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Our Bimonthly Newsletter includes websites from the Electronic Documentation Service, a mechanism for identifying and delivering authoritative but often hard-to-locate and soon-out-of-print reports by a number of different government agencies and private think tanks.

DEMOCRACY

CUBA AFTER CASTRO: LEGACIES, CHALLENGES, AND IMPEDIMENTS

<http://www.rand.org/publications/MG/MG111/MG111.pdf>

Many people continue to speculate what will happen in Cuba after the presidency of Fidel Castro ends, and this rather interesting report from the RAND Corporation offers some insight into a number of potential scenarios. Authored by researchers Edward Gonzalez and Kevin McCarthy, the 154-page study identified five potential problem areas in particular, including an aging population, a growing racial divide, a stunted economy, and an alienated younger generation. The report contains some potentially controversial contentions, including the observation that the military may be the institution to take control of the country after Castro leaves the presidency. The report includes eight chapters in total, including one that deals with the pressing need for industrial restructuring in Cuba, one on the changing demographics of the country, and an executive summary for those looking for a general overview of the author's findings.

DOWNWARD SPIRAL: HIV/AIDS, STATE CAPACITY, AND POLITICAL CONFLICT IN ZIMBABWE

Andrew T. Price-Smith and John L. Daly

United States Institute of Peace (USIP). July 2004

<http://www.usip.org/pubs/peaceworks/pwks53.pdf>

Once regarded as the emerging star of post-colonial Africa, Zimbabwe is now a nation teetering on the brink of economic and political collapse. In recent years, the country has been wracked by rising levels of politically motivated violence, elections marred by widespread fraud, an ill-advised military involvement in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the seizure of farms from white populations without due regard for the law, and violence against supporters of the political opposition. To make matters worse, Zimbabwe exhibits one of the highest levels of HIV/AIDS sero-prevalence in the world, with approximately 34 percent of the adult population now infected with the human immunodeficiency virus.

FOREIGN POLICY ATTITUDES NOW DRIVEN BY 9/11 AND IRAQ. [Eroding Respect for America Seen as Major Problem]

Council on Foreign Relations; Pew Research Center for the People and the Press. Web-posted August 18, 2004

<http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/222.pdf>

The Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, in association with the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), conducted a survey of foreign policy attitudes 2,009 adults in the United States. The survey finds a 59% majority faulting the Bush administration for being too quick to use force rather than trying hard enough to reach diplomatic solutions. But while the public has deep reservations about the war in Iraq, there is sustained support for the doctrine of preemption. A 60% majority believes that the use of military force can at least be sometimes justified against countries that may seriously threaten the U.S. but have not attacked.

TOOLKIT TO SUPPORT TRANSPARENCY IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Transparency International and United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT). 2004

<http://www.unhabitat.org/publication/TOOLKITGOVERNANCE.pdf>

This Toolkit argues that the quality of urban governance can mean the difference between cities characterized by prosperity and inclusiveness and cities characterized by decline and social exclusion. It describes how increased transparency at the local level can help in combating urban poverty and enhancing civic engagement. Promoting transparency, through the application of a range of public education, public participation, e-governance, ethics and institutional reform instruments, can:

- * Reduce citizen apathy, by building trust between local governments and other stakeholders, by reducing the opportunities for corruption at the local level, and by engaging all stakeholders in identifying development needs and setting priorities;
- * Make service delivery contribute to poverty reduction, not only in improving the overall effectiveness of services, but also in terms of making services accessible to more citizens on an equitable basis;
- * Increase city revenues, by increasing citizen confidence that the taxes collected are being used to improve the city, and by demonstrating the rule of law, particularly regarding contracts and property rights;
- * Raise ethical standards, by enhancing the quality of political and professional leadership and instilling a sense of public service among elected, appointed and potential officials.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

BOLIVIA'S DIVISIONS: TOO DEEP TO HEAL? [Latin America Report No. 7]

International Crisis Group (ICG). July 6, 2004

http://www.crisisweb.org/library/documents/latin_america/07_bolivias_divisions.pdf

According to this report, the power struggle in the run-up to Bolivia's July 18, 2004 referendum on natural gas represents the most dangerous moment South America's poorest country has faced for decades. Bolivia could turn violent again or even, at worst, break apart. The upcoming decisions over the ownership, sale, and beneficiaries of Bolivia's natural gas reserves could change the country's direction overnight, according to the report. The report analyses the tense situation in Bolivia and offers ways to heal the dangerous splits that have been developing as a result of the country's newfound treasure and President Carlos Mesa's plan to bypass an obstinate Congress and appeal directly to the public with his ambitious program.

