



OUTREACH SERVICE
DEMOCRACY & Human Rights
AMERICAN EMBASSY RESOURCE CENTER

October 2006

IN BRIEF...

Views expressed in the **articles** are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. government

Commercial sources:

America's Democratization Projects Abroad

The author examines the successes and failures of America's democratization projects abroad over the past century...

The Death Of The Moderate Democrat

The moderate, centrist Democrat is a thing of the past, York writes. Rankings of how liberal Democrats are compared to how conservative Republicans are show that Democrats in recent years have moved farther to the left than Republicans have to the right...

The Geneva Conventions And The New Wars

This article explores how the Geneva Conventions, adopted in 1949, apply to "new wars," such as the fight against terrorism, where those directly involved in fighting include non-traditional soldiers such as warlords, child soldiers and private security companies...

International Assistance To Promote Independent Media In Transition And Post-Conflict Societies

Recently, Governments And Ngos Have Developed Media Assistance Programs In Transitional Countries, Assisting Media With Journalist And Management Training, Financial Backing, Legal Reform And Institutional Development...

Government sources:

United States Helping Iraqis Unite, Defend Themselves, Bush Says

Success in Iraq will depend on the Iraqis' ability to defend themselves and their government's ability to make "the difficult decisions necessary to unite the country," President Bush says.



"It's going to be the decision of the Iraqi people as to whether or not they want a form of government based upon liberty. That's going to be their choice. Our job is to help them achieve that objective. And so there is some progress," he said in an interview on ABC's This Week October 22.

Iraqi parliamentarians raise hands to vote, during a parliament session, in Baghdad, Tuesday September 5. (©AP Images)

Bush Honors 50th Anniversary of Hungarian Revolution

President Bush signed a proclamation October 18 commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution and thanking Hungary for its efforts to promote democracy around the world in places such as the Balkans, Iraq, Afghanistan and Cuba.

European Nations Form New Group in Support of Democratic Cuba

A new group, consisting of nations from Central and Eastern Europe, is forming to help promote the transition to democracy in Cuba. The formation of the "Friends of a Democratic Cuba" was highlighted October 13 in Miami, where U.S. State Department official Paula Dobriansky and U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez, among others, spoke at a "Cuba Transition to Democracy Summit."

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Commercial sources:

The Right To Rise Up: People Power and The Virtues Of Civic Disruption

The authors highlight the key elements of building successful, bottom-up popular democratic movements, which they regard as the most effective way to discredit and replace oppressive governments...

Ancient Greece's Death Penalty Dilemma and Its Influence on Modern Society

Robert Blecker, professor of law at the New York Law School, discusses the ancient Greek history of death penalty and its relationship to the modern-day death penalty policies...

Whoops, I Committed Genocide! The Anomaly of Constructive Liability for Serious International Crimes

The author, a U.S. Supreme Court legal fellow, tackles one of the most serious challenges in international law: how best to establish culpability of senior leaders in war crimes such as genocide...

Government sources:

U.N. Democracies Must Act Together, Says U.S. Official

Working together, the world's democracies can help the United Nations to live up to its full potential, says a top State Department official.

"The U.S. believes that stronger coordination among democratic countries that share similar values and institutions will help to strengthen the U.N.'s work in promoting democracy and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms," Mark Lagon, deputy assistant secretary for international organization affairs, said September 25 in remarks at the New America Foundation in Washington.



Mark Lagon
(Department of State photo)



Entertainer Ricky Martin Urges Effort Against Human Trafficking

Supporting children and families at risk worldwide will help them avoid exploitation by human traffickers, pop recording artist Ricky Martin told a U.S. congressional hearing on human trafficking September 26.

Singer and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Ricky Martin and Delegate Luis Fortuno, R-P.R., testified on Capitol Hill.
(AP Images)

"Child trafficking is a global nightmare," Martin said in testimony before the House International Relations Committee. "It is the modern day form of slavery." Two million people are victims of trafficking yearly, Martin said, and nearly 1.2 million of these are children. "Human trafficking does not happen in isolation but rather that its roots lie in poverty and hopelessness," Martin said.

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Commercial sources:

Universal Values and Muslim Democracy

The author, former deputy prime minister of Malaysia, notes that the building blocks of constitutional democracy are also moral imperatives of Islam, despite arguments to the contrary. Ibrahim points to Indonesia's democratization as an example of successful democratic transition in the Muslim world...

New Order

Harris describes Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's views on transformational diplomacy. Secretary Rice states, "we have a view: the world is going to be better off if the world is a network of well-governed democratic states."...

U.S. Human Rights Policy In The Post-Cold War Era

In the United States since the end of the Cold War, there has been more rhetorical support for human rights, more proactive measures to spread democracy and rights, new targeted legislation and new acceptance of international human rights treaties...

Why God Is Winning

The authors write that modernization and the spread of democracy around the world are enhancing the reach of religious political movements. Religious groups that emerge from democratic processes, such as Hamas in the Palestinian Authority, tend to be more organized, more popular and more legitimate than perhaps religious leaders a few decades ago but not necessarily less violent...

Government sources:

United States Establishes Diplomatic Relations with Montenegro

The United States has established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Montenegro, State Department spokesman Sean McCormack announced August 15.

Montenegrins voted May 21 to end their 88-year-old union with Serbia, becoming the fifth republic of the former Yugoslavia to gain independence. Montenegro declared independence on June 3, and 10 days later the United States announced that it had recognized Montenegro as an independent state.



