

ISSUE DATES

- 09.06.10
- 09.20.10
- 10.04.10
- 10.25.10
- 11.08.10
- 11.22.10
- 12.13.10
- 01.10.11
- 01.31.11
- 02.21.11
- 03.14.11
- 04.04.11
- 04.18.11
- 05.09.11



ADDITIONAL LESSONS
 & QUIZZES:
UPFRONTMAGAZINE.COM

A SUPPLEMENT TO
 THE NEW YORK TIMES UPFRONT

The battle over capital punishment is heating up again. Last month, Illinois became the 16th state to ban the death penalty, and for the past decade, the Supreme Court has been placing ever-greater restrictions on its use, barring it for juvenile offenders, the mentally retarded, and criminals who commit neither murder nor treason. Our cover story looks at the long-running debate over the morality and constitutionality of capital punishment—and why the U.S. remains one of the last Western democracies that still puts people to death.

“It’s the economy, stupid.” The mantra of Bill Clinton’s 1992 presidential campaign rang just as true during last fall’s midterm elections, when voters upset over the weak recovery installed a new Republican majority in the House of Representatives. With the economy sure to loom large again in the 2012 elections, we offer a quick guide to the economic jargon your students will hear on the news but may not fully understand.

When the U.S. intervened in Libya’s civil war last month, taking on dictator Muammar el-Qaddafi, it was only the latest conflict between the U.S. and Tripoli. We look back at a long history of tensions dating back two centuries.

And in Times Past, we revisit a Cold War spy drama that divided Americans then and continues to raise questions 60 years later: the arrest, trial, and execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were convicted of passing atomic secrets to the Soviet Union. Did their punishment fit the crime?



ELLIOTT REBHUN, Editor

KEY ARTICLES

CURRICULUM STANDARDS Subject/NCSS

NATIONAL
6 A FEW GOOD WOMEN

Though officially barred from combat by the U.S. military, women are increasingly fighting—and dying—alongside men in Afghanistan and Iraq.

- CIVICS
 CURRENT EVENTS
- Power, Authority, & Governance
 - Individuals, Groups, & Institutions

NATIONAL
8 ECON SPEAK

With all the news about the struggling economy, it helps to know your Dow from your Federal Reserve. A guide to key terms.

- ECONOMICS
 CIVICS
- Production, Distribution, & Consumption
 - Individuals, Groups, & Institutions

INTERNATIONAL
11 BACK TO LIBYA

Last month, the United States intervened in Libya’s bloody civil war. It isn’t the first time the U.S. has taken military action against Tripoli. Just ask Thomas Jefferson.

- WORLD HISTORY
 CURRENT EVENTS
- Power, Authority, & Governance
 - Time, Continuity, & Change

COVER STORY
12 THE DEATH PENALTY DEBATE

Illinois recently became the 16th state to abolish the death penalty—a decision that has reignited the long-running battle over capital punishment.

- CIVICS
 U.S. HISTORY
- Civic Ideals & Practices
 - Time, Continuity, & Change

TIMES PAST
16 1951: THE ROSENBERG TRIAL

At the height of the Cold War 60 years ago, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were convicted of passing atomic secrets to the Soviet Union. Did they deserve to die?

- U.S. HISTORY
 GOVERNMENT
- Civic Ideals & Practices
 - Individuals, Groups, & Institutions

A FEW GOOD WOMEN



CRITICAL THINKING

Although women have been fighting and dying alongside men in Afghanistan and Iraq, the military still officially bars women from combat. → Why do you think this policy exists? → What physical, mental, and emotional abilities do you think combat

requires? Do you believe that men are better equipped than women to deal with combat? Why or why not? → Why do you think some women want to serve in combat?

WRITING PROMPT

Reasons cited for banning women from combat often include that

they lack the strength and stamina of men; that their presence would harm unit cohesion; and that Americans wouldn't tolerate women being killed in combat. Write an essay supporting or opposing these arguments.

DEBATE

Should the military change its policy on women in combat?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What roles did women play in the military during previous wars?

According to the article, how are the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq redefining combat roles?

