

# The New York Times Research Topics

## Pro-Con.org

Superb Resource for Controversial and Debatable Topics.

William Walker - Was an American "adventurist" who attempted to conquer several Latin American countries in the mid-19th century. Did this lone man embody the foreign policy of the US at the time?

Centralia, PA - Did you know there is a town that has been nearly vacated because of a fire burning since 1962. **Centralia** is a borough and ghost town in Columbia County, Pennsylvania, United States. Its population has dwindled from over 1,000 residents in 1981 to 12 in 2005<sup>[1]</sup> and 9 in 2007,<sup>[2]</sup> as a result of a mine fire burning beneath the borough since 1962.

Smedley Butler - was a Major General in the U.S. Marine Corps and the most decorated Marine in U.S. history. Was he a hero in trying to expose the military industrial complex or was he simply a crazed eccentric? He was involved in a controversy known as the business plot when he told a congressional committee that a group of wealthy industrialists had approached him to lead a military coup to overthrow FDR. He presented his testimony before a congressional committee and although they determined that there was sufficient evidence to prove that such a plot probably existed, no charges were filed and no arrests were made.

WACO - The **Waco Siege** began on February 28, 1993 when the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) attempted to execute a search warrant at the Branch Davidian ranch. An exchange of gunfire resulted in the deaths of four agents and six followers of David Koresh. The compound was under siege until the government stormed the compound resulting in the destruction and death of all the followers inside the compound. The fire was set ablaze by David Koresh. -- Should the government have waited out the followers?

British Invasion of Iraq (1914-1926) and Afghanistan (1839). What lessons can be learned from the British?

Why is Afghanistan called the "Graveyard of Empires?"

Cyber Warfare - Is this a new strategy in warfare? What are the consequences of such an attack? Examples of use: South-Ossetia War or Russian-Georgian War of the summer of 2008. July 2009 Cyber Attacks on the United States.

The Berlin Wall **20 Years Later**: What was the Berlin Airlift and why was the wall a symbol of the Cold War?

Revolutionary War:

- Battle of Trenton
- Princeton (Who was General Hugh Mercer? Why was a county named after him?)
- Battle of Monmouth (Who was Molly Pitcher?)

The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire- America's worse sweatshop disaster.

The Iranian "Green" Movement - Summer 2009.

The Iranian Coup 1953--Was the CIA justified in overthrowing a democratically elected leader?

History of the Ouija board? Is it really the gateway to hell?

Hugo Chavez- Defiant rebel of authoritative dictator?

Vladimir Putin- Dictator of Russia

Do vegetarians help save the Earth- i.e. slow global warming?

Did factory farming cause the swine flu? What is factory farming?

T.A.R.P. -- What is it? Why is the public so upset?

What's the Spanish Flu of 1918? How is different from H1N1?

Advertising- Brilliant marketing or invasion of thoughts?

Is Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia a consequence of advertising?

Why is Lila W. Thompson considered the mother of New Egypt? Who was she and what did she do?

Is the Russian government murdering journalists and human rights activists?

Look up Anna Politkovskaya

Is Goldman Sachs the Satan of Wall St? Why are they so hated by the public?

The Mexican drug war-- Who is to blame for the violence?

Is George W. Bush a war criminal?

School Shootings - Does the media help fuel copy-cats?

Should there be an armed guard in every school?

Would this reduce the number of murdered?

Why doesn't this happen in other industrialized countries?

Columbus Finding America

Is Columbus a murderer or hero?

Did he really find it first?

What if he didn't find it?

Significance

America

Are we our own worst enemy?

Are we really "free?"

Define freedom

Why is it a good thing?

Why is it a bad thing?

Eminent domain

9/11

Could it have been prevented?

Life pre 9/11

Life post 9/11

America Too Politically Correct

In god we trust?

Organized religion hurts/kills others?

Beliefs are being restrained from expression

What is the world coming to?

Atomic Bomb

Roman Empire and US compare and contrast - Influence on modern day

Japans Foreign Affairs

China + Russia-Compare economies (communistic)

Life on Mars VS.. Life on Earth

Genetically Engineered Food

Sweatshops

Salem Witch Trials? Was Ergot poisoning to blame? What is Ergot poisoning?

Is Microsoft Evil ?

Globalization: Pros and Cons

Was the JFK assassination a conspiracy?

Is Google becoming an overpowered monopoly? (Googlezon)

Can Animals Predict Disasters?

How author's lives affect their work

Women's rights in China

Is China America's next greatest enemy? Friend or Foe

The Dredd Scott Decision

Is the Electoral College Outdated?