Tehran outlaws Nobel Laureate Shirin Ebadi's Center for Defense of Human Rights

When the Iranian government notified the Center for Defense of Human Rights (CDHR) that it was illegal and that if its activities continued, members risked arrest, co-founder Shirin Ebadi responded with an international e-mail appeal for support.

Shirin Ebadi, the first Iranian and first Muslim woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. (©AP/WWP)

Russian Suspension of Refugee Extradition to Uzbekistan Welcomed

The decision by Russian authorities to suspend the extradition to Uzbekistan of 13 Central Asian refugees has drawn praise from U.S. legislators and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Europe's largest human rights body.

An elderly Uzbek man looks on in a refugee camp near the Uzbek village of Teshiktosh. (©AP/WWP)



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July 2006

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Commercial sources:

A Global Snapshot

Designing an electoral system is a fundamental step in building a sustainable democracy... The article also includes a table comparing more than 120 countries' electoral systems.

Political Transitions: Democracy and The Former Soviet Union

Fifteen years later, democracy is still struggling to gain a strong foothold among the countries comprising the former Soviet Union... While continuing reforms and the "color revolutions" in Ukraine, Georgia, and Kyrgyzstan show that the region is gradually polarizing between democratic and dictatorial regimes, history teaches that these former Soviet states, though freer, are as unpredictable as ever.

Fride

Fride is an independent think-tank based in Madrid, with research programs in the areas of democratization; peace and security; human rights; and humanitarian action and development...

Government sources:

Historic U.S. Minority Voters' Protections Extended for 25 Years

President Bush signed the Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006, extending historic legislation designed to protect minorities' voting rights.

At a White House signing ceremony July 27, the president said, "My administration will vigorously enforce the provisions of this law, and we will defend it in court."



Effective Administration Helps Ensure Free and Fair Elections

Emerging and established democracies alike must be vigilant and work to upgrade all aspects of their electoral systems, including balloting and observing, in order to ensure free and fair elections, said Richard Soudriette, political scientist and elections expert, at a Democracy Dialogues webchat July 13.

Richard W. Soudriette (Photo courtesy of IFES)

United States Ready To Help Cuba Move Toward Democracy

When Cuba moves away from the regime of communist dictator Fidel Castro toward a democratic government, its people can rely on the United States to help ease the transition, says Caleb McCarry, coordinator for the Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba.

McCarry, in a July 27 testimony before the House Committee on International Relations' Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, described the work of his commission and summarized a new report issued by his office. The Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba was created by the Bush administration and authorized by the president to draw up plans for facilitating Cuba's eventual transition to democracy.

United States Wants United Nations in Darfur Before 2007

The United States will continue to press for the handover of the African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur to the United Nations before the end of 2006, U.S. Ambassador John Bolton said June 27.

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Commercial sources:

The First Law Of Petropolitics

The author, a New York Times columnist, asserts that there is a strong inverse correlation between the price of crude oil and the level of freedoms in oil-producing countries... Friedman concludes that oil-dependent nations need to seek alternative fuels not purely for environmental reasons, but also as a way to advance democracy and national security.

Identity, Immigration, And Liberal Democracy

Culturally diverse immigrants create problems for all countries, yet Europe has become and will continue to be a critical breeding ground and battlefield in the struggle between radical Islamism and liberal democracy...

The Assault On Democracy Assistance

Since the fall of communism in Central Europe in 1989 and the cresting of the "third wave" of democratization in the early 1990s, there has been a steady trend toward the acceptance of democracy promotion as a norm of practice within the international system...

Government sources:

Human Rights in Cuba Deteriorating, Says European Union

The European Union (EU) says it deplors what it calls "further deterioration" of the human rights situation in Cuba since June 2005.

Rice Says U.S. Committed to Women's Global Success

Secretary accepts Woman of Valor Award, applauds efforts on women's rights

Recalling the moment recently when she met young players of a girls' soccer team in Afghanistan, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told a Washington audience on May 10 that she could not help noticing the striking contrast to the scene four years ago when the Taliban turned soccer stadiums given to them by the international community into killing fields and condemned women to death for learning to read.

"When they want to suppress people, they always go after the right to read," Rice said. Women in Afghanistan are now being taught to read openly, Rice said, a sign that Afghanistan is progressing.



Chinese soldiers march next to Tiananmen Square. (© AP/WWP)

U.S. Calls for Accounting of Tiananmen Square Deaths, Detentions

Clearing the record is in China's own interest, State Department says

The United States urges China to provide a full accounting of those who were killed, were detained, or went missing during the Tiananmen Square demonstrations 17 years ago, and of "the government's role in the massacre," the State Department says.

"No country, especially one which is playing an increasingly important role in world affairs, should fear an examination of its past, nor prevent its people from exercising their basic rights to accountable government and free speech, assembly and worship," the State Department said in a statement June 4.

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May 2006

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IN BRIEF...

Commercial sources:

The Struggle For Democracy

Horowitz laments that even though America has "a zeal for spreading democracy," there is no consensus when it comes to defining the term "democracy"...

Is Patriotism Good For Democracy? A Study Of High School Seniors' Patriotic Commitments

From their 2005 survey of 2,366 California high school seniors, authors Kahne and Middaugh conclude that educators have serious work to do if they hope to foster a strong and committed sense of democratic patriotism in their students...

Stronger Legislatures, Stronger Democracies

There has been extensive debate among students of democracy over the merits of different types of constitutional design. For the most part, discussion has focused on the relative advantages and drawbacks of the three major modes of structuring the relationship between the executive and legislative branches: parliamentarism, presidentialism, and semipresidentialism. Here, Fish proposes a new way of thinking about how political institutions influence democratization, one that examines the capacity or power of specific offices.