COMMERCIAL PIRACY REPORT 2004. [MUSIC]

International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI). July 22, 2004

<http://www.ifpi.org/site-content/library/piracy2004.pdf>

[Note: IFPI represents the recording industry worldwide, with over 1450 members in 75 countries and affiliated industry associations in 48 countries. IFPI is affiliated with the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA).]

The top 10 priority countries singled out in the IFPI report are Brazil, China, Mexico, Pakistan, Paraguay, Russia, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand and Ukraine. These are territories that in IFPI's view are failing to protect and enforce intellectual property rights and tackle unacceptable levels of piracy. In terms of pirate sales value, the list is topped by China, with the largest pirate market (worth just under US\$600 million) and Russia, home to a US\$330 million pirate market and a massive international exporter of pirate CDs to some 30 countries. Global sales of illegal music discs rose 4% in 2003 and the global average piracy rate increased to a record 35%.

DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBALIZATION: FACTS AND FIGURES

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). June 2004

http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/gdscsir20041_en.pdf

This document surveys major developments in the world economy over the past 40 years. Aimed at a broad audience, including readers with little or no background in economics, it describes in a straightforward manner the evolution of developing countries, particularly in the context of globalization. The publication is a quick-reference tool for evaluating the growth prospects of developing countries. It also gives an overview of UNCTAD's work to identify the best policies and practices for developing countries to adopt in their quest for efficient economic and social progress and well-being.

FEDERAL DEBT: ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: AN UPDATE [GAO-04-485SP]

United States Government Accountability Office (GAO). August 12, 2004

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04485sp.pdf>

This report updates information in GAO's 1999 publication of the same name (GAO/OCG-99-27, May 28, 1999). In May 1999 the federal government was running budget surpluses, and debt held by the public was projected to drop to historically low levels. This report provides updated information to reflect the changes in the nation's fiscal condition and outlook. The update addresses frequently asked questions about the federal debt, deficits, and surpluses. GAO provides current information on how federal debt is defined and measured, the relationship between federal debt and the budget and the economy, federal debt management and ownership, and future policy issues regarding federal debt.

FREE TRADE BY ANY MEANS: HOW THE GLOBAL FREE TRADE ALLIANCE ENHANCES AMERICA'S OVERALL TRADING STRATEGY. [Heritage Backgrounder No. 1786]

Edwin J. Feulner, John C. Hulsman, and Brett D. Schaefer

Heritage Foundation. August 10, 2004

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/TradeandForeignAid/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&PageID=67499>

Traditionally, the United States has engaged in multilateral trading arrangements, including GATT and the WTO systems. In addition, the Bush administration has concluded a number of bilateral and regional trade agreements. The authors urge the U.S. government to consider another option to supplement these multilateral, bilateral and regional measures - a Global Free Trade Alliance (GFTA). The authors envision such a mechanism in this way: "The GFTA would not be a treaty: It would be a legislative initiative offering free trade between the U.S. and other nations that have a demonstrable commitment to free trade and investment, minimal regulation, and property rights. Congress would authorize GFTA members access to the U.S. market--with no tariffs, quotas, or other trade barriers--on the single condition that they reciprocate this access to the U.S. and to other members of the GFTA. As proposed, the GFTA offers advantages that complement existing options for trade liberalization."

GLOBAL EMPLOYMENT TRENDS FOR YOUTH, 2004

International Labour Office (ILO). August 11, 2004

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/strat/download/getyen.pdf>

Youth unemployment has rapidly increased worldwide over the past decade to some 88 million, according to this new study by the International Labour Office (ILO), reaching an all-time high with young people aged 15 to 24 now representing nearly half the world's jobless. While youth represent 25 per cent of the working age population between the ages of 15 and 64, they made up as much as 47 per cent of the total 186 million people out of work worldwide in 2003. However, the problem goes far beyond the large number of young unemployed people: the report says that young people represent some 130 million of the world's 550 million working poor who work but are unable to lift themselves and their families above the equivalent of US\$ 1 per day poverty line. These young people struggle to survive, often performing work under unsatisfactory conditions in the informal economy.

