

Issues Now in the News

Adam Worcester



War News Summarized

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1944

The Allies began their offensive in Normandy on June 6, 1944, with the D-Day landings. The operation was a major turning point in the war, as it allowed the Allies to establish a beachhead on the European continent. The initial success of the landings was followed by a series of battles, including the Battle of the Falaise, which resulted in the capture of the city of Falaise and the destruction of the German army in the region. The Allies then moved on to Paris, which was liberated on June 26, 1944. The liberation of Paris was a significant event, as it marked the first time that a major city in Europe had been liberated by the Allies. The Allies then continued their advance, and by the end of the month, they had reached the German border. The war in Europe ended on May 8, 1945, with the unconditional surrender of the German forces.

Voices Appreciated in Both Departments in Message to Trough at St. Peter's

The Vatican has received a message from the United States and the United Kingdom, expressing appreciation for the role of the Holy See in the war. The message was delivered to the Pope at St. Peter's Basilica. The message praised the Vatican's efforts to provide humanitarian aid to the victims of the war and its role in promoting peace. The Pope expressed his gratitude for the message and his hope for a peaceful future. The message was signed by the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. The Vatican's role in the war was significant, as it provided a neutral ground for negotiations and provided humanitarian aid to the victims of the war. The Vatican's efforts were appreciated by the Allies, and the message was a testament to the Vatican's commitment to peace and humanitarianism.

ALLIED WAR NEWS FLASHED TO COAST

People told to clear area
22 miles inland as Soviet
instructions are given

The Allies have received a message from the Soviet Union, expressing appreciation for the role of the Allies in the war. The message was delivered to the Soviet leadership. The message praised the Allies' efforts to provide humanitarian aid to the victims of the war and their role in promoting peace. The Allies expressed their gratitude for the message and their hope for a peaceful future. The message was signed by the Soviet leadership. The Allies' role in the war was significant, as they provided a neutral ground for negotiations and provided humanitarian aid to the victims of the war. The Allies' efforts were appreciated by the Soviet Union, and the message was a testament to the Allies' commitment to peace and humanitarianism.

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Eisenhower Instructs Europeans, Gives Battle Order to His Armies

President Eisenhower has issued a message to the European Allies, instructing them to give the battle order to his armies. The message was delivered to the European leadership. The message praised the European Allies' efforts to provide humanitarian aid to the victims of the war and their role in promoting peace. Eisenhower expressed his gratitude for the message and his hope for a peaceful future. The message was signed by Eisenhower. Eisenhower's role in the war was significant, as he provided a neutral ground for negotiations and provided humanitarian aid to the victims of the war. Eisenhower's efforts were appreciated by the European Allies, and the message was a testament to Eisenhower's commitment to peace and humanitarianism.



Issues Now in the News Second Edition

Adam Worcester

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Table of Contents

Introduction	5
International Concerns	
1. Immigration Debate	7
2. Automakers Going Green	13
3. Foreign Aid	19
4. Safe Water	25
5. World Population Growth	31
World Affairs	
6. Kosovo: Waiting for Independence	37
7. Egypt: Youth and Democracy	43
8. "New Europe" Goes Global	49
9. Africa: Poverty, Politics, and Disease	55
10. China: Waiting for Democracy	61
Life & Trends	
11. Cape Town Carnival	67
12. America's Changing Family	73
13. Populations Aging Worldwide	79
14. Safety for Kids on the Net	85
15. Indian Tradition and the Internet	91
Environment & Health	
16. Health Care in India	97
17. Bio-fuels: An Alternative to Gasoline	103
18. New Targets to Disrupt HIV	109
19. Hero of the Planet	115
20. Prescription Sleep Aids	121
Culture & Entertainment	
21. Writers Demand Human Rights	127
22. Women: Their Unique Beauty	133
23. Martin Scorsese: America's "Real" Director	139
24. Korean Pop Culture	145
25. Video Games	151
Answer Key	157

Introduction

Issues Now in the News is a 25-unit course-book designed to bring current events of worldwide interest and concern into the English-language classroom. Each unit focuses on an article originally produced for Voice of America (VOA). Voice of America (www.voanews.com), which first went on the air in 1942, is a multimedia international broadcasting service funded by the US government through the Broadcasting Board of Governors. VOA broadcasts more than 1,000 hours of news, information, educational, and cultural programming every week to an estimated worldwide audience of more than 115 million people.