Government sources:

Foreign Aid Must Foster Democratic Progress, U.S. Official Says
United States can play vital role in Muslim world, State's Tobias adds

An effective foreign assistance program must go beyond charity and help equip the people and leaders of recipient countries to achieve a democratic transformation, the new head of U.S. foreign assistance programs says.



Words of Freedom

Excerpts From India's Former Chief Justice P.N. Bhagwati, 1997

"Independence of the judiciary means that the judges should be independent in deciding the case before them, exclusive on the basis of merit without fear or favor and no extraneous considerations should motivate their decisions."

U.N. Human Rights Council Members Elected

Performance of the council is what counts, U.S. Ambassador Bolton says

The U.N. General Assembly elects 47 nations to serve on the new Human Rights Council that will replace the discredited U.N. Commission on Human Rights in June. Members include states whose poor human rights records have been criticized and examined for decades as well as others with excellent records as human rights leaders. The United States did not seek a seat on the council. U.S. Ambassador John Bolton says he was not surprised that "a number of countries that themselves are gross abusers of human rights got elected."

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Commercial sources:

Can Pr Voting Serve As A Shelter Against Declining Turnout? Evidence From Swiss Municipal Elections

Does an electorate that uses proportional representation have better voter turnout than those who utilize majority voting to elect a single representative for their district? Which public is more politicized? To find out, the authors analyze data from a 1998 survey of municipalities in Switzerland, comparing their findings with a previous study they conducted a decade earlier...

Information Warfare

The author, who served in Iraq with the Marine Corps Reserve, asserts that many armed-forces personnel who have served in Iraq believe that we are winning the war, and are confident that the mission will result in self-rule by the Iraqis. What they are not so confident of, he tells, is the resolve and commitment of America's media and political establishments...

Washington's Rules Put The Squeeze On States

The author notes that the Bush administration's push to limit the ability of people to sue is raising the ire of supporters of states' rights, and is generating opposition across the political spectrum. State officials feel blindsided by the administration's use of the arcane federal rulemaking process, and critics view this as another attempt to shield corporations from litigation...

Government sources:

New Report Cites Integrated Efforts To Combat Terrorism

International partnerships key to global counterterrorism strategy

The United States continues to build an integrated alliance of nations united against terrorism, the State Department says in a new report.

"Through regional partnerships, the United States is building trusted networks that undermine, marginalize, and isolate the enemy, discredit the terrorist ideology of hate and violence, and empower legitimate alternatives to extremism," according to *Country Reports on Terrorism 2005*, released April 28.

U.S. "Disappointed" By Defeat Of Bosnian Constitutional Reforms

Some opponents concerned that proposals did not end ethnic division

The United States has expressed disappointment that Bosnia's parliament on April 26 rejected constitutional amendments to create a single presidency, but some opponents of the measures said the reforms did not go far enough and would have left the country divided along ethnic lines.

Rice Sees Growing Democratic Activity Among Iraqi People

Says United States has adjusted strategies to meet circumstances

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says that for the first time, the people of Iraq are demanding accountability from their elected leaders.

"Recently, in newspaper articles, in satirical cartoons, even in Internet blogs, Iraqis -- men and women -- have been saying things about their leaders that literally would have gotten them killed in the old Iraq. They are urging their leaders to put the good of the nation above the narrow interests of one individual or one party," she told an audience at the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations April 19.

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IN BRIEF...

Commercial sources:

Chili And Liberty: The Uses And Abuses Of Multiculturalism

Indian and British food can genuinely claim to be multicultural, writes Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen, since India had no chili until the Portuguese brought it to India from America, and curry powder is a distinctly English invention, but the two styles, or traditions, co-existing side by side in Britain, must be seen as plural monoculturalism...

Engaging Autocratic Allies To Promote Democracy

The U.S. should improve its efforts to promote democracy abroad, especially under regime-change conditions and in autocratic allies such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Algeria and Pakistan, through diplomatic engagement, according to authors Adesnik and McFaul...

Strengthening Protection Of Idps: The Un's Role

The author, a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution and Co-Director of the Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement, describes the plight of the 20-25 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), noting that providing them with food, medicine and shelter, while ignoring violent abuse, has led to the tragic description of them as the "well-fed dead."

Government sources:

Africans Prefer Democracy, Survey Shows

Under Secretary of State Paula Dobriansky addresses Freedom House group

A recent survey in 15 African countries showed that about 70 percent of those responding said they prefer democracy to all other forms of government.

The United States wants to help them achieve that goal, says Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky, by promoting human rights and democracy as an investment in freedom and security worldwide.

Rice Says Advancing Liberty, Democracy Long-Term Answer to Terror

Direct combat with terrorists a short-term solution, secretary says

Fostering liberty and democracy is key to defeating terrorism by changing the circumstances that create extremists, says Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Testifying March 28 before the Senate Appropriations subcommittee that deals with the State Department, the secretary called direct combat against terrorists a short-term solution, but not sufficient for achieving long-term security.

Vietnam Continues To Restrict Human Rights, Official Says

State's Lowenkron cites benefits of dialogue, calls for more progress

Vietnam continues to place major restrictions on fundamental freedoms of expression, assembly and religion, says U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Barry Lowenkron.

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IN BRIEF...

Commercial sources:

Dangerous Liaisons

Robertson, the editor of the Tennessee Bar Journal, describes how the International Justice Mission, an NGO, sends attorneys to Cambodia, Kenya, and other countries, to litigate for human rights...

