do the same, say Bertini, a former head of the United Nations World Food Program, and Glickman, a former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. They say chronic hunger, which now affects nearly 1 billion people around the world, is a national security threat. Terrorists are using free food to lure hungry students into organizations that teach extremism. Diseases related to hunger are the world's leading health threat, claiming more lives than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. But, the authors write, the traditional approach to foreign aid has been defensive, such as the U.S. putting more than \$2 billion into food aid in 2008 to cope with a global food crisis. The focus, instead, should be on helping rural communities, especially in Africa and Asia, become more self-sufficient in food production. The authors call for the U.S. Congress to pass the Lugar-Casey Global Food Security Act to boost funds for agricultural research and education.

18. THE QUIET COUP

By Simon Johnson. The Atlantic, May 2009, pp. 46-56.
<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200905/imf-advice>

The Obama administration is unlikely to reform the U.S. financial system because his top economic advisers have been recruited from

the leading investment banks, the very institutions in need of reform. "The finance industry has effectively captured our government," Johnson writes. "Recovery will fail unless we break the financial oligarchy that is blocking essential reform." Johnson said that the U.S. financial troubles are similar to the crises that brought heavily indebted developing countries to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for loans. The author asserts that the U.S. financial disaster was brought about by an "Oligarchy, running the country rather like a profit-seeking company in which they are the controlling shareholders." He said that government bailouts of the banks that have become too big to fail are not incentives to reform. "The government's velvet-glove approach with banks ... is inadequate to change the behavior of a financial sector accustomed to doing business on its own terms," Johnson asserts. In contrast to the administration's bailout strategy, Johnson proposes nationalizing troubled banks and breaking them up as necessary.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL RELATIONS & SECURITY

19. THE G-2 MIRAGE: WHY THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA ARE NOT READY TO UPGRADE TIES

By Elizabeth C. Economy and Adam Segal. Foreign Affairs, May/June 2009, pp. 14-23.

Economy and Segal, senior fellows at the Council on Foreign Relations, argue that the U.S. and China are still too far apart in many ways to succeed by themselves in solving global problems. Without doubt they are key players in resolving problems of economics, environment, and stability. Nonetheless, pursuing solutions through an elevated bilateral relationship will only reveal mismatched interests, values, and capabilities. China's need for resources and markets, for example, clashes with Western goals for improving human rights and governance in the developing world. China's authoritarian yet decentralized government and lack of transparency make cooperation difficult on food and product safety problems. What the U.S. should do, instead of elevating its bilateral relationship with China, is to invite Europe, Japan, and other important countries in Asia to coordinate policies toward China. "Throughout the world, countries are realizing that the issues that currently define their relationships with Beijing cannot simply be negotiated bilaterally," the authors write.

20. TOWARD RECONCILIATION IN AFGHANISTAN

By Michael O'Hanlon. *The Washington Quarterly*, v. 32, no. 2, April 2009, pp. 139-147.

The author, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, provides interesting insight into the situation in Afghanistan. Although the security situation is deteriorating, the level of civilian violence is relatively modest compared to Congo, Iraq, Colombia, Russia, South Africa, and Mexico. Kidnappings are frequent, roads are unsafe, and opium production has increased. However, there are also positive signs—large numbers of refugees have returned, a higher percentage of children are in school (especially girls) and childhood immunization coverage has reached nearly 70 percent. Telephone access is widespread, inflation is in check and GDP growth has been about 10 percent per year. O'Hanlon believes that success is possible in Afghanistan, but a new approach is needed. Security forces need to be increased to around 600,000, but current plans call for only half that (including some 60,000 Americans). The concept of "clear, hold, and build" should continue, but the overall development strategy needs to be improved, making better use of local communities in programs such as the one used by the World Food Programme, through which local groups provide security and oversee equitable distribution of food delivered by the WFP. Important progress is possible through sustained attention and resources from the international community in partnership with Afghan patriots and reformers.

DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS

21. THE BABY, THE BATHWATER, AND THE FREEDOM AGENDA IN THE MIDDLE EAST

By Michele Dunne. *The Washington Quarterly*, v. 32, no. 1, January/February 2009, pp. 129-141.

http://www.twq.com/09winter/docs/09jan_Dunne.pdf

According to the author, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and editor of the Arab Reform Bulletin, the leaders of the new U.S. administration should not let failures in Iraq and Palestine deter them from pursuing the "freedom agenda" in the Middle East. More successful but less well-known cases such as Egypt, Bahrain, and Morocco show that the U.S. can promote democracy without sacrificing strategic interests. The administration should learn from these examples how to support democracy more effectively. Although the details and the degrees of success vary, the freedom agenda did not endanger strategic

cooperation with any of these countries. Problems arise when democracy promotion is seen as a path to regime change. The author recommends four key steps—keep democracy on the agenda, be prepared to adjust tactics frequently, quell any instinctive fear of Islamists, and appoint the right people to positions of leadership at the relevant U.S. government departments and agencies. By showing "greater persistence in goals and flexibility in means" than the Bush administration, the new administration will be better able to advance U.S. interests and help the people in Arab countries make their governments more democratic.

22. MAKING THE WORLD SAFE FOR PARTIAL DEMOCRACY? QUESTIONING THE PREMISES OF DEMOCRACY PROMOTION

By Arthur A. Goldsmith. International Security, v. 33, no. 2, Fall 2008, pp. 120-147.

Goldsmith asserts that democracy promotion is a favorable strategy to advance the cause of world peace, especially in the Middle East, but undifferentiated democracy promotion has two faulty premises. First, all progress toward the establishment of democratic regimes does not necessarily make the global community safer. Second, regime change is not something external actors have the capacity to guide in the desired direction. The first assumption fails to consider the well-documented security problems caused by partial democracies, and the second assumption overstates the ability of powerful outsiders to induce transitions to full democracy. Goldsmith writes that a cautious and selective approach to democracy promotion is better than a "one-size-fits-all" blanket approach that disregards the nature of each situation.

COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION

23. GOOGLE'S GATEKEEPERS

By Jeffrey Rosen. New York Times Magazine, November 30, 2008

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/30/magazine/30google-t.html?_r=1

The author, a law professor at George Washington University, notes that even though the Web might seem like a free-speech panacea, there is less focus on how the Internet is actually regulated, and by whom. As more and more speech migrates online, the ultimate power to decide who has an opportunity to be heard, and what people may say, lies increasingly with Internet service providers, search engines, and other Internet companies like Google. With

control of two-thirds of the world's Internet searches, as well as ownership of YouTube, Google has enormous influence over who can find an audience on the Web; it has adopted a decision-making process about what controversial user-generated content stays up or comes down on YouTube and other applications owned by Google. Google's increasing role in policing content on its applications is also working at cross-purposes with many national governments, which are also blocking access to YouTube, such as recent incidents in Thailand and Turkey.

24. HILL TUNES IN TO NEW MEDIA

By Winter Casey. National Journal, March 7, 2009, p. 14.

http://www.nationaljournal.com/njmagazine/cg_20090307_6994.php

Lawmakers' growing awareness of the Internet's importance to campaigns and of their constituents' increasing desire to connect and gather information on the Web has led to a growing use of social media in the U.S. Congress. Members are hiring new media experts to help extend their reach, embracing the Internet and social networking sites like Facebook, MySpace, Twitter and YouTube. Some new media staffers like Matt Lira, who works for Representative Eric Cantor of Virginia, attends senior staff meetings so that integration with new media is considered on a daily basis. New media staffers hope Members of Congress will continue to expand their use of these tools as they come to see it as essential for promoting their agendas.