What is the purpose of the Marines' female engagement teams? How does Afghan culture affect the roles of male and female troops in Afghanistan?

What challenges do marines stationed in Helmand Province face?

Do you think the U.S. will defeat the Taliban? Why or why not?

Men between the ages of 18 and 25 must register for the Selective Service, in case Congress ever authorizes a draft. Do you think women should have to register also? Why or why not?

FAST FACT

Deborah Sampson was the first known woman in the American military. Disguised as a man, she enlisted in the Continental Army in 1782. Though wounded in combat, she served until the end of the Revolutionary War. ●

WEB WATCH

<http://topics.nytimes.com/womenmarines>

The New York Times explores the role of women in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

ECON SPEAK



CRITICAL THINKING

The article notes that the economy has often played a major role in elections, including the midterm elections last fall.

- Why do you think the economy is often one of voters' top concerns?
- How much influence do you think the President has over the health of the economy? What about

Congress? Do you think politicians deserve the credit—or blame—when the economy rises or falls? Why?

- How has the recession affected you and your family?
- Do you think the economy is now headed in the right direction? Why or why not?

WRITING PROMPT

Use terms from the article to write an essay comparing and contrasting a healthy economy with one in recession. Include details about business activity, consumer spending, and unemployment.

DEBATE

Take a side: Some have argued for a “balanced budget” amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It would prevent the federal government from running a deficit,

except in wartime and other emergency situations. Should such an amendment be adopted? Explain.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What letter grade would you give President Obama for his handling of the economy? Why?

Investors purchase stocks that they predict will rise in value. If you had money to invest in stocks, what kind of businesses would you invest in? Why?

In what ways have teens been affected by the Great Recession?

What is deflation? How can it be bad for the economy?

Would you describe the stock market today as a “bear market” or a “bull market”? Why?

FAST FACT

At the current rate of job growth, economists say it could take nine years to recover the jobs lost during the Great Recession. ●

WEB WATCH

<http://topics.nytimes.com/economy>

Current and archived articles and commentary on the U.S. economy from NYTimes.com.

THE DEATH PENALTY DEBATE



CRITICAL THINKING

Since 1976, more than 1,200 people have been executed in the United States.

- What are some reasons to have the death penalty?
- Do you think the death penalty is an appropriate punishment for heinous crimes? Why or why not?
- Is life in prison

without parole a suitable replacement? Why or why not?

WRITING PROMPT

Review the article, listing all the arguments presented for and against the death penalty. Choose the arguments you find most persuasive and write a brief essay

stating your position on the issue.

DEBATE

Have half the class assume the role of lawyers representing a convicted murderer; the other half representing the family of the victim. Present arguments before a judge about what sentence is appropriate.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why did Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn say there is “no way to design a

perfect death penalty system”? What flaws do he and others see?

What limitations has the Supreme Court placed on the death penalty in the past decade?

What effect has DNA evidence had on the public’s view of the death penalty?

Why is capital punishment more expensive than life imprisonment? Are financial considerations

a valid reason to limit the death penalty?

Look at the map on p. 15. Which states have used capital punishment the most and least? Do you see any trends?

Why do you think most Western democracies have eliminated the death penalty? Why hasn’t the U.S.?

FAST FACT

There were more than 3,200 inmates on death row in the U.S. as of January 1, 2010. ●

WEB WATCH

<http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/death/procon.html>

This University of Alaska site provides links for many pro- and anti-death-penalty organizations.

1951: THE ROSENBERG TRIAL



CRITICAL THINKING

During the Cold War, fear of Communism gripped the nation.

→ To what degree do you think events of the times, such as the Rosenberg trial and the McCarthy hearings, were influenced by fear?

→ Was it possible for the Rosenbergs to have a fair trial in that climate? Why

or why not?

→ Should the fact that the secrets stolen by Julius's spy ring were already known to the Soviets have had any bearing on his sentence?

WRITING PROMPT

Choose the point of view of Julius or Ethel Rosenberg, David Greenglass, one of the

Rosenbergs' sons, or the prosecutor in the Rosenbergs' trial and write a first-person narrative about why the trial and its outcome were just or unjust.