Why The Culture War Is The Wrong War

Syndicated columnist E. J. Dionne suggests positively that debates surrounding culture wars can be used to present ideal visions or fierce criticisms of the United States...

It Comes Of Age In The Middle East

The abundance of information and entertainment is bringing more choices to the individual level; Alterman believes that the freer media environment and the growing sense of individualism engendered by the information revolution may be the catalyst that brings a more democratic society and transparent governance to the Middle East.

Religious Protection: Why American Muslims Haven't Turned To Terrorism

Counterterrorism experts note that relatively few American Muslims are involved in the global jihadist movements. Ackerman contrasts the patterns of Muslim immigrants in the U.S. and Europe to understand why American Muslims have not become involved in Islamic extremism...

Government sources:

**Democracy Dialogues Webchat To Examine Defamation
Scholar Donald Kommers to hold March 1 online discussion**

How do democratic societies distinguish between defamation and free speech? Many democratic states outlaw defamation -- the act of making fallacious public statements that cause harm to another person's name, standing or repute in the eyes of society at large. However, the challenge lies in discerning what language constitutes a defamatory statement and what is permitted under the principle of free speech.

**Rice Acknowledges Egypt's Democratic Advances, Despite Setbacks
U.S. secretary of state meets with Egyptian prime minister, foreign minister**

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice tells reporters in Egypt that the United States has no right to be "arrogant" in discussions about democracy, but democracy is a basic right that the United States will continue to address in its discussions with other nations. Rice adds that there have been disappointments and setbacks in Egypt's democratic experience, but says she discussed those issues with Egyptian officials "as a friend, not as a judge."

**United States Questions Rights Council Draft Resolution
John Bolton, U.S. envoy to United Nations, wants more negotiations**

The final design of the new Human Rights Council presented by General Assembly negotiators "does not live up to the standards" set by Secretary-General Kofi Annan and governments should consider more negotiations, U.S. Ambassador John Bolton said February 23.

**Human Rights Official Condemns Violent Acts Against Mexican Press
Attacks against El Mañana paper violate free expression, OAS official says**

An inter-American human-rights official says recent acts of violence and intimidation against a Mexican newspaper constitute a violation of freedom of expression in Mexico.

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Commercial sources:

New Fight For Voting Rights

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is up for renewal and is expected to receive bipartisan support in Congress... In the article, Gibeaut chronicles the events that led up to the creation of the Voting Rights Act. Gibeaut notes that the Census Bureau predicts that the percentage of whites will drop to 50 percent of the nation's population by 2050, making the U.S. a truly multiracial society...

Tribal Relations: How Americans Really Sort Out On Cultural And Religious Issues--And What It Means For Our Politics

In analyzing the impact of religion and values on American politics, the authors move away from the simplistic "right versus left" stereotype, and categorize the U.S. public into what they call "the twelve tribes"...

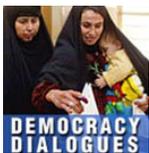
Tyrants On Trial

The author examines the history of bringing tyrants to justice, from the first trial of its kind in modern times, King Charles I in England in 1649, to present-day dictators such as Slobodan Milosevic and Saddam Hussein...

Church And Overstated

The author, in his review of Noah Feldman's book DIVIDED BY GOD: AMERICA'S CHURCH-STATE PROBLEM -- AND WHAT WE SHOULD DO ABOUT IT, argues that Americans overwhelmingly regard religion as a matter of individual choice and that one cannot exaggerate the effect that individualism has on religious life in the United States...

Government sources:



is a global conversation about democracy. The Democracy Dialogues Web site will address specific topics of democratic governance through readings, videos, photos, and historical documents, with a new topic introduced every two months. These resources will inform regularly scheduled dialogues sponsored on the site as well as independent activities throughout the world. The Dialogues will include a range of perspectives and national experiences to promote informed reflection and debate about what makes for healthy democracies.

Burma's Regime Poses Democratic and Security Challenges State's Hill, Lowenkron cite human rights abuses, junta's failing policies

Burma's ruling military junta poses a security concern for its immediate neighbors and the broader region, says U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs Christopher Hill. "Burma's neighbors have particular reason to be concerned, because many of the country's growing problems will not stay within its borders," Hill tells a congressional committee.

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Commercial sources:

Faith in Democracy

The importance of faith in the politics of the Middle East is likewise in evidence in the case of several democratic Islamic nation. Concerns about this religious problem has long influenced Western judgments about the outlook of democracy and the threats posed by religious-inspired movements have also complicated the conduct of Western foreign policy.

Open Democracy

The Web site openDemocracy.net, located at <http://www.opendemocracy.net/home/index.jsp>, aims to encourage the advancement of education and particularly the understanding of democracy, global processes, and participation. The site focuses on ideas and debate, and gathers an audience of politically aware students and scholars who use the site as a vehicle to read opinions and mime ideas.

Living with Democracy in Egypt

In Egypt, beneath the surface of a rigged election, democracy is breaking out. Here, Consolatore discusses the party politics in the country based on staged elections and details the birth of democracy. Among other things, he says that the war in Iraq led to multiparty democracy in Egypt and that Kifaya movement was born out of the cooperation of a diverse group of mostly older politicians and activists with major ideological differences and historical antagonisms that has been remarkably effective in changing the Egyptian political landscape.

At Democracy's Edge

Under the banner of exporting democracy, Americans are sacrificing their lives abroad even if many fear that they are losing democracy at home. Lappe takes his stance on democracy.