25. OVERLOAD! : JOURNALISM'S BATTLE FOR RELEVANCE IN AN AGE OF TOO MUCH INFORMATION

By Bree Nordenson. Columbia Journalism Review, v. 47, no. 4, November/December 2008, pp. 30-32, 35-37, 40, 42.

http://www.cjr.org/feature/overload_1.php?page=all

The vast amount of information available on the Internet, and the limited ability of human beings to consume it, is affecting news production, distribution and design. It may also have a long-term negative effect on readers subjected to the overload, studies find. Some news organizations, such as the Associated Press, have taken heed and altered their formats; nonetheless, interruptive clutter abounds. Seemingly limitless freedom of choice becomes a burden which may change the roles of news agencies and journalists from being gatekeepers to guides through the information glut.

26. SURFACE ROUTINES: HOW WE READ ON THE WEB

*By Michael Meyer. Columbia Journalism Review; v. 47, no. 4, Nov./Dec. 2008, pp. 33-34.
http://www.cjr.org/feature/surface_routines.php*

People's limitations when faced with the huge volume of information on the Internet, coupled with their compulsion to know what is there, is changing the way people read printed and online material. In-depth reading is often replaced by skimming greater quantities of content. Studies, such as that by Jakob Nielsen, show that people read much less in their pursuit of relevant information. Although some fear a negative impact on introspective literacy, evidence from a 2007 Poynter Institute EyeTrack study indicates readers online read substantially more text than those devoted to print, and were drawn by text rather than photos. The author concludes that while the Web may influence behavior, it merely highlights cultural inadequacies already present in social and educational institutions.

GLOBAL ISSUES

27. ASIA'S NEXT CHALLENGE: SECURING THE REGION'S WATER FUTURE

Asia Society, April 2009, 59 p.

<http://asiasociety.org/taskforces/water/WaterSecurityReport.pdf>

One-sixth of the world's population currently does not have good access to safe water and half of all countries could have water shortages by 2025, according to the United Nations. In this report, an international group of leaders from academia, government and the private sector convened by the Asia Society urges countries to take more action to avert a world "water crisis." It says policy makers should begin by looking at the world's growing water scarcity as more than just an environmental threat and consider water scarcity both a national security and development challenge. With climate change and a growing world population, the water supply is becoming more and more uncertain. The group says countries should use existing scientific data on climate change and water and that more resources should be directed to the UN so it can collect more data. The group also calls for expanding the capacity of the Asia Development Bank to finance and to provide technical expertise in urban water services and river basin management. It wants governments to give incentives to encourage investing in water management technologies.

28. GLOBAL TRENDS IN CULTURE, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND VALUES

By Andy Hines. The Futurist, v. 42, no. 5, September-October 2008, pp. 18-23.

Andy Hines notes that just a decade or so ago, many were concerned about a homogenized global culture dominated by the U.S. and its powerful entertainment industry. However, local cultures around the world are more robust than originally thought. The author notes that people are quite capable of taking the aspects of global culture they like, ignoring the rest, and retaining what they are attached to in their native cultures; this adaptability serves as a long-term driver of change. The author explores ten trends whose influence he believes will grow in the coming decades, including cultural multi-polarity; new electronic media, particularly the Internet and mobile phones; the spread of new ideas; electrification; mobility; ethical consumption; women's rights; social freedom; and transparency.

29. TALES, TECHS, AND TERRITORIES: PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW, GLOBALIZATION, AND THE LEGAL CONSTRUCTION OF BORDERLESSNESS ON THE INTERNET

By Andrea Slane. Law and Contemporary Problems, v. 71, no. 3, Summer 2008, pp. 129-151.

The Internet has often been described as "borderless." Slane notes that the popularity of Internet use and globalization rhetoric in the 1990s has affected the interpretation of the legal significance of Internet technology. The Internet's borderless nature has shaped the legal understanding of the Internet in two ways: first, by framing the issues arising from the application of local law as a conflict between cosmopolitanism and parochialism; second, by framing procedural issues as a contest between simple and complex approaches in determining new legal circumstances. Without such a critical examination into the legal framing of Internet borderlessness, the author believes that one cannot fully appreciate the substantive and procedural aspects of Internet-related cases.