Romance in Britain Literature

The Knights Templar

Tibet and the Dalai Lama

The Human Memory

Women's Rights

G.W. Bush-Good or Bad Political Decisions

The Death Penalty-Inhumane

Tookie Williams - Uplifted man or heartless murderer?

The effect of divorce on children

Genocide in Sudan

Genocide in Rwanda

Chechnyan Terrorism

Aids in Africa

The Pope – John Paul the 2<sup>nd</sup> or Benedict?

Terri Schiavo Murder or Compassion.

Nanotechnology- benefits and pitfalls

Air line safety or lack thereof

Al Qaeda

Is Pakistan the most dangerous country in the world?

Animal communication (horse whisperer)

Abortion

Adoption

Affirmative action

AIDS (Disease)

Alcoholism

Alternative education

Alternative energy sources

Animal experimentation

Arms control

Assisted suicide

Athletes and drugs

Binge drinking

Bioethics

Biotech foods

Birth control

Business ethics

Campaign finance

Capital punishment

Censorship

Cheating (educational)

Chemical and biological weapons

Child abuse

Child labor

Church and state

Civil rights

Cloning

Conservation of natural resources

Copyright infringement

Corporate scandals

Criminal justice

Crop circles

Cyber crime

Cyber predators

Death penalty

Depression, Mental

Divorce

Doping in sports

Drug abuse

Drug testing (sports, schools, ect.)

Drunk driving

Eating disorders

Educational tests and measurements

Election 2008  
Endangered species  
Environmentalism  
Ethics  
Ethnic conflict  
Ethnic relations  
Euthanasia  
Evolution (Biology)  
Exotic animal smuggling  
Family violence  
Food, Safety measures  
Freedom of information act  
Freedom of religion  
Freedom of speech  
Freedom of the press  
Gambling  
Gangs  
Garbage and waste  
Gay rights  
Genetic engineering  
Genocide  
Global warming  
Globalization  
Gun control  
Gun industry lawsuits  
Hate crimes  
Hazing  
Health care reform  
Homeland security  
Homelessness  
Human cloning  
Human rights  
Human trafficking  
Identity theft  
Immigration  
International space station  
Iraq crisis

Iraq war  
Islamic fundamentalism  
Juvenile crime  
Juvenile delinquency  
Labor unions  
Legalization of drugs  
Marijuana Legalization  
Medical ethics  
Medical malpractice  
Medical marijuana  
Missile defense programs  
Narcotics, Control of  
Nuclear energy  
Nuclear weapons  
Obesity  
Obesity epidemic  
Osama bin Laden  
Outsourcing  
Overpopulation  
Plastic surgery  
Police brutality  
Political scandals  
Pollution  
Popular culture  
Poverty  
Privacy, Right of  
Property rights  
Public welfare  
Racial profiling  
Racism  
Religious fundamentalism  
Same sex marriage  
School prayer  
School uniforms  
School violence  
Sex education  
Sleep disorders

Smoking

Smoking: Are smokers losing their rights?

Social security reform

Stem cell research

Steroids

Substance abuse

Suicide

Taxation

Teenage pregnancy

Teenagers, Alcohol use

Teenage suicidal behavior

Terrorism

Tobacco industry

Treatment of prisoners

Unemployment

Violence in mass media

Weapons of mass destruction

Welfare

Women's rights

World hunger

Youth gangs

United Nations (useless?)

Right to Die

Permanent affects of LSD

History of New Egypt

Great People of New Jersey

American Deficit

Sars

West Nile

Bird flu

Civil rights

Great men of history

Great women of history

Weathermen (American terrorists or freedom fighters)

Patty Hearst

Chechens terrorist

Gangster Rap harmful

Affirmative action

Early Americans terrorist against Indians?

Iran's nuclear option

Abortion

When Does Human Life Begin?

Abortion Pill: RU-486

Fetal Homicide Laws

Anorexia

-Increasing in today's world?

-Becoming the image of girls around the world, is it good or bad?

Censorship

-is today's media censor happy?

-are they censoring enough

Diet and Nutrition

Poverty in the US

Bullying in Schools

Cell phones in School

-Should schools be made no service areas to keep phones out?

-Should cell phones be allowed in school?

Electronic Voting

-Safe or not?

-Can it be hacked?

HPV Vaccine

-Is it effective

Illiteracy

-Too much channel changing not enough page turning?

Music Downloading

-Stealing or not?

-Should it be legal or illegal

Obesity

-Should obese people have the right to be big

-Is obesity a growing problem in America

Parental Consent

-Abortion, Should girls under 18 need parental consent?