Democracy and Demons

With the rise to power of Ariel Sharon, all hope of peace seemed buried for a long time. No one had promoted the policy of settlements in the occupied territories or sabotaged attempts at a negotiated solution to the conflict more vigorously than the Likud leader. And here is the puzzle.

Government sources:

"World Freedom Day" Marks Anniversary of Berlin Wall Opening

"The love of liberty is stronger than the will of tyranny," Bush says

President Bush marked the 16th anniversary of the opening of the Berlin Wall by proclaiming World Freedom Day to honor those "who continue to fight against tyranny."

Forum for the Future Promotes Democracy, Job Creation

New institutions provide funding for civil society, entrepreneurs

World leaders announce the creation of two new institutions under the auspices of the Forum for the Future to support democratic reform efforts and economic growth in the broader Middle East and North Africa. The \$54 million Foundation for the Future will support civil society groups as they work "to achieve the common goals of promoting the values of human rights and democracy, while the \$100 million Fund for the Future will provide equity investments and technical assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises in the region.

Religious Freedom a "Universal Human Right," Says Rice

U.S. releases 2005 International Religious Freedom Report

"Through this report, through our bilateral relationships and through our ongoing discussions with communities of faith around the world, America will defend the rights of people everywhere to believe and worship according to their own conscience," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says.

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Commercial sources:

U.S. Soldiers-Ambassadors of Democracy

Today's generation of soldiers is fighting for the very ideals of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, doing what some thought was the impossible within a 12-month period. They have helped bring about free elections in Iraq and Afghanistan. Here, Preston talks about the amazing work being done by US soldiers around the globe.

The Strategic Implications of Political Liberalization and Democratization in the Middle East

The expansion of democracy in Europe, Latin America, and East Asia over the last 30 years has spurred extensive debate on the internal and external factors that facilitate political reform. In this context, many observers view the greater Middle East and Islamic world as an anomaly in that authoritarian rule continues to dominate, albeit in varying degrees. Here, Zambelis examines the long-term strategic implications of a democratic Middle East and its impact on US interests, concluding that dramatic changes in the political and foreign policy orientation of many of our Middle Eastern allies may not result in what America really wants or needs.

Blending Democracy: The Generational Project in the Middle East

Democracy may be elbowing its way into the Middle East, but not exactly in the manner that some of its more strident American advocates would necessarily prefer. Here, Zakheim stresses that those who advocate democracy must recognize not only that they will not and cannot fashion Middle Eastern societies in Washington's image, but that whatever success they do achieve will take years, perhaps decades to materialize.

Government sources:



Secretary Rice with British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, October 22. (© AP/WWP)

Rice, Britain's Straw Recall Civil Rights Struggle in Alabama

1963 Birmingham church bombing forced U.S. to confront social inequalities

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw participate in a ceremony marking the 1963 bombing of a church in Birmingham, Alabama that killed four African-American schoolgirls. According to Rice, the bombing was meant as a warning to African-Americans seeking full civil rights, but instead became a factor in forcing the United States to confront social inequalities.

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Commercial sources:

What Political Institutions Does Large-Scale Democracy Require?

The author examines the political institutions necessary for a democratic country. He argues that a large-scale democracy requires the following political institutions: elected officials; free, fair, and frequent elections; freedom of expression; alternative sources of information; associational autonomy; and inclusive citizenship.

Thinking Inside the Box: A Closer Look at Democracy and Human Rights

Research on human rights consistently points to the importance of democracy in reducing the severity and incidence of personal integrity abuses. The prescriptive implications of this finding for policy makers interested in state building have been somewhat limited, however, by a reliance on multidimensional measures of democracy...

Privatization, Prisons, Democracy, and Human Rights: The Need to Extend the Province of Administrative Law

The author argues that domestic administrative law potentially offers a means for addressing human rights problems arising from privatization, particularly privatization in the U.S. dealing with prisons. Key relationships involved in administrative and regulatory law scholarship; Intrastate delegations from the public sector to the privatization of prisons; Democracy problem in globalization...

The Strategic Implications of Political Liberalization and Democratization in the Middle East

The expansion of democracy in Europe, Latin America, and East Asia over the last 30 years has spurred extensive debate on the internal and external factors that facilitate political reform. In this context, many observers view the greater Middle East and Islamic world as an anomaly in that authoritarian rule continues to dominate, albeit in varying degrees...

Government sources:



A woman casts her vote in Kandahar, Afghanistan, September 18.

U.S. Committed to Afghanistan Beyond September 18 Elections

Ambassador Neumann calls legislative polls milestone toward democracy

The United States will continue to support Afghanistan's reconstruction following key legislative elections September 18, and U.S. troops will remain in the country for the foreseeable future, says U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Ronald E. Neumann.

World Summit Concludes with Declaration of U.N. Goals

U.S. says document "important first step in U.N. reform"

Over the course of the three-day meetings, participants heard President Bush and more than 150 other leaders outline their visions for the future of the United Nations and how to meet the goals of ending poverty; protecting the environment; defeating HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB; building peace; promoting democracy, and fighting terrorism.

U.S. Congress Cites Growing World Problem of "Street Children"

House Africa Subcommittee Chairman Smith calls it a "plague"

More than 100 million children worldwide are living hand-to-mouth, bereft of family and homes, and are "particularly vulnerable to abuse" in countries as wide-ranging as Uganda, Zimbabwe, Brazil and the Philippines, Representative Christopher Smith, chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Africa Subcommittee said September 13.

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August 2005

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IN BRIEF...

Commercial sources:

The French Lesson; Europe And Terrorism

Since the London bombings, all European governments have been re-evaluating their counter-terrorism strategies. Many have been studying France, which has both experience of Islamist terrorism and a reputation for toughness...

