



January 2008 News

Information Resource Center (IRC)

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The Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP) will launch America.gov, a dynamic new Web site covering U.S. policy, society and values. The expected roll out of the new America.gov website will be sometime in January, but an initial module on U.S. Elections is already on-line at <http://usinfo.state.gov/politics/elections/>.

The newly designed America.gov will replace the USINFO.state.gov Web site. The new site will provide more in-depth information on American culture and values and their relevance to U.S. foreign policy. The site will also include interactive elements such as videos, polls, quizzes, and pictorial information, along with traditional word-based stories. Based on target audience user research, we have designed the site for high impact and easy navigation.

Upcoming webchats

Web chats are online, text-based discussions that allow audiences outside the United States to interact with American citizens on wide range of topics. U.S. government and private sector subject experts, academics, journalists, and everyday citizens are brought on as guests to do web chats on USINFO.

To participate, you only need a computer with Internet access and a browser. There is no special software to be downloaded.

For more information, please see the link below:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Products/Webchats/faq.html>

Date: Tuesday, 8 January 2008
Time: 9:00 a.m. EST (1400 GMT)
Guest: David Vaina

Media Making Change: New Media Versus Old Media

New technologies lead to new media platforms and styles. As new forms gain a greater audience share, the debate grows more intense about whether practitioners of the new media honor the time-honored professional standards that separate journalism from the gossip sheets. Join David Vaina for a web chat discussing these and other topics related to new media platforms and how they are shaping today's journalism.

http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/USINFO/Products/Webchats/vaina_08_jan_2008.html

Guest Biography: David Vaina is a research associate at the Project for Excellence in Journalism (PEJ), a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization devoted to evaluation and study of the performance of the news media. PEJ describes itself as nonpartisan, nonideological, and nonpolitical. The organization is affiliated with the Pew Research Center.

Date: Thursday, 10 January 2008
Time: 9:00 a.m. EST (1400 GMT)
Guest: Thomas Edsall

Media Making Change: New Media and U.S. Politics

New technologies and their savviest users are leaving their stamp on many U.S. election campaigns — exposing candidate gaffes, boosting fundraising, and reshaping the news cycle. Join Thomas Edsall for a web chat in which he will discuss the impact of new media on politics.

http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/USINFO/Products/Webchats/edsall_10_jan_2008.html

Guest Biography: Thomas B. Edsall is the Joseph Pulitzer II and Edith Pulitzer Moore Professor of National Affairs Reporting at the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University in New York City. He covered American politics for 25 years at the *Washington Post* and is currently a correspondent for the *New Republic*, a contributing editor at the *National Journal*, and the political editor of the *Huffington Post*, an online publication.

Date: Tuesday, 22 January 2008
Time: 9:00 a.m. EST (1400 GMT)
Guest: Patrick Butler

Media Making Change: New Technology, New Voices

Blogging, online video, and rapid-fire text messaging are new media technologies that have become widely used and adapted in the last few years. Savvy users have applied these technologies in unexpected ways to achieve political goals. Governments are struggling to respond, some with repression, some with reforms. Join Patrick Butler for a discussion of how technology is allowing new voices to create and join a global discussion.

http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/USINFO/Products/Webchats/butler_22_jan_2008.html

Guest Biography: Patrick Butler is vice president for programs at the International Center for Journalists, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization that "promotes quality journalism worldwide in the belief that independent, vigorous media are crucial in improving the human condition," according to its mission statement.



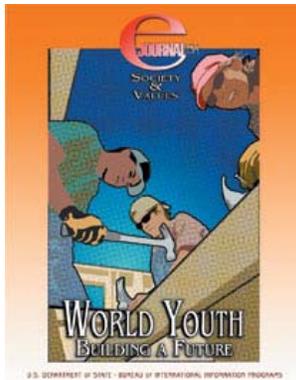
IIP Electronic Journals



The Long Campaign: U.S. Elections 2008

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itdhr/1007/ijde/ijde1007.htm>

This edition of *eJournal USA* presents an introduction to the upcoming 2008 U.S. elections. In these elections, U.S. voters will have the opportunity to vote for president and vice president, congressional representatives, state and local officials, and ballot initiatives. The journal describes aspects of this election which make it different from most recent elections and includes a pro-con debate of the Electoral College.