ISLAM, GLOBALIZATION, AND ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST [IIE Policy Brief 04-4]

Marcus Noland and Howard Pack

Institute for International Economics (IIE). June 2004

<http://www.iie.com/publications/pb/pb04-4.pdf>

The authors of this report reject the notion that Islam is the main cause of poor economic performance of those countries with a preponderance of Muslims. Lack of growth in the economies of Middle Eastern and other countries with large Muslim populations, they say, is based on economic fundamentals. Among the weaknesses in Middle Eastern economies are:

- * Import tariffs that average over 20 percent.
- * Steady decline in share of world exports.
- * Very low rates of foreign direct investment (FDI).

LANGUAGE MINORITIES AND THEIR EDUCATIONAL AND LABOR MARKET INDICATORS--RECENT TRENDS

Steven Klein, Rosio Bugarin, Renee Beltranena and Edith McArthur

United States Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences. National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). June 28, 2004

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2004/2004009.pdf>

This report examines trends in the characteristics of the U.S. language minority population from 1979 through 1999. It examines changes in the numbers and proportion of the language minority population compared to the total U.S. population 5 to 24 years old and also discusses changes in the language minority population by language subgroups and English ability. Further, it examines education, income and labor force outcomes for this population during the two-decade period.

REGIONAL SEMINAR ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN THE AMERICAS

Brookings-SAIS Project on Internal Displacement. Web-posted July 1, 2004

<http://www.brookings.edu/fp/projects/idp/conferences/mexreport.pdf>

The first regional seminar on internal displacement in the Americas was held in Mexico City on 18-20 February 2004, hosted by the Government of Mexico and co-sponsored by the Brookings-SAIS Project and the Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons. The seminar was convened to examine current trends in internal displacement in the Americas and strengthen the national, regional, and international response. Among the more than sixty participants were representatives of the Governments of Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru, national human rights institutions, local and international non-governmental organizations, leaders of internally displaced communities, representatives of the United Nations, the Organization of American States (OAS), the World Bank, and experts from research institutions. This report is a product of that meeting.

REPORT ON THE EVALUATION OF THE ROLE OF THE IMF IN ARGENTINA, 1991-2001

International Monetary Fund (IMF). Web-posted July 29, 2004.

<http://www.imf.org/External/NP/ieo/2004/arg/eng/pdf/report.pdf>

"The catastrophic collapse of the Argentine economy in 2001-02 represents the failure of Argentine policy makers to take necessary corrective measures at a sufficiently early stage. The IMF on its part, supported by its major shareholders, also erred in failing to call an earlier halt to support for a strategy that, as implemented, was not sustainable." These are two of the major findings in this report from the IMF's own office of Independent valuation. The Argentine crisis of 2000-02 was among the most severe of recent currency crises. In December 2001, Argentina defaulted on its sovereign debt and soon afterwards abandoned the convertibility regime, under which the peso had been pegged at parity with the U.S. dollar since 1991. The crisis had a devastating economic and social impact, causing many observers to question the role played by the IMF over the preceding decade when it was almost continuously engaged in the country through five successive financing arrangements.

THE AUGUST 14, 2003 BLACKOUT ONE YEAR LATER: ACTIONS TAKEN IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA TO REDUCE BLACKOUT RISK. REPORT TO THE U.S.-CANADA POWER SYSTEM OUTAGE TASK FORCE

United States Department of Energy; Natural Resources Canada. August 13, 2004

http://www.energy.gov/engine/doe/files/dynamic/1372004122436_Blackout-OneYearLater.pdf

On August 14, 2003, the largest power blackout in North American history affected eight U.S. States and the Province of Ontario, leaving up to 50 million people with no electricity. On August 20, the leaders of the United States and Canada established the U.S.-Canada Power System Outage Task Force and gave it a two-part mandate: (1) to identify the causes of the power outage, and (2) to make recommendations to reduce the possibility and scope of future outages. This report outlines steps that have been taken to improve communications across the North American electrical grid and lists recommendations for legislative and regulatory enhancements.