DEBATE

Support or refute: The Cold War-era reaction to Communism is being paralleled today in some Americans' reaction to Islamic terrorism.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Was fear of Communism

after World War II justified? Where were Communists seizing power or fomenting revolution around the world?

Why did some Americans support the Soviet Union?

Numerous people were involved in the spy ring that gave secrets to the Soviets, but only the Rosenbergs were sentenced to death.

Why did punishments

vary? Were they fair? Did Julius and Ethel deserve the same sentence?

Why did David Greenglass testify against his sister? Does his eventual admission that his own wife probably typed the incriminating notes affect your view of Ethel's guilt? Your view of the death penalty?

FAST FACTS

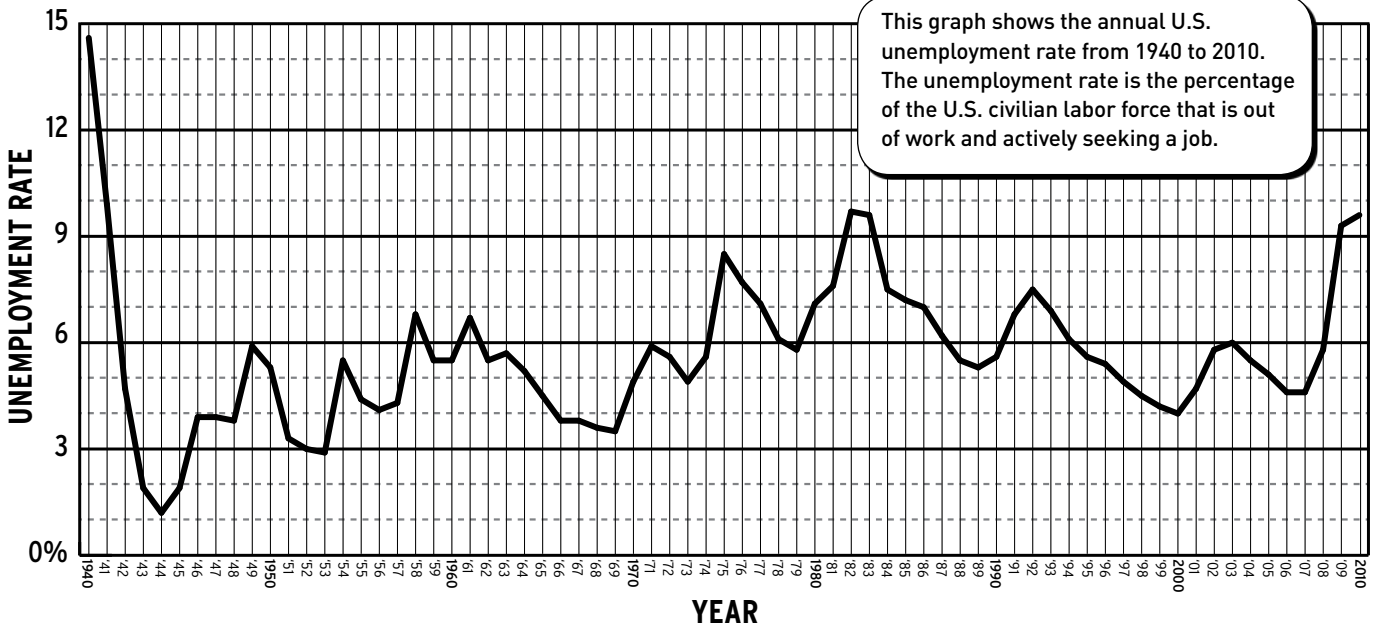
Both Albert Einstein and Pope Pius XII pleaded for clemency on behalf of the Rosenbergs. ●

WEB WATCH

<http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/rosenb/ROSENB.HTM>

This University of Missouri-Kansas City site offers an in-depth account of the trial, transcripts, photos, and more.

THE UPS AND DOWNS OF UNEMPLOYMENT



The unemployment rate is a key indicator of a nation’s economic well-being (see “Econ Speak,” p. 8), which is why economists, politicians, and news anchors watch it so closely. During a recession, most businesses scale back on hiring, and many are forced to cut costs by reducing their existing workforce. To calculate the unemployment rate, the U.S. government surveys a random sample of the civilian labor force—Americans age 16 and over who are not in the armed forces or in prison, and who are either working or would like to be working.