Chief George Manuel Memorial Library And The Fourth World Documentation Archive

The Fourth World Documentation Project (FDWP) was created by the Center for World Indigenous Studies, a Native American-launched nonprofit research and education organization. FWDP provides online access to an archive of full-text documents relating to social, political, economic, and human rights situations faced by Fourth World nations. Their Web site, www.cwis.org/fwdp includes an extensive list of publications available by mail and an excellent list of Fourth World Internet resources listed geographically.

University Of Minnesota Human Rights Library

The University of Minnesota Human Rights Library's Web site at <http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/>, directed by David Weissbrodt and Marci Hoffman, has rapidly proven itself the outstanding electronic data source in this field. The site is easy to navigate, outstanding in the breadth of its coverage, and comprehensive in nature.

International Human Rights Law as Power/Knowledge

This article places international human rights law within the context of critique in an effort to explain the hegemony of law within the human rights discourse. It begins with a discussion of the nature of human rights discourse as it is practiced in the current world order...

Government sources:



Jay Lefkowitz (White House File Photo)

Bush Appoints Special Envoy on Human Rights in North Korea

Jay Lefkowitz will engage North Korea, work with international organizations

President Bush has appointed Jay Lefkowitz as the U.S. special envoy for human rights in North Korea, the White House said in an announcement released August 19. Lefkowitz, an attorney, served as deputy assistant to the president and director of the Domestic Policy Council at the White House. He has been a public member of the U.S. delegation to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

Muslim-American Women Find a Voice in American Society

Panel discussion points out women's empowerment in Islam

Washington -- Islam is a religion that empowers women, according to a group of Muslim-American women speaking at a panel discussion, and contrary to popular media perceptions, Muslim women do not feel discriminated against or dispossessed within the traditions of their faith.

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July 2005

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IN BRIEF...

Commercial sources:

A Government Out Of Touch

Cochran, a staff writer for CQ Weekly Report, describes the chasm between the public's concerns and the issues discussed and legislated in Congress. Special interest groups, changes in redistricting which carve out clear Republican or Democratic winners, and changes within the political parties have moved the discourse from the public's middle of the road concerns to the concerns of the fringes on both sides...

People Power Primed: Civilian Resistance And Democratization

Ackerman and Duvall, Chair and President respectively of the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict, explore the history and growing expression of mass public protest in deposing rulers. They note that "people power" succeeds when participants agree on short- and long-term goals. It also succeeds when there is ample discipline and organization, as was the case in Ukraine, Georgia, and Serbia...

How To Nation-Build: Ten Lessons From Afghanistan

The author, special presidential envoy and U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, writes that there was widespread doubt that the U.S. could bring about transformation in Afghanistan, a country unfairly characterized as an ungovernable tribal society given to extremism...

Government sources:

Successful Democracies in Asia Should Inspire China, Leach Says

U.S. supports peaceful transition to multiparty democracy, economic freedom

Successful democracies in Asia should serve as a source of inspiration for China, says Representative James Leach, chairman of the House International Relations Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific and co-chairman of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC).

State Dept. Official Outlines U.S. Diplomacy in Latin America

Noriega cites efforts on CAFTA, Andean region, Colombia, Cuba

The United States is committed to strengthening democratic institutions, promoting prosperity, investing in people and bolstering security in Latin America -- and the U.S. Department of State is employing its diplomatic tools to pursue these ends, says Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Roger Noriega.

Secretary Rice Appoints New Transition Coordinator for Cuba

Says Caleb McCarry will help bring democratic change to island

The appointment of Caleb McCarry to lead the U.S. Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba will facilitate and hasten Cuba's eventual transition to democratic governance, says Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Americans with Disabilities Are Achieving Real Progress

U.S. committed to helping each person reach full potential

President Bush commemorates the 15th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities in public accommodations, commercial facilities, employment, transportation, state and local government services and telecommunications.

United Nations To Monitor Use, Abuse of Child Soldiers

Security Council sets up system on children in armed conflict

Deeply concerned over the continuing use of child soldiers, the U.N. Security Council sets up a system for monitoring, reporting on and punishing groups or nations who abuse or use children in wars.

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IN BRIEF...

Commercial sources:

DEMOCRACY IN THE ARAB REGION: GETTING THERE FROM HERE

A "democracy deficit" in the Arab world has led to a "freedom deficit" reinforced by internal and external obstacles, notes Richards, professor of economics and environmental studies at the University of California in Santa Cruz..

THE U.S. AND THE INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S RIGHTS CRUSADE: LEADER OR LAGGARD?

This article examines the global impact of the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and questions why the US has not been a signatory. The ambivalent history of children's rights in the United States is reviewed with special attention to the unique situation of child slavery and other legal forms of child servitude for the first two hundred years. The recent legal controversies over children's participatory rights and privacy are also examined within the context of the Convention.

Government sources:



President George W. Bush and Iraqi Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jafari at the White House, June 24.

Bush Confident Iraq's Democracy Will Be Successful

Assures Iraqi prime minister there is no timetable for troop withdrawal

President Bush expresses his confidence that the Iraqi people will succeed in their efforts to establish "a democratic and peaceful Iraq that represents all Iraqis." Speaking with visiting Iraqi Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jafari at the White House, Bush says, "I'm confident the Iraqi people will continue to defy the skeptics as they assume greater responsibility for their security and build a new Iraq that represents their diversity."