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: RESOLVING THE BANKING CRISIS AND RESTORING GROWTH [Cato

Foreign Policy Briefing No. 83]

Steve H. Hanke

Cato Institute. July 20, 2004

<http://www.cato.org/pubs/fpbriefs/fpb83.pdf>

After a decade of rapid economic growth, the Dominican Republic entered a downward spiral in 2003. The economy shrank for the first time since 1990, the inflation rate quadrupled, the Dominican peso collapsed, government debt more than doubled, interest rates soared, and the central bank incurred large losses. That

cascade of bad economic news followed a failed bank bailout that ended with the central bank taking over the second-largest private bank in the Dominican Republic. That move decapitalized the central bank in one stroke and directly cost the Dominicans about 15 percent of GDP. The author asserts that the public has lost confidence in the government and the central bank. "To turn the economy around, president-elect Leonel Fernández must embrace a bold set of confidence-enhancing reforms. The centerpiece of those reforms must be a new Dominican monetary regime that will produce stable money."

WORLD ENERGY "AREAS TO WATCH"

United States Department of Energy (DOE), Energy Information Administration (EIA). Updated August 10, 2004
<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/hot.html>

In this report EIA provides briefings on countries/regions that are: a) important from an oil and/or natural gas perspective; and b) currently (or potentially in the short- to medium-term) confronting significant economic, political, or other issues that could affect domestic or world oil and gas markets. Profiled in this edition are Algeria, Bolivia, Caspian/Caucasus region, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Venezuela.

WORLD INVESTMENT DIRECTORY 2004: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). 2004.

<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Download.asp?docid=4818&lang=1&intItemID=1397>

Foreign direct investment (FDI) continues to gain in importance as a form of international economic transactions and as an instrument of international economic integration. However, despite its increasing importance, published sources or readily accessible databases that provide comparable and accurate data on this investment and other activities of transnational corporations (TNCs) are scarce. The World Investment Directory series of UNCTAD is an attempt to centralize in the United Nations data-gathering efforts to measure systematically FDI, the activities of TNCs and related variables. This publication covers 36 economies of Latin America and the Caribbean. Profiles on all these countries are contained in this volume, based on data available to the Secretariat. All of these profiles were sent to respective governments for further comments and verification. Data are presented on both inward and outward flows and stocks of FDI, operations of TNCs, and basic information on the largest TNCs in and from these countries and information on the regulatory framework affecting FDI, organized by country. The data on inward and outward FDI flows and stocks are based on information as of March 2004.

GENERAL

AMERICA'S CHILDREN IN BRIEF: KEY NATIONAL INDICATORS OF WELL-BEING 2004

Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. July 2004

<http://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/pdf/ac04brief.pdf>

This annual report on various aspects of children in the U.S. was compiled by the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. It presents a comprehensive look at critical areas of child well-being, including economic security, health status, behavior and social environment, and education. Researchers selected the 25 key indicators because they are easy to understand; are based on substantial research connecting them to child well-being; vary across important areas of children's lives; are measured regularly so that they can be updated and show trends over time; and represent large segments of the population, rather than one particular group. This year's report reveals that birth rates for adolescents have continued to decline, victimization rates for youths and violent crime offending rates by youths are down, and rates of high school students taking advanced courses are at the highest levels of the past 20 years. However, the prevalence of overweight among U.S. children has increased sharply, and the percentage of children living in poverty rose slightly, while remaining below its recent peak.

ELECTION REFORM BRIEFING: THE BUSINESS OF ELECTIONS

electionline.org. August 11, 2004

<http://www.electionline.org/site/docs/pdf/ERIP%20Brief%208.pdf>

During the controversial 2000 presidential election, voting machines became a much-talked-about feature of U.S. elections. Most voters had paid little attention to either the machines that tallied their votes, whether in electronic format or with paper ballots, or to the companies that produced those machines. The once-overlooked election industry has become the focus of intense scrutiny in recent years with the passage of the Help America