Selected news articles are drawn from diverse nations and cultures and have been carefully chosen to provide a wide range of interesting topics. Each unit is methodically planned around the central topic to engage students' interest while improving general knowledge and providing useful language practice. Each article is accompanied by full-color photographs drawn primarily from news photo or agency services; these images have been carefully selected to highlight and clarify the content of each article. The goal of this text is to inspire and encourage students to take an interest in issues that are of global importance — i.e. politics, lifestyle choices, culture, ecology, economy, climatology, the environment, etc. — and to discuss aspects of these issues in an English-language context.

Issues Now in the News is an excellent resource for English-language instruction for students at more advanced levels, especially in college or university settings. Because the source material for this book was created for a native English-speaking audience, the language used is elevated and topic-specific, which facilitates the learning of vocabulary in a real world context for foreigner second-language learners. The beginning of each unit introduces the topic, highlights key points to notice, and provides background information on the topic in order to contextualize the subject matter. The reading text is followed by activities which are specifically designed to promote vocabulary learning and retention through reading, writing, and discussion. Another attractive feature of ***Issues Now in the News*** is that audio recordings of the articles are provided along with text transcripts. This combination of listening, reading, and writing activities mutually reinforces overall learning and retention of the integrated materials. Taken as a whole, with the topics for guided discussion at the end of each unit serving as a stimulus for spoken language, this course-book leaves nothing to be desired in terms of language focus and cognitive content for more advanced English-language learners.

Immigration Debate

Warm-up

The U.S. and European governments wish to place restrictions on immigration into their countries from poorer neighboring regions. Many of the citizens in richer nations resent the entry of unskilled laborers into their countries. These citizens feel the newcomers rely on taxpayer money and charity to survive. Skilled and educated workers are generally more welcome. Immigrants are protesting the attempts by governments to stop them from gaining entry to, and building a life in, countries with more successful economies. They contend such policies are unfair and cruel and that they have the right to try to earn a living.

Is there a place for immigrants in developed nations? Experts disagree.

Points to Notice

As you read, pay attention to the information and opinions associated with each of the following people:

- Amirouche Laradjane – Algerian illegal immigrant in France
- Nicolas Sarkozy – French Interior Minister
- Francis Barjot – Catholic priest at Saint Hippolyte Church in Paris
- Daniele Joly – Head of the Centre for Research and Ethnic Relations
- Bakari Coulibali – a Muslim immigrant from Bamako, Mali
- Hans Entzinger – Immigration expert at Erasmus University

Cultural Notes and Background

Some immigrants consider themselves refugees fleeing corrupt governments. Many immigrants are simply moving from poorer neighboring nations in search of better opportunities and a higher standard of living. In the past, people could move around the world freely, and entry or exit between countries was not regulated. These days, however, there are strict regulations in place. That is why travelers all carry passports that are stamped by immigration officials when they travel, and why they are issued visas that allow them to stay in a country legally for only a limited period of time. A working visa, or American “green card,” is a permit allowing one to work legally in a country of which one is not a citizen. Without such a visa, a person breaks the law by taking up employment.

Immigration Debate Stirring on Both Sides of Atlantic

The immigration debate is heating up on both sides of the Atlantic, pitting advocates for legalizing illegal immigrants against those who support stronger anti-immigration measures. In the United States, more than a million people marched last week to demand greater immigrant rights. The welcome mat is vanishing for immigrants in large parts of Western Europe, at least for low-skilled foreign workers living in the region illegally.

At breakfast for the homeless at Saint Hippolyte Roman Catholic church in Paris, Algerian immigrant Amirouche Laradjane munches on a thick slice of bread as he discusses new French legislation aimed at tightening immigration rules.

Laradjane, who has been living illegally in France for the past three years, calls the draft bill shameful. He says France's center-right government is fascist. And he says the bill's author, Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy, who is of Hungarian extraction, had forgotten his own immigrant roots.

The immigration legislation is now being examined by France's parliament. If passed, it would make it harder for illegal foreigners like Laradjane to gain residency, and for families of immigrants to settle here. The bill also aims to select out highly skilled workers from blue-collared ones like Laradjane, who works in construction.

Sarkozy says the bill will reduce rising anti-immigration sentiments in France, while also

responding to skilled labor shortages in certain economic sectors. He describes the legislation as balanced and just.

But critics call the bill mean-spirited and unfair. Christian churches have taken a leading role in demanding the legislation be softened. Clerics like Francis Barjot, parish priest at Saint Hippolyte, worry about the future of illegal immigrants in France.

Father Barjot believes the legislation will pass. He fears that in a few years France will enact even tougher legislation against illegal immigrants, forcing them to sink even further in the shadows.

Many French churches have offered shelter to these illegal immigrants, including Saint Hippolyte, located in a heavily Chinese neighborhood in southern Paris. Last week, 150 foreigners came there to seek a place to stay, and to air their protests against the immigration legislation. Father Barjot took them in, offering a bed to some and free breakfast to everyone.

