



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

NEW THIS MONTH

FEBRUARY 2009

HIGHLIGHTS

- Conflict Resolution
- Democracy and Governance
- Human Rights Issues
- Development Issues
- Economic Growth and Agricultural Development
- Education in Development
- Environment and Climate Change
- Population, Health, and Nutrition
- Religion
- Women in Development

LEARNING RESOURCES CENTER



New travel, cultural, and management materials

NEW TITLES IN THE KNOWLEDGE SERVICES CENTER

Conflict Resolution

Reilly, Benjamin and Per Nordlund, eds. ***Political Parties in Conflict-Prone Societies: Regulation, Engineering and Democratic Development***. New York: United Nations University Press, 2008.

This volume addresses the challenges faced by developing countries with divided populations and little experience with party politics. Their political parties tend to be organized around ethnic, personal or regional ties rather than around issues that concern or benefit the whole nation. Developing democracies find they must depend on their own initiatives to regulate party organization rather than use examples from established western democracies.

Their, J. Alexander, ed. ***The Future of Afghanistan***. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace, 2009.

The contributors address what went wrong in Afghanistan and how best to end the warfare and stabilize the country. They insist that peace in Afghanistan will result only if international and regional stakeholders cooperate, and agree on an agenda that prioritizes the needs and aspirations of the Afghan people.

Democracy and Governance

Calder, Kent E., and Francis Fukuyama. ***East Asian Multilateralism: Prospects for Regional Stability***. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008.

The editors have collected an anthology of essays by prominent international foreign affairs scholars who examine the geopolitical relationships among the countries of East Asia. Although they have much in common, cooperation among China, South Korea and Japan, is problematic for historic as well as current political reasons.

The Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States, December 15, 2008: Submitted Pursuant to Section 1060 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (P.L. 110-417).

Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace, 2008.

This interim report was submitted to members of the U.S. House and Senate Armed Services Committees. The report summarizes the Commission's activities since it began its work in spring 2008 and promises to deliver a final report on April 1, 2009.

Gordon, Philip H. and Omer Taspinar. ***Winning Turkey: How America, Europe, and Turkey can Revive a Fading Partnership.*** Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 2007.

The authors warn that the longstanding partnership between Turkey and the western democracies is weakening. They present a framework for conflict management and diplomacy that will inspire Turkey to retain its liberal, western orientation. This includes a commitment to Turkish membership in the European Union, a political compromise between Turkey and the Kurds, a diplomatic compromise between Turkey and Armenia, and a settlement with Cyprus.



Istanbul, Turkey

Image from USAID/Knowledge Services Center

Haggard, Stephan and Robert R. Kaufman. ***Development, Democracy and Welfare States: Latin America, East Asia, and Eastern Europe.*** Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2008.

The authors assert that no comparative study has ever been done concerning the social assistance framework in Latin America, East Asia and Eastern Europe. They analyze the history and socioeconomic variables of individual countries within these regions. Socialist entitlements remain a factor in Eastern Europe while rapid growth and permissive fiscal conditions influence state assistance in East Asia. Latin America's welfare assistance is long established but unstable due to the fitful economic and political situations extant in most of its countries.

Kinzer, Stephen. ***A Thousand Hills: Rwanda's Rebirth and the Man Who Dreamed It.*** Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 2008.

This is the story of Rwandan president Paul Kagame, a Tutsi refugee who launched a successful strategic military and political campaign for leadership in Rwanda after the 1994 massacre of Tutsis in that country. Some observers have found his methods autocratic but he has stressed national unity, he holds his ministers accountable and he has ensured that state funds are used for the benefit of the nation. In recent years Rwanda has moved towards becoming a viable country with a native entrepreneurial base that is open to foreign investment.

Human Rights Issues

El-Abed, Oroub. ***Unprotected: Palestinians in Egypt since 1948***. Washington, DC: Institute for Palestine Studies; Ottawa: International Development Research Center, 2009.

The Palestinian diaspora has rarely been studied, especially with reference to their legal rights and vulnerabilities as refugees in host countries. Palestinians have settled in Egypt with some success, yet they retain their Palestinian identity and many still hope to return to what they consider their homeland. The author writes about the arrival of Palestinians in Egypt, their politics, education, health, employment, affinity with Egyptian culture and ideas about their future.

Shaw, Martin. ***What is Genocide***. Cambridge; Malden, MA: Polity Press, 2007.