Vote Act (HAVA) and the promise of nearly \$4 billion in funds from Washington to purchase new voting machines, software and databases. In the past two years, as concerns over the security and reliability of direct-recording electronic (DRE) voting machines have increased, so too has the public wariness over the political activity of companies that design, manufacture and maintain them. This report provides a nonpartisan and non-advocacy look at the political campaign contributions and lobbying activities of the largest producers of electronic voting machines, including Diebold, Inc., Election Systems & Software, Sequoia Voting Systems and Hart InterCivic.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH POWER TO POSTPONE ELECTIONS [RL32471]

Kenneth R. Thomas

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service (CRS). July 14, 2004

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/RL32471.pdf>

Because of the continuing threat of terrorism, concerns have been raised about the potential for terrorist events to occur close to or during the voting process for the November 2004 elections. For instance, the question has been raised as to whether a sufficiently calamitous event could result in the postponement of the election, and what mechanisms are in place to deal with such an event. This report focuses on who has the constitutional authority to postpone elections, to whom such power could be delegated, and what legal limitations exist to such a postponement.

FINAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON TERRORIST ATTACKS UPON THE UNITED STATES, OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT EDITION. [THE 9-11 COMMISSION REPORT]

National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9-11 Commission). July 22, 2004

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/911/pdf/fullreport.pdf>

This wide-ranging, bipartisan report examines the background of the Al Qaeda attacks on the U.S. on September 11, 2001 and identifies why the U.S. intelligence community failed to anticipate these specific attacks and prevent them. The Commission also makes unanimous recommendations on certain specific reforms that the members believe need to be taken in order to strengthen the intelligence capabilities of the nation. The Commission finds that neither the Clinton nor the current Bush administrations considered terrorism as the overriding national security concern before 9-11. This they attribute primarily to "a failure of imagination" on the part of U.S. intelligence agencies.

HELPING YOUR CHILD LEARN SCIENCE

<http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/science/index.html>

Having trouble exciting your children about science? This online activities guide created by the U.S. Department of Education may provide the help you are seeking. Aimed at children ages 3 to 10, this web site provides information about outside resources, developing your child's scientific understanding, and working with teachers and schools. The strongest attributes of this tutorial are the many fun learning activities that can be performed in schools, at home, or around town. Using the materials at this web site, parents can help foster children's inquisitiveness about the nature of the world around them.

READING AT RISK: A SURVEY OF LITERARY READING IN AMERICA. [NEA Research Division Report #46]

Tom Bradshaw and Bonnie Nichols

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). June 2004. Web-posted July 8, 2004

<http://www.nea.gov/pub/ReadingAtRisk.pdf>

Literary reading is in dramatic decline with fewer than half of U. S. adults now reading literature, according to this new National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) survey. Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America reports drops in all groups studied, with the steepest rate of decline -- 28 percent -- occurring in the youngest age groups. The study also documents an overall decline of 10 percentage points in literary readers from 1982 to 2002, representing a loss of 20 million potential readers. The rate of decline is increasing and, according to the survey, has nearly tripled in the last decade. According to the survey, the most popular types of literature are novels or short stories, which were read by 45 percent or 93 million adults in the previous year. Poetry was read by 12 percent or 25 million people, while just 4 percent or seven million people reported having read a play.

SEARCH FOR SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND LIBRARIES

United States Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Institute of Education Sciences. Updated July 2, 2004

<http://nces.ed.gov/globallocator>

With the information in this database, one can create lists and reports of U.S. public schools, private schools, public libraries and postsecondary institutions. Search for Schools, Colleges and Libraries lets you search for institutions based on geographic location, then click on individual entries for more information. One can, for example, retrieve a listing of all colleges or public schools or private schools or public libraries in Louisiana, or just the ones in or near New Orleans. This tool has just been updated with 2002-03 data from about 94,000 public schools across the U.S.

STATE LITERACY STANDARDS, PRACTICE, AND TESTING: EXPLORING ACCESSIBILITY [NCEO Technical Report 38]

Sandra J. Thompson, Christopher J. Johnstone, Martha L. Thurlow, and Ann T. Clapper
National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO). May 2004

<http://education.umn.edu/nceo/OnlinePubs/Technical38.htm>

The authors reviewed states' elementary and secondary (K-12) reading standards and found definitions of "reading" that go beyond definitions that focus heavily on print or the need to interact visually with print on a page. Their review indicates that states require a wide variety of activities as part of the reading process. The authors then examine and summarize alternative ways that students, especially those with print disabilities, can interact with print. Four modalities are discussed: visual (looking at the page), tactile (Braille), auditory (listening to a reader, book on tape, or computer screen reader), and multi-modal (any combination of the above). Non-visual approaches to reading present both opportunities and challenges. In theory, these approaches may make reading more accessible to students with disabilities that prevent them from accessing print. However, their use can also create challenges for teaching and testing.