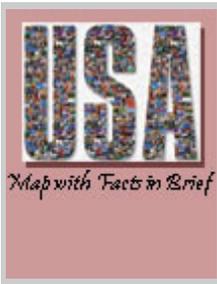


World Youth Building a Future

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0707/ijse/ijse0707.htm>

This edition of *eJournal USA*, "World Youth Building a Future," opens a window on the real life experiences of young people who have left home and family to participate in an international exchange program. Young American adults offer first-person accounts of their discoveries in educational programs abroad, and exchange students from various other countries share their insights about adjusting to life and family customs in the United States.

IIP Publications

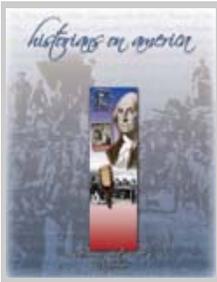


USA Map with Facts in Brief

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/map/>

This brochure features a full-color map of the United States. It includes plenty of facts and statistics about the United States -- its government, geography, environment, sports and entertainment, the economy and employment, education, transportation, and population.

(October 2007)



Historians on America

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/historians/>

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

(September 2007)



USA Economy in Brief

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/economy-in-brief/>

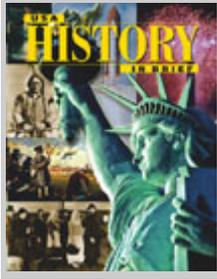
This mini-publication discusses the factors that make the U.S. economy the world's most productive, competitive, and influential. It focuses on workers and productivity, small and large business, the service economy, goods and services, the role of government, and the concept of "creative destruction," the process where jobs, companies, entire industries come and go because of their success or failure in the marketplace. USA Economy in Brief includes colorful charts to illustrate, for instance, U.S. annual exports and imports and the U.S. trade deficit. (July 2007)



USA Literature in Brief

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/literature-in-brief/>

USA Literature in Brief pinpoints and describes the contributions to American literature of some of the best-recognized American poets, novelists, philosophers and dramatists from pre-Colonial days through the present. Major literary figures are discussed in detail, as are their major works. Brief discussions of cultural periods and movements such as romanticism, transcendentalism, and modernism put individuals in context and lend perspective. This condensed version of Outline of American Literature highlights major achievers and important works in the canon. (May 2007)



USA History in Brief

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/historybrf/index.htm>

The first title in the new "In Brief" series, this publication summarizes in a few thousand words the history of how the United States was founded and the forces and events that shaped the dynamic and varied country that it has become today. (March 2007)

Other Language Versions:

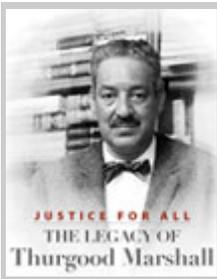
عربي



Democracy in Brief

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/democracy-in-brief/>

Democracy may be a word familiar to most, but it is a concept still misunderstood and misused at a time when dictators, single-party regimes, and military coup leaders alike assert popular support by claiming the mantle of democracy. Yet the power of the democratic idea has prevailed through a long and turbulent history, and democratic government, despite continuing challenges, continues to evolve and flourish throughout the world. (December 2007)



Justice For All: The Legacy of Thurgood Marshall

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/tmarshall/index.html>

Thurgood Marshall stands as one of the great American heroes of the 20th century: He was the attorney who ended legal segregation in the United States with his victory in the *Brown v. Board of Education* case, and the U.S. Supreme Court justice who championed expanded rights for every individual American -- minorities, women, and immigrants, among many others. The essays that follow chronicle Marshall's rise in a society marred by segregation, his development as the accomplished lawyer who won "the case of the century" as well as many other important cases, and his appointment as the first African-American Supreme Court justice. His is the story of how one person, dedicated to the ideal of human rights for all, can succeed in changing society and improve the lives of millions of men and women. (January 2007)

Websites of interest

COLLECTIONS OF FREE MEDICAL JOURNALS:

<http://freemedicaljournals.com>

Provides free access to over 430 Medical Journals. You may search the site by speciality, Title or New Journals. Journals available in seven main languages

Digital Book Index:

<http://www.digitalbookindex.com/about.htm>

The Digital Book Index is database of over 80,000 fiction and nonfiction e-books from over 1,800 publishers. Many categories of books are listed, including reference, history, children's, and African American studies. Registration is free and takes just seconds.