The author accepts Raphael Lemkin's original definition of genocide as attacks on the unarmed by those who are armed. If all civilians are potential victims of genocide, then ethnic or political labels are less crucial in defining this violence than the fact that the victims are non-combatants. This viewpoint has aroused controversy and the author enlists historic and current case studies to help make his case.

Walker, Peer and Daniel Maxwell. ***Shaping the Humanitarian World***. New York, NY: Routledge, 2008.

The authors point out that reliance on the Internet for information about international organizations and processes limits education on the subject because "public relations documents, raw data, and loosely refereed web sites do not make for intelligent analysis." Development workers must gain a comprehensive knowledge of their field and its evolution if they are to have a positive impact on the developing world.



Panelists at the 2008 Summer Seminar Series.

USAID/Knowledge Services Center

Upcoming KSC Events July 2009

2009 USAID Summer Seminar Series

The Summer Seminar Series provides a venue for exploring a variety of development topics, innovative approaches, and diverse experiences across the Agency. Each seminar includes presentations and panel discussions by subject matter experts.

Seminars will be open to the public.

Development Issues

Whitfield, Lindsay, ed. ***The Politics of Aid: African Strategies for Dealing with Donors***, New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Contributors to this book look at changing relations between donor agencies and recipient countries in Africa. They present case studies for eight countries that have been active in policy negotiations concerning allocation and distribution of aid funds. They then examine the economic, political and institutional factors that determine the extent to which recipient countries are able to effectively negotiate for control of assistance.

Economic Growth and Agricultural Development

Counts, Alex. ***Small Loans, Big Dreams: How Nobel Prize Winner Muhammad Yunus and Microfinance are Changing the World***. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2008.

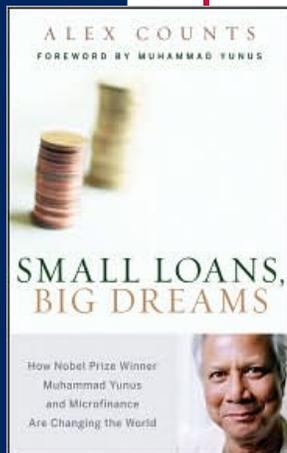


Image from www.amazon.com

This book tells the story of the non-profit Grameen Foundation, founded by Mohammed Yunus in 1997, which is now a global network of forty-six microfinance partners in twenty-four countries. Yunus first extended microcredit to women in rural Bangladesh and similar approaches were undertaken in such diverse areas as Mexico and urban Chicago. The author presents individual stories of the borrowers, as well as accounts of Yunus and his colleagues around the world.

Khanna, Tarun. ***Billions of Entrepreneurs: How China and India are Reshaping their Futures and Yours***. Boston, MA: Harvard Business School Press, 2007.

The title showcases the huge demographic represented by these two rising national economies. The author addresses such issues as the need for transparency in business dealings, reliability, respect for public and private property, the extent to which overseas Chinese and Indians interact with their native countries, and the rise of medical tourism.

Lederman, Daniel, Guillermo E. Perry, and Marcelo Olarreaga, eds. ***China's and India's Challenge to Latin America: Opportunity or Threat?*** Washington, DC: World Bank, 2009.

The contributors to this study present data on global trade and production for recent years, especially the economic interaction among China, India and individual Latin American countries. They conclude that Latin American economic policies need to support expansion in the areas of natural resources and knowledge-based production in order to become globally competitive.

Education in Development

Education for All by 2015: Will We Make It? EFA Global Monitoring Report. Paris: UNESCO; Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2008.

At the World Education Forum in Senegal, April 2000, governments and their partner organizations launched a campaign to dramatically expand education in the developing world by 2015. This mid-point progress report identifies major developments including greater primary school enrollment, the need for more gender parity, early childhood education, equity of education quality, issues arising due to adult illiteracy, and increases in aid to education.

Overcoming Inequality: Why Governance Matters, EFA Global Monitoring Report. Paris: UNESCO; Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2009.

This report examines those markers that put individuals in developing countries at an educational disadvantage. The markers include degree of wealth, gender, location and language. Until governments provide more funding and give center place to EFA [Education for All] strategies, poverty will persist, exacerbated by an illiterate and uncompetitive population.

Strong Foundations: Early Childhood Care and Education, EFA Global Monitoring Report. Paris: UNESCO; Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2007.

This volume reports on progress made in expanding primary school education. Despite some improvement, developing countries still neglect to make a strong enough connection between availability of early childhood care and education and the goal of achieving universal literacy.

Environment and Climate Change

Dauvergne, Peter. ***The Shadows of Consumption.*** Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2008.