THE INTERNET AND DAILY LIFE

Deborah Fallows

Pew Internet and American Life Project. August 11, 2004

http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_Internet_and_Daily_Life.pdf

Nearly two-thirds of the American population is now online. Internet use continues to spread from work to home, and now to Americans' busy lives. Increasing numbers access the Web via broadband connections. The storehouse of available and searchable content is ever expanding, and Americans' collective appetite for it seems boundless. This report explores what the Internet means in the conduct and context of everyday life--from getting the news to buying movie tickets to paying bills to scheduling lunch. Behind the report is a great deal of research focused on the basics of what Americans do online. Research shows, for example, that applications of e-mail and search are the most popular activities and transactions like banking are the fastest growing. According to Fallows, U.S. users turn to the Internet most when it offers advantages in speed, convenience, time, and other measures of efficiency: "One of the most popular Internet activities, looking for maps and directions, collapses several tasks into one simple, elegant application. Anyone who has used the uncomplicated and effective application for finding driving directions online knows how superior it can be to the often clumsy and time-consuming experience of doing it offline."

GLOBAL ISSUES

2004 REPORT ON THE GLOBAL AIDS EPIDEMIC

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). July 6, 2004

http://www.unaids.org/bangkok2004/GAR2004_pdf/UNAIDSGlobalReport2004_en.pdf

UNAIDS released this report in advance of the 15th International AIDS Conference, to be held in Bangkok from July 11-16, 2004. The new report represents the most accurate picture of AIDS to date due to the more comprehensive country surveillance data and improved methods for estimating HIV rates. The number of people living with HIV continues to grow - from 35 million in 2001 to 38 million in 2003. The 2004 UNAIDS report highlights the latest global trends and, for the first time, features revised HIV prevalence rates for previous years, allowing for a better understanding of how the epidemic is spreading.

2004 WORLD POPULATION DATA SHEET

Carl Haub

Population Reference Bureau (PRB). August 13, 2004

http://www.prb.org/pdf04/04WorldDataSheet_Eng.pdf

The 2004 World Population Data Sheet has the most up-to-date demographic data and estimates for all the countries and major regions of the world. It provides a look at regional and national contrasts in age structure, population growth, life expectancy, income, and other determinants that mark today's deep demographic divisions. The data demonstrate that nearly 99 percent of all population increase takes place in poor countries, while population size is static or declining in the rich nations. Among the major industrialized nations, only the United States now has significant population growth.

AIDS IN ASIA: FACE THE FACTS

Monitoring the AIDS Pandemic (MAP) Network. July 10, 2004

[Note: Monitoring the AIDS Pandemic Network is an international network of epidemiologists and public health professionals who contribute data and analysis in their individual capacities.]

http://www.mapnetwork.org/docs/MAP_AIDSinAsia2004.pdf

This report focuses largely on prevention of HIV among adults and adolescents. It examines in particular East, South-East and South Asia, though it also includes information from some Central Asian nations, including Iran, as well as some of the developing countries of the Pacific. In a number of regions where HIV levels have been low for many years, prevalence of the virus has begun to rise sharply among people whose behaviors carry a high risk of exposure to HIV—drug injectors, male, transvestite and female sex workers and their clients, and men who have sex with multiple male partners. There is strong evidence to suggest that many Asians practice more than one of these risk behaviors, which enables HIV to move from one part of the population to another.

ASIA-PACIFIC'S OPPORTUNITY: INVESTING TO AVERT AN HIV/AIDS CRISIS

Asian Development Bank (ADB) and UNAIDS. July 8, 2004

<http://www.adb.org/Documents/Reports/Asia-Pacific/APO-HIV.pdf>

More than 7 million people are already living with HIV in Asia and the Pacific, with hundreds of thousands of people dying each year. Economic losses totaled US\$7.3 billion in 2001. This report, a joint ADB and UNAIDS publication, suggests that if prompt action is not taken, by the end of the decade 10 million more people from Asia and the Pacific could be infected with HIV and the economic costs of the virus could have risen to US\$17.5 billion annually. The result would be millions more people thrown into poverty. Resource needs to fight the disease are expected to reach at least US\$5.1 billion per year between 2007 and 2010, the report says.