As he sipped a large bowl of coffee and milk, Bakari Coulibali, 45, said he was grateful for the church's generosity.

"I thank these Christians," says Coulibali, who is a Muslim from Bamako, Mali. "In the morning, we all get coffee and a piece of bread. What do we have besides this?" he asks. "Nothing."

A one-time farmer outside Bamako, Coulibali emigrated to France 16 years ago, hoping to find a



Thousands of demonstrators march through the streets of downtown Los Angeles May 1, 2006, as part of what is being billed as 'A Day Without Immigrants,' a nationwide protest staged by immigrant rights advocates to protest proposed legislation to reform U.S. immigration law.

(REUTERS/Lucas Jackson)



Dozens of Central American citizens hang off a train in Tapachula, Chiapas, Mexico, en route to the U.S., in this January, 2003, file photo. Immigration rights activists report that more than 400 migrants are known to have died in the last year, as people are forced to take more dangerous mountain and desert routes since U.S. security tightened its measures against undocumented immigration.

(AP Photo/Juan de Dios Garcia)

better job and life. He has found work here and there — in construction, cleaning houses, emptying trash. But today, Coulibali is homeless and without legal working papers; his future is bleak.

“I want legal papers to work like everyone else,” he said. “We want our papers.”

France is not alone in trying to select out its immigrants. Increasingly, experts say, European governments are introducing new immigration tests and other screening devices to attract only the brightest and most qualified workers. In principle at least, the attitudes toward unqualified and illegal foreigners is hardening, says Daniele Joly, head of the Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations at the University of Warwick in England.

“There is a general trend of regulating and restricting immigration, and in particular asylum [seekers],” she said. “But also illegal immigration. The door, in appearance, is closed to immigration and the discourse of politicians is very hostile to immigration.”

The Netherlands and Germany have passed new screening tests to draw in skilled workers and those who share their social and political values. The European Union is also considering a similar integration contract.

Spain and Greece have granted amnesty to several million illegal immigrants, but they continue to ship many others home. Even countries like Denmark, with a history of openness toward immigrants, are closing up their borders.

Unlike the United States, fear of tighter immigration restrictions has not sparked massive rallies in Europe. Hans Entzinger, an immigration expert at Erasmus University Rotterdam, in the Netherlands, explains why.

“Illegal immigrants are very poorly organized, almost by definition. And no one takes an interest in them,” he said. “This has to do with general anti-immigration feelings. It’s very difficult to find an organization that defends the rights of illegal immigrants.”

In France, high unemployment and last autumn’s riots by ethnic immigrant youths have sharpened anti-immigration sentiments. Many recent surveys show strong support for tighter immigration measures, the bread and butter rhetoric of the far right.

Indeed, a poll published Friday in *Le Figaro* magazine found Jean-Marie Le Pen, head of the far-right National Front party, coasting on an 18 percent approval rating — slightly higher than in 2002, when he placed second in French presidential elections. Le Pen, 77, is now stumping for next year’s presidential race with a new slogan: “France, Love It or Leave It.”

Sarkozy, another presidential hopeful, is also borrowing some of Le Pen’s rhetoric, experts say.

Anti-immigration sentiments are similarly feeding far-right parties in Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, Austria, and Britain — where the British National Party doubled its number of local councilors in English elections Thursday.

Still, immigration experts like Daniele Joly say the tough talk in Europe is not always matched by action. Britain, for example, delivered 400,000 work permits to immigrants last year alone. At the end of the day, she says, European politicians and economists realize, with the continent’s population declining, they need more immigration, including unskilled workers.

By Lisa Bryant Paris 06 May 2006
Voice of America

Words and Idioms

Vocabulary

Match each word to its definition.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. immigration (n) ● | ● a. to limit; to prevent |
| 2. illegally (adv) ● | ● b. a march or meeting organized to protest something |
| 3. blue-collar (adj) ● | ● c. the political language of an argument |
| 4. sentiment (n) ● | ● d. a legal agreement between two or more parties |
| 5. homeless (adj) ● | ● e. an expert who studies money matters, business, and finance |
| 6. unqualified (adj) ● | ● f. a person who asks permission to live in another country, usually due to political dangers in the home country |
| 7. restrict (v) ● | ● g. a pardon granted by a government to lawbreakers, usually for political offenses |
| 8. asylum seeker (n) ● | ● h. the frontier line separating one country from another |
| 9. hostile (adj) ● | ● i. being trained, able, qualified, or talented |
| 10. skilled (adj) ● | ● j. without education and training in a specific field |
| 11. contract (n) ● | ● k. being without a house or apartment to live in |
| 12. amnesty (n) ● | ● l. negative; unfriendly; aggressive |
| 13. border (n) ● | ● m. the movement of people into one nation from another |
| 14. rally (n) ● | ● n. a document that grants official permission to do something |
| 15. rhetoric (n) ● | ● o. an emotion; a feeling or set of feelings |
| 16. economist (n) ● | ● p. in a manner that breaks the law |
| 17. permit (n) ● | ● q. related to workers whose jobs involve manual labor |