U.N. Official Says More Funding Needed for Afghan Elections

U.N. envoy briefs Security Council on progress toward September balloting

A U.N. official expressed worry that a significant shortfall in international financial contributions could force a postponement of the elections in Afghanistan scheduled for September. Briefing the Security Council, Jean Arnault, the U.N. special envoy to Afghanistan, says the election project is still \$78.8 million short of its anticipated cost.

Bush Calls Freedom from Torture "Inalienable Human Right"

President says U.S. committed to expanding democracy, freedom worldwide

In remarks commemorating United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture June 26, President Bush says freedom from torture is "an inalienable human right."

In a statement released by the White House the same day, Bush said the United States "is committed to building a world where human rights are respected and protected by the rule of law." He added that the United States is working to expand democracy worldwide and "will help others find their own voice, attain their own freedom, and make their own way."

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Commercial sources:

THE RISE OF "MUSLIM DEMOCRACY"

Nasr discusses the emergence and unfolding of Muslim democracy. Unlike Islamists, with their visions of rule by shari'a or even a restored caliphate, Muslim Democrats view political life with a pragmatic eye, they reject or at least discount the classic Islamist claim that Islam commands the pursuit of a shari'a state, and their main goal tends to be the more mundane one of crafting viable electoral platforms and stable governing coalitions to serve individual and collective interests within a democratic arena whose bounds they respect, win or lose.

LIBERTY, EUROPEAN-STYLE

America has the First Amendment and Europe doesn't. People can argue endlessly about whether the Founding Fathers intended the free speech clause to protect flag-burning and nude dancing. But news stories from assorted Old World democracies make a persuasive case that they badly need a First Amendment over there. Not impeded by one, governments engage in a degree of speech suppression unimaginable in the US. A lot of the suppression takes place via national "speech codes" somewhat similar to those imposed on numerous American campuses in the 1990s but repeatedly struck down by First Amendment rulings. It sounds incredible, or possibly not, but among the greatest threats to free speech in Europe is a document called the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

BIG-THINK CENTRAL

At the Council on Foreign Relations, a uniquely influential think tank that has long had the ear of policy makers in Washington, the stately moderation of the past is giving way to a growing debate about Pres George W. Bush and democracy. Secor presents the council's view on the idealistic new vision of America's role in the world. Specifically, the Iraq war has shown that, whatever their virtues, hawkish policies have terrible human and geopolitical costs; powerful armies are neither military nor politically invincible, and freedom is harder in practice than in theory to "export."

Government sources:

"POWER OF FREEDOM" PREVAILED IN WORLD WAR II, BUSH SAYS

President commemorates 60th anniversary of end of war in Europe

Speaking at a cemetery in the Netherlands where thousands of U.S. war dead are interred, President Bush commemorated the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe on May 8 by proclaiming that by that day in 1945 "the world tyrants learned a lesson: There is no power like the like the power of freedom, and no soldier as strong as a soldier who fights for that freedom."

SECURITY, OPPORTUNITY, FREEDOM KEY U.S. GOALS IN ASIA-PACIFIC

State's Revere discusses Burma, North Korea, China at Baltimore conference

Security, opportunity and freedom are the main U.S. goals in the Asia-Pacific region, says Evans Revere, principal deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs.

SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL MEETS WITH CAMBODIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST

State's Hill discusses concerns over increasing political intimidation

On May 3, Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Christopher R. Hill met with Mr. Kem Sokha, a prominent Cambodian human rights activist and President of the Cambodian Center for Human Rights.

U.S. CONCERNED OVER TREATMENT OF UKRAINIAN DETAINEES IN BELARUS
Ukrainians were arrested during April 26 demonstration in Minsk

The United States expressed concern over the treatment of a group of Ukrainian citizens arrested in Minsk, Belarus, April 26 for participating in "an apparently peaceful effort to present a petition on Chernobyl to Belarusian authorities."

GOALS OF LAW ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN NORTH KOREA STRICTLY HUMANITARIAN
Legislation not "rhetorical exercise," says House Asia subcommittee chairman

The goals of the North Korean Human Rights Act, enacted in 2004, are strictly humanitarian, specifically the promotion of human rights and refugee protections for North Koreans, says a prominent leader of the U.S. House of Representatives.



Photograph Collection of the Supreme Court
of the United States



THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES: HIGHEST COURT IN THE LAND
An Electronic Journal of the U.S. Department of State
Issues of Democracy, Volume 10, Number 1, April 2005

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A.E. Dick Howard, Professor of Law and Public Affairs, University of Virginia

The Supreme Court has assumed a leading role in ensuring the rule of law in the United States.

[The Supreme Court: A Unique Institution](#)

John Paul Jones, Professor of Law, University of Richmond

The Constitutional provisions establishing the Supreme Court afford it the adaptability required to address contemporary issues, controversies, and needs.

["I Do Solemnly Swear"](#)

Robert S. Barker, Distinguished Professor of Law, Duquesne University

The appointment of a Supreme Court justice involves legal, political, and personal considerations, but the typical result is an independent-minded justice.

[The Writ of *Certiorari*: Deciding Which Cases to Review](#)

Hon. Peter J. Messitte, U.S. District Judge, District of Maryland

The Supreme Court chooses most of its docket by means of the writ of *certiorari*; Americans from all walks of life can petition the Court for such a writ.

[Arguing *Brown*](#)

A Memoir by Jack Greenberg, Professor of Law, Columbia University

The legendary civil rights advocate recounts his experience arguing the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* litigation before the Supreme Court.