U.S. SOCIETY, VALUES & POLITICS

30. 2008 INNOVATIONS AWARDS

State News, v. 51, no. 6, November/December 2008, pp. 20-27.

For over twenty years, the Council of State Governments (CSG) recognizes states that offer innovative approaches in a variety of

activities and programs, including public safety, human resources, health services, and economic development. The eight CSG Innovations Award recipients of 2008 include Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Washington, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and South Dakota. The Georgia Crisis and Access Line, a 24/7 hotline, streamlined the previous multi-layered bureaucratic system that required users to call one of 25 numbers to get help. The tech-savvy hotline also allows real-time appointment scheduling so clients no longer wait weeks, or even months, for an appointment with a health provider. The Georgia crisis line saved the state \$12.5 million by referring callers to appropriate community resources, which helped to avoid unnecessary hospital emergency room trips. A statewide imagery program called Virtual Alabama saved that state more than \$40 million. Rather than investing in brand-new imagery, Alabama's Department of Homeland Security used the high-tech, high-quality images that already existed, but were scattered among numerous agencies with the state. By securing an inexpensive license with Google Earth, and with the Google platform, Virtual Alabama allows every state official access to images—and layers of useful data—of the entire state.

31. CHEATING GOES GLOBAL AS ESSAY MILLS MULTIPLY

*By Thomas Bartlett. Chronicle of Higher Education, March 20, 2009, pp. A1, A22-A25.
<http://chronicle.com/free/v55/i28/28a00102.htm>*

Bartlett traces the various Internet manifestations of an "essay mill," first to a house in Virginia and then to an office in Ukraine and a building in the Philippines, along the way talking to essay writers in Africa and Asia, and to students who buy their work and turn it in at U.S. universities. And these aren't just essays for freshman English courses; students are buying papers for graduate courses and even a dissertation in a subject like aerospace engineering at a top university. The essay mill Bartlett investigates is sophisticated, international and profitable, charging up to \$42.99 per page for work by someone with a doctoral degree. Most of the customers with whom Bartlett talked knew what they were doing was wrong, but some insisted they were only buying models, and one insisted he was merely, like a savvy company, "outsourcing" work he doesn't have time for. Writers, many from developing countries, consider the pay good and the work interesting, and did not seem particularly disturbed by the questionable ethics involved. Some institutions, like Boston University, have made an effort to shut down essay mills, and some states have rarely-enforced laws against them. Experts on plagiarism recommend professors structure assignments better and talk to students about ethics and the purpose of college.

32. FREE ON FRIDAY

By Zach Patton. *Governing*, December 1, 2008.

<http://www.governing.com/article/free-friday>

Most Americans work five-day work weeks, eight hours a day. But in an effort to save operating costs and counter high gas prices, many local governments are adopting four-day work weeks, with employees working ten-hour days. In August 2008, Utah became the first state to implement what is known as a "4/10" schedule. The state has decided to try the schedule for a year, and many state and local governments are watching to see how this schedule works. Already the state has saved significant energy costs and has seen a decline in absenteeism. A survey found that 80 percent of the state's employees like the new schedule-and being able to offer flexible work schedules can be a powerful recruitment tool. "The governments that have moved to 4/10s are learning that adopting these schedules is complex-there are unanticipated challenges as well as some unforeseen benefits," the author writes. What works for one state may not work for another, Patton writes, "Don't bet on too many other states or cities following with mandatory 4/10's immediately."

33. THE IRRATIONAL ELECTORATE

By Larry M. Bartels. *The Wilson Quarterly*, v. 32, no. 4, Autumn 2008, pp. 44-50

Bartels notes that one of the best-selling political books of the 2008 election season was *Just How Stupid Are We?* by popular historian Rick Shenkman, presenting results from opinion surveys documenting Americans' lack of knowledge about politics, government, and American history. When social scientists started using detailed opinion surveys to study the attitudes and behavior of ordinary voters in the early 1950s, they found that voters consistently misperceived where candidates stood on the important issues of the day, seeing their favorite candidates' positions as closer to their own and those of opposing candidates' stands as more dissimilar than they actually were. The ideal of rational voting behavior is further undermined by accumulating evidence that voters can be powerfully swayed by television advertising in the days just before an election. Analysis of a major study of the 2000 presidential election that tracked prospective voters' responses to changes in the volume and content of campaign ads and news coverage suggested that George W. Bush's razor-thin victory hinged crucially on the fact that he had more money to spend on television ads in battleground states in the final weeks of the campaign.