CHILDREN ON THE BRINK 2004: A JOINT REPORT OF NEW ORPHAN ESTIMATES AND A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). July 2004

http://www.unicef.org/publications/cob_layout6-013.pdf

Millions of children are growing up without parents. Millions more are in households with family members sick or dying from AIDS; children in sub-Saharan Africa have been hardest hit. Children on the Brink 2004 presents the latest statistics on historical, current and projected numbers of children under 18 who have been orphaned by AIDS and other causes. While HIV prevalence remains low, absolute numbers of orphaned children are much higher in Asia, which has almost four times more children. In 2003, there were 87.6 million orphans due to all causes in Asia, double sub-Saharan Africa's 43.4 million. Although the proportion of those orphaned due to AIDS is likely to remain small, the authors warn that even slight upward trends in prevalence in mega-population countries like China, India or Indonesia could lead to much greater numbers of orphans due to AIDS.

DARFUR: RAPE AS A WEAPON OF WAR: SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

Amnesty International (AI). July 19, 2004

[http://web.amnesty.org/aidoc/aidoc_pdf.nsf/Index/AFR540762004ENGLISH/\\$File/AFR5407604.pdf](http://web.amnesty.org/aidoc/aidoc_pdf.nsf/Index/AFR540762004ENGLISH/$File/AFR5407604.pdf)

According to this new report from Amnesty International, girls as young as eight are being raped in Darfur, Sudan, and used as sex slaves. The mass rapes ongoing in Darfur are war crimes and crimes against humanity, asserts AI, but the international community is doing very little to stop it. Despite the regional and international focus on Darfur and promises by the Sudanese government to disarm the Janjawid militia there is still no protection for women and girls. The report, based on hundreds of testimonies, reveals how women and girls are being raped, abducted and forced into sexual slavery by the Janjawid. In almost all attacks on villages recorded by Amnesty International, members of the government's army were either directly involved or were witnesses.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE IN U.S. AGRICULTURAL POLICY: PAST PERFORMANCE AND FUTURE POTENTIAL. [Agricultural Economic Report No. (AER832)]

Roger Claassen, Vince Breneman, Shawn Bucholtz, Andrea Cattaneo, Robert Johansson and Mitch Morehart
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Economic Research Service (ERS). June 2004

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/aer832/aer832.pdf>

Since 1985, U.S. agricultural producers have been required to practice soil conservation on highly erodible cropland and conserve wetlands as a condition of farm program eligibility. This report discusses the general characteristics of compliance incentives, evaluates their effectiveness in reducing erosion in the program's current form, and explores the potential for expanding the compliance approach to address nutrient runoff from crop production. While soil erosion has, in fact, been reduced on land subject to Conservation Compliance, erosion is also down on land not subject to Conservation Compliance, indicating the influence of other factors.

EXAMINING THE CYBER CAPABILITIES OF ISLAMIC TERRORIST GROUPS

Dartmouth College, Institute for Security Technology Studies

November 2003, Web-posted March 2004

https://www.ists.dartmouth.edu/TAG/ITB/ITB_032004.pdf

Discussions among representatives of law enforcement, the private sector, and academia have revealed that there is a lack of authoritative unclassified materials concerning the use of cyber technology by Islamic terrorist groups. To meet this need, the Technical Analysis Group at the Institute for Security Technology Studies at Dartmouth College has prepared this report detailing how cyber technologies are exploited by these hostile groups. According to the report, there is clear, factual evidence that Islamic terrorist groups are using information technologies to facilitate propaganda, recruitment and training, fundraising, communications, and targeting operations.