BEFORE 1948, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS CALCULATED FOR AMERICANS AGE 14 AND OVER.

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

ANALYZE THE GRAPH

- ❶ At the height of the Great Depression in 1933, experts estimate that nearly 25 percent of American workers were unemployed. By 1940, the jobless rate had decreased by about ____ percentage points.
 - a 15
 - b 13
 - c 10
 - d 7
- ❷ America’s entry into World War II in 1941 was followed by a steady ____ in the unemployment rate.
 - a 10-year rise
 - b 6-year rise
 - c 6-year drop
 - d 3-year drop
- ❸ Since 1940, the longest stretch that the unemployment rate has stayed above 6 percent is about ____ consecutive years.
 - a 11
 - b 8
 - c 5
 - d 4
- ❹ In 2010, about 14.8 million Americans were unemployed. What was the approximate size of the civilian labor force for that year?
 - a 96 million
 - b 122 million
 - c 150 million
 - d 223 million
- ❺ You can infer from the graph that an economic recession most likely occurred in the _____.
 - a early ‘80s
 - b mid ‘80s
 - c mid ‘60s
 - d late ‘60s

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ❶ Why do you think that America’s involvement in World War II had such a positive effect on the unemployment rate?
- ❷ Unemployment rates in individual states can vary significantly from the national average. For example, Nevada’s unemployment rate for 2010 was more than 14 percent. North Dakota’s was less than 4 percent. Why do you think there is such variation? Would you be willing to move across the country to seek job opportunities? Explain.
- ❸ Unemployment is often called a “lagging” economic indicator, meaning that it can take many months for unemployment rates to improve once a weak economy begins to bounce back. Why do you think that is the case? What does it tell us about employers?

A FEW GOOD WOMEN (P. 6)

- ❶ Female engagement teams play an important role in Afghanistan because**
- a they allow women to serve out of harm's way.
 - b they protect American military bases.
 - c they interact with Afghan women in ways that male Marines cannot.
 - d they help young Afghans who are thinking about getting married.
- ❷ Official U.S. military policy states that**
- a women are allowed in combat only when absolutely necessary.
 - b women can volunteer for combat units, but they cannot be forced to join them.
 - c women can't serve in units with men.
 - d women aren't allowed in direct combat.
- ❸ Why does Capt. Emily Naslund consider the current policy on women in combat "outdated"?**
- a Women have made great strides toward equality in other areas.
 - b Male officers have requested permission to send women into combat.
 - c The policy doesn't apply in a war without fronts, where combat can happen anywhere.
 - d Studies have shown that most women are as strong as most men.
- ❹ According to the article, Afghan men**
- a will not speak to female Marines.
 - b sometimes speak quite freely with female Marines.
 - c have tried to protect female Marines.
 - d have complained to U.S. officials about female engagement teams.
- ❺ During the Civil War, women _____.**
- a were not allowed to serve at all.
 - b engaged in full combat, before the military changed its policy.
 - c served as nurses.
 - d served in Confederate battalions when there weren't enough men.

IN-DEPTH QUESTIONS

- ❶** Why might military leaders believe that female engagement teams are necessary for the war effort in Afghanistan?
- ❷** What skills and attributes do combat soldiers need? Do men and women seem equally suited to the role? Explain.
- ❸** Do you agree or disagree that women are already serving in combat in Afghanistan and Iraq? Explain.

ECON SPEAK (P. 8)

❶ What is the Nasdaq?

- a a stock index that tracks 30 companies
- b the central bank of the U.S.
- c the nation's oldest and largest stock exchange
- d a stock exchange that includes many technology stocks

❷ A market in which investors feel optimistic that stock values are on the rise is known as _____.

- a a bear market
- b a bull market
- c a Dow market
- d a bond market

❸ Companies often outsource part of their business to another country, like India or China, because _____ are lower there.