Dauvergne examines what he terms the “ecological shadows of consumption,” meaning the impact that consumption has on the environment. Developing countries suffer the effects of a degraded environment but wealthier nations bear primary responsibility. The author challenges the wealthier nations of the world to take the lead in promoting environmental issue.

Michaels, Patrick J. and Robert C. Balling, Jr. ***Climate of Extremes: Global Warming Science They Don't Want You to Know.*** Washington, DC: Cato Institute, 2009.

The authors are climatologists who analyzed the studies on global warming and concluded that carbon emissions do not have a major effect on climate. Although warming trends have been responsible for serious problems, they insist that observational data does not indicate these changes will result in worldwide catastrophe. They conclude that current climate changes are a natural occurrence, probably cyclical in nature, and that we can adapt to them successfully.

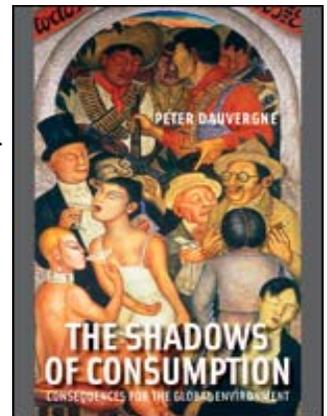


Image from <http://mitpress.mit.edu/catalog/item/default.asp>

Population, Health, and Nutrition

Biddlecom, Ann E., Laura Hessberg, Susheela Singh, Akinrinola Bankole, and Leila Darabi. ***Protecting the Next Generation in Sub-Saharan Africa: Learning from Adolescents to Prevent HIV and Unintended Pregnancy***. New York, NY: Guttmacher Institute, 2007.

This report summarizes the efforts being taken in sub-Saharan Africa to help adolescents avoid unwanted pregnancy and HIV infection. The authors insist a society should make such protection a priority. Measures must include recognition of adolescents' special needs, strengthening the health care system, and the involvement of schools, mass media, families and community in encouraging healthy decisions.

Integrating Mental Health into Primary Care: A Global Perspective. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization; London, UK: Wonca, 2008.

This World Health Organization report stresses the urgency of integrating mental health into primary care in order to provide a comprehensive and holistic approach to health maintenance. Detailed descriptions of best practices in mental health care are provided for the countries of Australia, Belize, Brazil, Chile, India, Iran, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Uganda, and the United Kingdom.

Religion

Rosen, Lawrence. ***Varieties of Muslim Experience: Encounters with Arab Political and Cultural Life***. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2008.

Anthropologist Lawrence Rosen explores aspects of Arab Muslim life that are often misunderstood by westerners, such as expectations governing interpersonal relationships, traditional avoidance of human portraiture, and scientists who are attracted to fundamentalism. Not all Muslims are Arabs, nor are all Arabs Muslim. The author's insights into Arab culture are as important as his references to Islamic theology.



Moulay Ismail's mausoleum in Meknes, Morocco.

Image from USAID/Knowledge Services Center

Women in Development

Abousharaf, Rogaia Mustafa, ed. ***Female Circumcision***. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006.

Contributors to this volume discuss female circumcision in a cultural context, with attention to its history and detrimental effects on health and well-being. The controversy over this practice has reached international proportions even as people for whom the practice is customary remain convinced that it is essential for social acceptance in their society. Education, outside pressure and the influence of progressive religious leaders are slowly curtailing the practice.



Travel, Cultural, and Management
Materials Available from

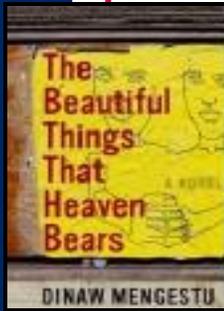
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AFRICA

The Angel Returns: Changing the Tradition of Female Circumcision. DVD.
New York: Filmmakers Library, 2002.

In Somalia female circumcision is considered absolutely necessary if a woman is to be considered respectable and marriageable. Reformer Isino Ahmed Musso faces such deep seated opposition in trying to end this practice that she realizes the best she can hope to accomplish is for the people to accept a less extreme version of the procedure than they have traditionally done.

Mengestu, Dinaw. ***The Beautiful Things that Heaven Bears.*** New York, NY: Riverhead Books, 2007.



Sepha is an Ethiopian war refugee and lover of poetry, who manages a failing grocery store in a poor, but “gentrifying” area of Washington, D.C. Socially isolated and financially desperate, his only conversationalists are two other refugees who dwell on their pasts. Then he meets newcomers to the neighborhood: a former professor and her pre-teen daughter, who share his literary interests. Encouraged by their regard for him, he attempts to improve his situation, but these hopes are crushed as events spiral out of control and his new friends are forced to leave the neighborhood.