HIV/AIDS AND WORK: GLOBAL ESTIMATES, IMPACT AND RESPONSE

International Labor Organization (ILO). July 12, 2004

http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/trav/aids/publ/global_est/global_estimates_report.pdf

An estimated 36.5 million people of working age have HIV and by next year the global labor force will have lost as many as 28 million workers due to AIDS since the start of the epidemic, according to this new global. The ILO estimates that in the absence of increased access to treatment, the number of workers lost due to HIV/AIDS will have increased to 48 million by 2010 and 74 million by 2015, making HIV/AIDS one of the biggest causes of mortality in the world of work. The new analysis of 50 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and two developed regions, also says HIV/AIDS is expected to have a severe impact on the rate of growth in gross domestic product (GDP) and of GDP per capita by destroying the "human capital" built up over years and weakening the capacity of workers and employers to produce goods and services for economies.

REGIONAL SEMINAR ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN THE AMERICAS

Brookings-SAIS Project on Internal Displacement. Web-posted July 1, 2004

<http://www.brookings.edu/fp/projects/idp/conferences/mexreport.pdf>

The first regional seminar on internal displacement in the Americas was held in Mexico City on 18-20 February 2004, hosted by the Government of Mexico and co-sponsored by the Brookings-SAIS Project and the Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons. The seminar was convened to examine current trends in internal displacement in the Americas and strengthen the national, regional, and international response. Among the more than sixty participants were representatives of the Governments of Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru, national human rights institutions, local and international non-governmental organizations, leaders of internally displaced communities, representatives of the United Nations, the Organization of American States (OAS), the World Bank, and experts from research institutions. This report is a product of that meeting.

THE FUTURE OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS: LESSONS FROM THE GREEN REVOLUTION

Felicia Wu and William Butz

RAND. August 17, 2004

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2004/RAND_MG161.pdf

The world is now on the cusp of a new agricultural revolution, the so-called Gene Revolution, in which genetically modified (GM) crops are tailored to address chronic agricultural problems in certain regions of the world. In this document the authors compare the Green Revolution of the 20th century with the GM crop movement to assess

the agricultural, technological, sociological, and political differences between the two movements. The similarities and differences between the Green and Gene Revolutions lead Wu and Butz to posit that for the GM crop movement to have the sort of impact that would constitute an agricultural revolution.

THE HEALTH CONSEQUENCES OF SMOKING 2004: A REPORT OF THE SURGEON GENERAL'S

http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/sgr/sgr_2004/index.htm

Considering the long-term costs to individuals and the general public, it is not surprising that the Center for Disease Control continues to remain vigilant in its attempts to inform the public about the very serious health risks posed by smoking. Released in May 2004, this thorough report documents the various effects of smoking. The report notes that smoking kills an estimated 440,000 Americans each year, and that the economic toll includes \$75 billion in direct medical costs and \$82 billion in lost productivity. The Surgeon General Dr. Richard H. Carmona noted in the report that, "The science is clear: the only way to avoid the health hazards of smoking is to quit completely or to never start smoking." Along with the full-text of this report, the site also includes a rather compelling interactive animated feature on the health consequences of smoking on the human body and eleven fact sheets on smoking for general distribution.

WORLD FACTBOOK 2004

United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). June 16, 2004

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>

This reference work provides a snapshot, as of 1 January 2004, of wide-ranging information about the background, geography, people, government, economy, communications, transportation, military, and transnational issues for countries from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. The nine primary information categories and 134 subcategories for most entities include geographic coordinates, Gross Domestic Product, number of mobile cellular telephones, natural resources, legal systems, political parties, illicit drugs, mortality rates, and more. Included among the 268 geographic listings is one for the "World," which incorporates data and other information summarized where possible from the other 267 listings.

LAW ENFORCEMENT / ILLEGAL DRUGS

CRIMES AGAINST TOURISTS

Ronald W. Glensor and Kenneth J. Peak

United States Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). August 2004

<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/mime/open.pdf?Item=1306>

These guides have drawn on research findings and police practices in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, and Scandinavia. Even though laws, customs and police practices vary from country to country, it is apparent that the police everywhere experience common problems. In a world that is becoming increasingly interconnected, it is important that police be aware of research and successful practices beyond the borders of their own countries. This guide addresses tourist crime, beginning by describing the problem and reviewing the factors that contribute to it. The guide then identifies a series of questions to help readers analyze their local problem and a number of measures that can be taken to address the problem. Although the guide addresses tourist crime in the United States, the information provided may also benefit those readers dealing with the problem abroad.