- a sale prices
- b interest rates
- c labor costs
- d foreclosure rates

❹ A homeowner is described as being "underwater" when he or she _____.

- a owes more than \$200,000 on a mortgage
- b has had a bank take possession of the home
- c is paying low interest rates on a mortgage
- d owes more on a mortgage than the home is worth

❺ A stimulus is a government effort to help a sagging economy, often by

- a spending money.
- b balancing the budget.
- c raising interest rates.
- d restricting exports.

IN-DEPTH QUESTIONS

- ❶ How large a role do you think the economy will play in the next presidential election? Why?
- ❷ Why do you think so many Americans are worried about the size of the deficit and the national debt? Are you worried? Explain.
- ❸ Why do you think the chairman of the Federal Reserve is considered such a powerful person?

THE DEATH PENALTY DEBATE (P. 12)

- ❶ How many states currently allow the death penalty?**
- a 16
 - b 50
 - c 48
 - d 34
- ❷ The U.S. Supreme Court has banned the death penalty for all of the following except:**
- a juvenile offenders
 - b the mentally retarded
 - c criminals who have been on death row for more than 20 years
 - d crimes other than murder or treason
- ❸ Why did the Supreme Court impose a moratorium on the death penalty in 1972?**
- a to study whether it qualified as cruel and unusual punishment
 - b to appease the public
 - c to give states time to ensure it was being used only for the worst offenders
 - d to give states time to update their methods of execution
- ❹ What reason did the Supreme Court give for eliminating the death penalty for juvenile offenders?**
- a No current methods of execution were proper for young people.
 - b Young people can't be held to the same standard of accountability as adults.
 - c Most states had already eliminated it.
 - d Youth groups had lobbied for the change.
- ❺ Illinois Governor Pat Quinn said he was concerned that**
- a an innocent person could be executed.
 - b the state has too many prisoners with life sentences.
 - c Illinois has carried out more executions than any other state.
 - d eliminating the death penalty would be unfair to victims of violent crime.

IN-DEPTH QUESTIONS

- ❶** What does “an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth” mean? Do you agree with this idea?
- ❷** Why do some say the death penalty discriminates against African-Americans? Do you think the statistics given support this conclusion?
- ❸** Compare and contrast life imprisonment and the death penalty as a punishment for murder. Which punishment do you think is more appropriate, and why?

USE with articles identified.

The statements are answers to questions (modeled after the TV show *Jeopardy!*). Students must answer in the form of questions.

DIVIDE the class into teams.

READ the statements.

CALL on the first team with a hand raised.

CORRECT ANSWER = 10 points
 WRONG ANSWER = -10 points
 (And another team may respond for the same chance to gain or lose 10 points.)

BACK TO LIBYA

❶ He is the dictator who has ruled Libya since 1969.	Who is Muammar el-Qaddafi?
❷ President Thomas Jefferson ordered an attack on pirates from here, part of which is now Libya.	What were the Barbary States?
❸ In 1986, President Ronald Reagan referred to Qaddafi as this.	What is “this mad dog of the Middle East”?
❹ Pan Am Flight 103 exploded over this town, killing 270 people.	Where is Lockerbie, Scotland?
❺ Libya is an important producer of this resource.	What is oil?

1951: THE ROSENBERG TRIAL

❶ This was a period of heightened tension and an arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union.	What was the Cold War?
❷ The Rosenbergs were convicted of passing secrets about this to the Soviet Union.	What is the atomic bomb?
❸ He was Ethel Rosenberg’s brother, and he testified against her.	Who was David Greenglass?
❹ He held Senate hearings to find Communists who had allegedly infiltrated the State Department.	Who was Senator Joseph McCarthy?
❺ This was the name of America’s secret atomic-research program.	What is the Manhattan Project?

QUIZ 1 ► PAGE TE 5

- ❶ [c] they interact with Afghan women in ways that male Marines cannot.
- ❷ [d] women aren't allowed in direct combat.
- ❸ [c] The policy doesn't apply in a war without fronts, where combat can happen anyplace.
- ❹ [b] sometimes speak quite freely with female Marines.
- ❺ [c] served as nurses.