Landmark Decisions

Capsule summaries of some of the Court's most memorable and significant cases:

- Marbury V. Madison (1803)
- Gibbons V. Ogden (1824)
- National Labor Relations Board V. Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp. (1937)
- Brown V. Board Of Education (1954)
- Gideon V. Wainwright (1963)
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The Supreme Court Justices

Meet the nine members of the Court. They are...

- Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist
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- Associate Justice David Hackett Souter
- Associate Justice Clarence Thomas
- Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg
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Working Behind the Scenes

Personal accounts by four Court officers who help the justices do their jobs: the Clerk of the Court, the Court Marshal, the Reporter of Decisions, and the Public Information Officer.

Bibliography

Internet Resources

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April 2005

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Commercial sources:

AND THE WALLS CAME TUMBLING DOWN

Muravchik, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, describes the worldwide movement towards democracy and particularly recent changes in the Middle East. Experts wrongly advised that democracy couldn't work in Japan in the post-World War II era. Muravchik argues that the Middle East will not remain a bastion of autocracy, and that there are positive signs from diverse groups that there is a movement toward democracy. He calls 2005 "the year of Arab election" and says that democracy is arriving in unexpected spurts.

FINDING FAITH IN THE CENTER

Cochran, a journalist, writes that the Democrats have allowed the Republicans to use religious and moral issues to portray them as a liberal secular elite out of touch with mainstream values. He cites Pew polls on religion and politics, John White, author of "The Values Divide" and left-leaning Jim Wallis, an evangelical activist, to further his argument that the Republicans have been effective in negatively defining the Democrats. Cochran argues that the Democrats might be wise to recast issues with a values vocabulary to connect with the religious voter.

THE RISE AND FALL OF AMERICA'S SOFT POWER

Gradels, editor of the New Perspectives Quarterly, describes a new paradigm, a world with porous borders where power is associated with economic prowess and the sway of hearts and minds rather than military might. He contends that American ideas of personal freedom, equality under the rule of law, and social and economic opportunity -- soft power -- was a legitimizing complement to US military might and helped undermine the hard power of the Soviet empire. Gradels describes the unease felt in the Muslim world where prayer and faith are in collision with Western secular materialism. He also discusses how world public opinion of the US since the invasion of Iraq has had the profound strategic consequence of the loss of US soft power.

Government sources:

Delegates from 141 Nations To Attend Community of Democracy Forum

Secretary Rice plans to head U.S. delegation in Santiago, Chile, April 28-30

The next meeting of the Community of Democracies -- a coalition of democratic countries that work to promote and strengthen democratic institutions worldwide -- will convene in Santiago, Chile, April 28-30. Delegates from 124 participating countries and 17 observing countries will attend the 2005 meeting, where they will discuss issues such as democratic governance, building and strengthening civil society, economic development issues, and threats to democracy.

Rice Sees Growing Realm of Political Possibilities in Mideast

United States remains committed to diplomacy on Iran's nuclear ambitions

The United States is opening "the realm of the possible" to the people of the Middle East through efforts to encourage democratic reforms, according to the U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

United States Hails U.N. Resolution on Human Rights in Cuba

Resolution passed April 14 highlights abuses by Castro regime, say officials

The passage of a U.N. resolution criticizing the human rights situation in Cuba marks a milestone in the progress toward freedom and democracy around the world, says Ambassador Kevin E. Moley, U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva.

Human Rights Abuses Systematic Problem for China, Official Says

State's O'Sullivan cites repression of journalists, control over Internet

Despite China's economic and social progress, lagging political reform and repression of its citizens' human rights continue to be systematic problems, according to a State Department official.

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Commercial sources:

THE CLASH BETWEEN SECURITY AND LIBERTY IN THE U.S. RESPONSE TO TERROR

Lewis, a professor of political science and public administration at the University of Connecticut, studied US public opinions on civil liberties and security in response to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001...

A CAUTIONARY TALE

Gorman, a staff writer for the National Journal, claims that the Bush administration has a "fetish for reorganization." The administration hopes that government will work more effectively and will be improved as a result of government reorganization...

WORRISOME SIGNS, MODEST SHIFTS

Freedom House researchers Puddington and Piano say the 2004 Freedom House Survey showed the "general state" of world freedom last year as not significantly different from 2003. Three countries changed their status...

DEMOCRACY'S SOBERING STATE

The state of democracy in the world is "sobering," writes Carothers. Despite progress in some countries, the high hopes for the "third wave" of democratization of the last decades have remained largely unrealized...

CORRUPTION AND DEMOCRACY

Jacobs posits that democracy can succeed even in nations fraught with widespread government corruption. In many societies, there are webs of reciprocal relationships, and distinguishing bribery from favors can be subjective...

Government sources:

Bush Lauds Iraq's "Progress Towards Political Freedom"

Cites "hopeful signs" across Middle East in weekly radio address

President Bush marked the second anniversary of the arrival of coalition forces in Iraq by praising that country's "progress towards political freedom" in his weekly radio address delivered March 19.

"Openness" and "Choice" Keys to Future of Asia, Rice Says

Secretary sees major role for Japan, China in stability for region

"Ideas of freedom" – not raw power – will define 21st-century Asia, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said March 19 in Tokyo.

Rice Praises Democratic Progress in Pakistan, Afghanistan

Credit due for what has been achieved in three years, secretary says

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice praised the efforts of the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan to transform their countries from havens for extremism into moderate, democratic states.

Human-Rights Abuses in Cuba Must Stop, Says Amnesty International

Group publishes new report on "prisoners of conscience" in Cuba

Limits on freedom of expression, association and assembly in Cuba are serious human-rights violations that must stop immediately, said Amnesty International, one of the world's best-known human rights organizations.

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