Idioms and Expressions

Fill in the blanks with the correct idiom or expression.

the welcome mat is vanishing: to be no longer welcome where one once was

The welcome mat has vanished at Tom's new job because he hasn't produced the necessary sales.

to take (someone) in: to offer someone food and shelter; to care for someone

I took in my sister's orphaned children after her death.

bread and butter: the basic and most important source of income

The bread and butter of a mechanic's job is fixing leaky exhaust pipes.

1. As a freelance writer, writing catalogues is how I earn my _____.
2. After my divorce from Frank, _____ at his parents' home.
3. Are you planning to _____ the stray puppy I found on your doorstep?

Exploring Content

A. Two of the following statements are FALSE according to the passage. Check (✓) the FALSE statements.

1. ___ More than one million Americans marched to protest new legislation granting immigrants special rights.
2. ___ France's interior minister, Nicolas Sarkozy, wants to be France's next president.
3. ___ Christian churches in France don't want to help illegal immigrants.
4. ___ Last year, the British government issued 400,000 work permits to immigrants.

Rewrite the FALSE statements using information from the passage to make them TRUE.

- a) _____
- b) _____

B. Choose the best answer.

1. What is the main idea of the article?
 - a. Immigrants are welcome in developed countries if they are skilled.
 - b. Working illegally is inevitable for foreign immigrants in Europe and the U.S.
 - c. Immigration is a worldwide problem, and most countries hate immigrants.
 - d. Immigration is a complex problem that cannot be easily resolved.

2. What can be inferred about Jean-Marie Le Pen?
 - a. He is strongly in favor of immigration.
 - b. He wants Nicolas Sarkozy to become France's next president.
 - c. He needs 18 percent approval to introduce new anti-immigration legislation.
 - d. He wants to be France's next president.

3. Read the following sentence:

"Anti-immigration sentiments are similarly feeding far-right parties in Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, Austria, and Britain — where the British National Party doubled its number of local councilors in English elections Thursday."

Which of the following sentences best expresses the essential information in the above sentence?

- a. Local councilors from far-right parties are feeding poor immigrants in Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, Austria, and Britain.
- b. The British National Party held an election in which immigrants became local councilors.
- c. Conservative political parties in Europe are becoming more powerful because more people are supporting their anti-immigration sentiments.
- d. Anti-immigration sentiments help far-right parties to double their councilors in elections.

Summary & Discussion

Summary

Fill in the blanks.

welcome mat	take them in	illegally	borders	blue-collar
skilled	immigration	sentiments	restrict	hostile

Immigrants who are living in European countries 1 _____ are finding that the 2 _____ has been removed. Far-right political parties are trying to pass legislation that keeps them from crossing 3 _____ and entering these nations. Most immigrants are unskilled, 4 _____ workers who are looking for job opportunities. However, negative 5 _____ from the citizens and conservative politicians are making life hard for these immigrants. Often, their only hope is charity from institutions, like the Catholic Church, which 6 _____ and offer them basic food and shelter. Illegal immigrants have a hard time understanding the 7 _____ attitude towards them. All they want is to have an opportunity for a better life. Instead, far-right parties that support anti-immigration laws want to 8 _____ the entry of foreigners. Immigrants are generally only welcome if they are 9 _____ professionals; unskilled workers have a much harder time surviving. The trend towards an anti-10 _____ stance tends to be overtaking Europe, and also the U.S. to some degree.

Discussion

Discuss these questions with your class.

1. Would you consider immigrating to another country? Why or why not?
2. Do you think illegal immigrants in the U.S. and Europe have a right to be there? Justify your answer.
3. Do you think illegal immigrants have become a social problem in your country?
4. Explain the difference between an illegal immigrant and a refugee.

Automakers Going Green

Warm-up

As gasoline prices soar toward \$4 a gallon in the United States, automobile manufacturers are working harder than ever to develop and sell fuel-efficient vehicles. These fall into three primary categories: 1) cars and trucks that get more miles per gallon of gas; 2) new types of vehicles that use fuels other than gasoline; and 3) electric and hybrid cars, which rely completely or partially on electricity.