QUIZ 2 ► PAGE TE 5

- ❶ [d] a stock exchange that includes many technology stocks
- ❷ [b] a bull market
- ❸ [c] labor costs
- ❹ [d] owes more on a mortgage than the home is worth
- ❺ [a] spending money.

QUIZ 3 ► PAGE TE 6

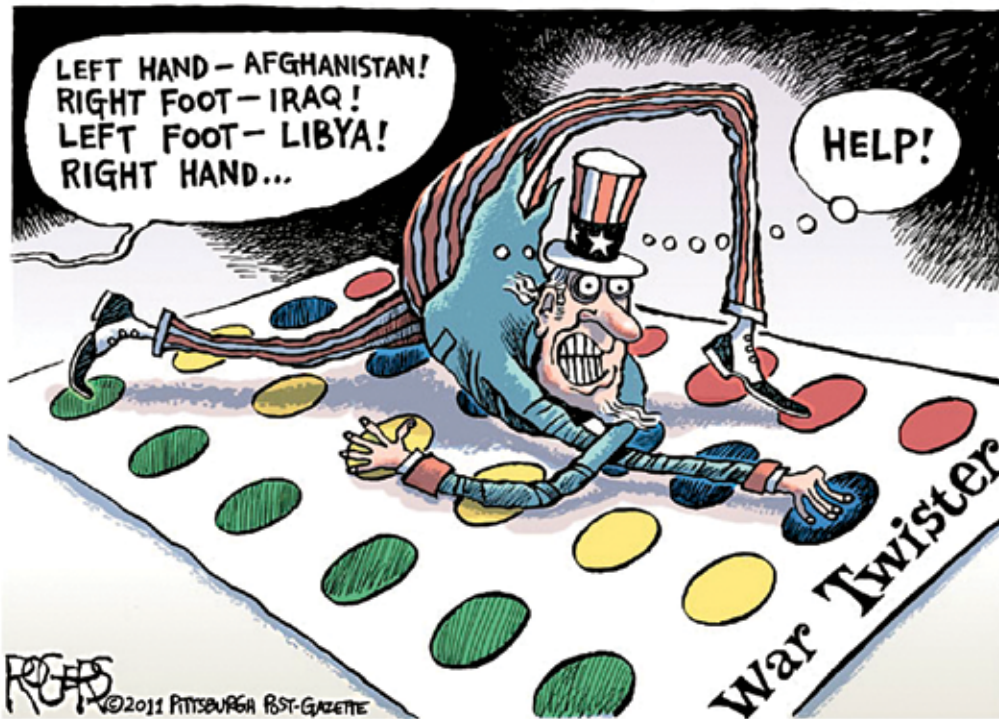
- ❶ [d] 34
- ❷ [c] criminals who have been on death row for more than 20 years
- ❸ [c] to give states time to ensure it was being used only for the worst offenders
- ❹ [b] Young people can't be held to the same standard of accountability as adults.
- ❺ [a] an innocent person could be executed.

GRAPH ► PAGE TE 4

- ❶ [c] 10
- ❷ [d] 3-year drop
- ❸ [b] 8
- ❹ [c] 150 million
- ❺ [a] early '80s

**ONLINE TEACHER
RESOURCES & DIGITAL
EDITIONS PASSWORD:
court**

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ANALYZE THE POLITICAL CARTOON

- 1 Who or what does the man playing Twister represent?
- 2 Why is he trying to reach Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya? What do these nations have in common?
- 3 What does the character's facial expression suggest?
- 4 What view do you think the cartoonist has of America's current foreign policy?
- 5 In your opinion, should the U.S. military have intervened in Libya? Why or why not?

PHOTO ANALYSIS

LEONARD DETRICK/NY DAILY NEWS ARCHIVE VIA GETTY IMAGES



ANALYZE THE PHOTO

[See page 16 in the magazine.]

- 1 What might the Rosenberg boys have been thinking as they watched TV reports about their parents' imminent execution?
- 2 Why do you think the news media published this photo in 1953?
- 3 Why do you think no family members would take the boys in?

ESSAY

When sentencing a criminal, should judges ever consider whether he or she has young children? Explain.