Gateway to African American History:

http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/history_geography_and_population/population_and_diversity/african_americans.html

This link will provide you with a load of information on African American History such as Articles, Electronic publications, photos gallery, online resources, readings and much more.



American Holidays

Monday, January 21

Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.



Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

On the third Monday of January Americans honor the life and achievements of the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. (January 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968), the 1964 Nobel Peace laureate and the individual most associated with the triumphs of the African-American civil rights movement during the 1950s and 1960s.

As political organizer, supremely skilled orator and advocate of nonviolent protest, King was pivotal in persuading his fellow Americans to end the legal segregation that prevailed throughout the South and parts of other regions, and in sparking support for the civil rights legislation that established the legal framework for racial equality in the United States.

King was among those champions of justice whose influence transcended national boundaries. A student of the philosophy and principles of nonviolence enunciated by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869–1948), King in 1959 traveled to India, where he studied further the legacy of the man his widow, Coretta Scott King, later would call his “political mentor.” Nelson Mandela, accepting the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize, similarly credited King as his predecessor in the effort to resolve justly the issues of racism and human dignity.

Son of the prominent Atlanta pastor Martin Luther King Sr., King at the age of 26 completed a doctorate in theology at Boston University. In 1954, while completing his dissertation, King accepted the pastorate at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. It was in Montgomery the following year that [Rosa Parks](#), an African-American seamstress, was jailed for refusing to give up her seat on a segregated municipal bus to a white passenger. The incident sparked the [Montgomery Bus Boycott](#), in which the city’s African-Americans refused to patronize its segregated bus system. King led the organization directing the boycott and became the movement’s public face, appealing to white Americans’ spirit of brotherhood. When the federal courts, following the reasoning of the Supreme Court’s [Brown v. Board of Education](#) decision, declared the bus segregation law unconstitutional, King emerged as a national figure.

In 1957, King was among the founders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). This was an alliance of black ministers and churches organized

to pursue nonviolent direct action against segregation. SCLC leaders hoped to change public opinion and to complement the legal challenges to segregation pursued by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). King was a dynamic force within the SCLC, emerging as its leading fund-raiser and as a skillful political tactician who successfully forged alliances with sympathetic Northern whites. In 1959, King traveled to India, where he met with followers of Gandhi and further refined his thought on nonviolent social protest.

During the early 1960s, King and the SCLC initiated a number of peaceful protests against segregated institutions. In May 1963, Birmingham, Alabama, Police Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor unleashed police dogs and high-pressure fire hoses against peaceful demonstrators, many of them schoolchildren. The images horrified the nation. King was arrested during these demonstrations and from his jail cell produced the [Letter From a Birmingham Jail](#), in which he argued that one who breaks an unjust law to arouse the consciousness of his community "is in reality expressing the highest respect for law," provided he acts "openly, lovingly and with a willingness to accept the penalty." That August, African-American leaders organized the [March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom](#). Here, before an estimated quarter million civil rights supporters gathered at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, King offered one of the most powerful orations in American history. Generations of schoolchildren have learned by heart lines from the *I Have a Dream* speech, in which King prayed for the day when people would "not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

The images from Birmingham and Washington helped crystallize support for the [Civil Rights Act of 1964](#), signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on July 2, 1964. In 1965, the violent Selma, Alabama, police response to a voting rights march sparked a similar surge in support for King, the civil rights movement and for legislation guaranteeing the right of political participation. Consequently, the [Voting Rights Act](#) became law on August 6, 1965.

With the passage of these civil rights laws, King continued to employ his strategy of nonviolent social protest even as some younger leaders at times argued for more radical means. King also broadened his agenda to encompass efforts to focus attention on African-American poverty. King was in Memphis, Tennessee, in support of striking black garbage workers when, on April 4, 1968, an assassin's bullet cut him down at the age of 39.

Americans honor the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. with a national holiday celebrated on the third Monday of each January, and soon by a [national monument](#), to be constructed in direct sight of the Lincoln Memorial, where King inspired Americans with his dreams of racial justice and equality. Countless individuals and organizations, including [The King Center](#), in Atlanta, carry on his work.