34. MAGIC AND THE BRAIN

By Susana Martinez-Conde and Stephen L. Macknik. *Scientific American*, v. 299, no. 6, December 2008, pp. 72-79.

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=magic-and-the-brain>

Magicians have been testing and exploiting the limits of cognition and attention for centuries; neuroscientists are just beginning to catch up. Magic tricks often work by covert misdirection, drawing the spectator's attention away from the secret method that makes a trick work. Neuroscientists are scrutinizing magic tricks to learn how they can be put to work in experimental studies that probe aspects of consciousness not necessarily grounded in current sensory reality. Brain imaging shows that some regions are particularly active during certain kinds of magic tricks.

35. A NEW MOLECULE OF LIFE

By Peter E. Nielsen, *Scientific American*, v. 299, no. 6, December 2008, pp. 64-71.

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=triple-helix-designing-a-new-molecule>

Peptide nucleic acid, a synthetic hybrid of protein and DNA, could form the basis of a new class of drugs—and of artificial life unlike anything found in nature. A synthetic molecule, peptide nucleic acid (PNA) combines the information-storage properties of DNA with the chemical stability of a protein-like backbone. Drugs based on PNA would achieve therapeutic effects by binding to specific base sequences of DNA or RNA, repressing or promoting the corresponding gene. Some researchers working to construct artificial life forms out of chemical mixtures are also considering PNA a useful ingredient for their designs. PNA-like molecules may have served as primordial genetic material at the origin of life.

36. HIV 25 YEARS LATER: THE BIG CHALLENGES

By David I. Watkins. *Scientific American*, v. 299, no. 5, November 2008, pp. 68-76.

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=the-aids-vaccine-search-goes-on>

Repeated failures in the quest for an AIDS vaccine have sent investigators back to the drawing board. HIV has defeated the best efforts of vaccine scientists because the virus evades and undermines the immune system. If HIV infection can't be prevented, a second goal of vaccine makers is to reduce the virus's spread and the severity of illness it causes. Researchers are returning to basic science to follow new leads.

The American Libraries in India

The American Library

Gemini Circle, Chennai - 600 006

Library Director: Mr. M.K. Jagadish

Reference Desk: Tel. No. 91-44-28574000 ext. 4017 & 4089

Fax: 91-44-28574307, Email: chennaifdesk@state.gov

Web Address: <http://chennai.usconsulate.gov/irc.html>

The American Library

38A Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Kolkata - 700 071

Library Director: Dr. Sushanta Banerjee

Reference Desk: Tel. No. 91-33-39846398/99

Fax: 91-33-22882445, Email: kolkataamlibrary@state.gov

Web Address: <http://kolkata.usconsulate.gov/irc.html>

The American Library

4 New Marine Lines, Mumbai - 400 020

Library Director: Ms. Usha Sunil

Reference Desk: Tel. No. 91-22-22624590/92 ext. 2204

Fax: 91-22-22624599, Email: libref@state.gov

Web Address: <http://mumbai.usconsulate.gov/airc.html>

The American Library

24 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi - 110 001

Library Director: Ms. Kala Anjan Dutta

Reference Desk: Tel. No. 91-11-23472115/16

Fax: 91-11-23329499, Email: libdel@state.gov

Web Address: <http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/americanlibrary.html>

Online catalog for The American Libraries in India

<http://americanlibrary.in.library.net>

Printed and published by Larry Schwartz for the Public Affairs Section,
U.S. Embassy, American Center, New Delhi.
Printed at Rakesh Press, New Delhi.

06/09-7000