Points to Notice

As you read, consider the comments made by Troy Clarke, General Motors North America president, and Paul Eisenstein, a longtime automotive writer. What does Clarke say about the future of US automobiles? What does Eisenstein claim about the US demand for large vehicles? What does Eisenstein pose as the current dilemma for US automakers?

Cultural Notes and Background

America depends on the automobile more than any other country. In 2006, there were about 137 million autos in the United States. More than sixty-five percent of American households own more than one vehicle, and in many families there is one car for each person old enough to drive. The average American drives his or her car about 13,000 miles a year, and consumes nearly 550 annual gallons of gas. Between 1992 and 2005, the number of alternative-fuel cars in the US, including electric cars, more than doubled. In 1992, there were only about 1,600 electric cars in America. By 2006, there were nearly 51,500.

Automakers Show Off Green, Fuel-Efficient Vehicles

More than 6,700 reporters from forty-two nations are in Detroit for the news media preview of that city's North American International Auto Show, which opens to the general public this weekend. This year's show emphasizes fuel efficiency and green technology, but, as VOA's Greg Flakus reports from Detroit, there are also plenty of big glitzy cars and trucks on display.

On display in Detroit's downtown Cobo Convention Center are 700 vehicles from all the major automakers, including local companies like General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, and companies from China, Japan, and Europe. Around fifty new vehicles are being introduced by various manufacturers.

US automakers are making a big effort this year to go green, showing off many varieties of low-emission, fuel-efficient vehicles, including hybrids, fuel-cell cars, and vehicles that run on ethanol and bio-diesel fuels. General Motors announced that it has invested heavily in Cosaka Incorporated, an Illinois firm that claims to have developed a cost-cutting technology for producing ethanol, an alcohol fuel produced from plant material.

Most ethanol today is produced from corn,

but Cosaka plans on using waste material like corn stalks and wood chips.

General Motors North America President, Troy Clarke, tells VOA that his company sees a need to move away from reliance on gasoline as the only fuel for its cars.

"The next 25 years, maybe even longer, looks a lot like the early part of the (20th) century in the auto industry," Clarke said.



Peter Horbury, Executive Director of design, Ford Motor Company, introduced the 2008 Lincoln MKT concept car during the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan on January 14, 2008.

(EPA/Charlie Cortez)

"There will be a lot of different propulsion systems. Ninety-six percent of the vehicles in the US today are moved by gasoline. We need to diversify that."

Clarke says his industry has been wrongly criticized for being slow to innovate. He says General Motors began developing an electric car many years ago and has also developed other kinds of fuel-efficient vehicles.

“Now we have eight hybrids in the market today,” he said. “We have 16 on the way between now and, I think, the end of next year, and we can compete very effectively in the hybrid area. But we really have never given up on our vision of an electric vehicle.”

General Motors is still testing a new battery to power the Chevrolet Volt, an advanced electric hybrid that was first shown here last year, but which may not be ready for market for a few more years.

Veteran automotive journalist Paul Eisenstein, who writes for *The Car Connection.com*, says car makers use the North American International Auto Show to introduce such innovations and get the word out to people around the world.

“This is a place that the manufacturers come, not just to talk to consumers directly, but to talk to a global media,” Eisenstein said. “This is a place where they can get to everyone from the small bloggers in the Czech Republic to the big networks here in North America. It is no wonder that virtually every manufacturer in the world is here, including five of the Chinese manufacturers that are looking to try to get into the North American market over the next couple of years.”

While automakers are emphasizing fuel efficiency and reduced carbon emissions this year, they are also showing off a lot of big cargo pick up trucks, sport utility vehicles and gas-



The Jeep Renegade concept is introduced during the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan on January 14, 2008.

(EPA/Rob Widdis)

guzzling luxury cars. Paul Eisenstein says that is simply a response to continuing demand for those vehicles.

“The reality is Americans like big, they like power, they like performance, they like towing and cargo-hauling and people-hauling capabilities,” he said. “So for anybody to say we should stop producing these big trucks and go to produce these small, high-mileage cars, is ridiculous. The market is there for the big vehicles.”

Eisenstein says US car makers are trying to satisfy the demand for larger vehicles, while at the same time trying to meet new regulations from Washington that require them to improve fuel efficiency. That could be a real challenge for an industry that is already struggling to keep up with foreign competition.

The North American International Auto Show began in Detroit as a local event in 1907. The event went international twenty years ago, but it is still organized locally by the Detroit Auto Dealers Association.

By Greg Flakus Detroit 14 January 2008
Voice of America