The Future of Mud: A Tale of Houses and Lives in Djenne. DVD. A film by Susan Vogel, Brooklyn, NY: First Run/Icarus Films, 2007.

This film documents a day in the life of a mason and his helper in Djenne, Mali. These craftsmen work with mud to construct a variety of buildings and restore a famous mosque. At the end of the documentary this mosque is replastered in a staged event involving thousands, meant to attract tourists and increase support for the continuation of the traditional skills of mud building.

ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST

Eng, Tan Twan. ***The Gift of Rain.*** New York, NY: Weinstein Books, 2007.

Philip, the young protagonist, is of English and Chinese parentage, born on the island of Penang in Malaysia. On the eve of World War II he is befriended by a Japanese diplomat who turns out to be a spy. Philip becomes the unwitting facilitator for atrocities committed by the Japanese invaders, whose pre-war culture he had so admired. As events unfold, he does what he can to save lives and regain both self-respect and the trust of the people of Penang.

With its well-observed characters and brisk narrative pacing, greatly benefited by the characters'

tension-laced wit, *The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears* is an assured literary debut by a writer worth watching.

- *Washington Post*

Image from www.amazon.com

Jaffrey, Madhur. *Climbing the Mango Trees: A Memoir of a Childhood in India*. New York, NY: Vintage-Books, 2007.

International food writer, Madhur Jaffrey, reveals the roots of her inspiration in this account of her youth in India. The eclectic foods she grew up with are described no less vividly recounted than the people who ate them. In the mid-1940s, Indian independence was accompanied by social upheaval of which one of the more positive entrepreneurial features was the nascent Indian restaurant business. For Jaffrey, food is a symbol of survival, adaptability and profound pleasure.

EUROPE

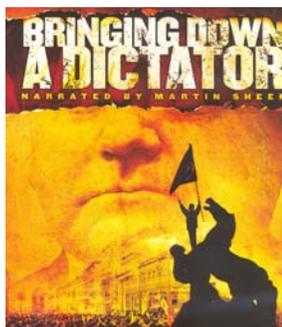


Image from www.yorkzim.com

Orange Revolution: The Election was Stolen. The Battle Lines were Drawn. DVD. A Force More Powerful Films, New York: Cinema Guild, 2007.

During the Ukrainian election of 2004, one of the candidates, Yanukovych, was backed by the Russian government. The opposition candidate, Yushchenko, was poisoned, probably by his political opponents. Disfigured and unwell, he forged on with his campaign. Obvious voter fraud handed the election to the Russian choice and Ukrainians launched a massive protest, camping in the streets of Kiev for over a week in freezing weather. Their efforts forced a new election putting Yushchenko in office, but to the protestors, the “revolution” was successful more because it was peaceful than because their preferred candidate won.

LATIN AMERICA and the CARIBBEAN

Allende, Isabel. *The Sum of Our Days*, New York, NY: Harper Collins, 2007.

Isabel Allende recounts the loss of her daughter years earlier and in so doing reveals the roles that her extended family have played in her writings. She admits to “superstitions” that inspire and impel her creative process. Despite bereavement and tragedy, Allende summons both honesty and humor in telling her story and proves to be as interested in the future as she is in the past.

MANAGEMENT

Atwood, Christee Gabour. *Manager Skills Training*. Alexandria, VA: ASTD Press, 2008.

This volume is a manual for manager training, outlining key managerial skills, assessing the organization’s needs, designing and facilitating workshops, and scheduling workshops. It includes exercises, a Web site with PowerPoint and step-by-step instructions for workshop facilitators.

Hindle, Tim. *Guide to Management Ideas and Gurus*. London: Profile Books, Ltd., 2008.

The author includes entries on major business thinkers or “gurus”, past and present, and provides dozens of their most successful ideas and techniques.

Cialdini, Robert. *The Power of Persuasion. DVD*. Stanford Executive Briefings, Kantola Productions, 2001.

In this presentation, social psychologist Robert Cialdini, delivers insights on what makes people successful at the art of persuasion. He guarantees that those who employ his methods will increase their scope of influence and efficiency.

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Type of Materials	Loan Period	
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Country Videos & DVDs	1 week	10 weeks
Travel Guides	4 weeks	10 weeks
Language Materials	2 weeks	10 weeks
Management Training Materials	4 weeks	10 weeks

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