



Learn More About...

U.S. Budget Priorities

An Annotated Bibliography

Web Links

Center for Economic and Policy Research <<http://www.cepr.net/>>

This web site promotes democratic debate on economic and social issues, presenting the issues in an accurate and understandable manner.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities <<http://www.cbpp.org/>>

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities is one of the nation's premier policy organizations working at the federal and state levels on fiscal policy and public programs that affect low- and moderate-income families and individuals. The Center conducts research and analysis to inform public debates over proposed budget and tax policies and to help ensure that the needs of low-income families and individuals are considered in these debates.

Coalition on Human Needs <<http://www.chn.org/>>

The Coalition on Human Needs is an alliance of national organizations working together to promote public policies which address the needs of low-income and other vulnerable populations.

Economic Policy Institute <<http://www.epinet.org/>>

The Economic Policy Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank that seeks to broaden the public debate about strategies to achieve a prosperous and fair economy. The mission of the Economic Policy Institute is to provide high-quality research and education in order to promote a prosperous, fair, and sustainable economy. The Institute stresses real world analysis and a concern for the living standards of working people, and it makes its findings accessible to the general public, the media and policy makers.

NETWORK Catholic Social Justice Lobby <<http://www.networklobby.org/>>

NETWORK is a progressive voice within the Catholic community that has been influencing Congress in favor of peace and justice for more than 30 years. Through lobbying and legislative advocacy, NETWORK strives to close the gap between rich and poor and to dismantle policies rooted in racism, greed and violence.

National Priorities Project <<http://www.nationalpriorities.org/>>

The National Priorities Project (NPP) offers citizen and community groups tools and resources to shape federal budget and policy priorities which promote social and economic justice. They link political analysis to action by serving as a bridge between policy organizations and grassroots groups. NPP translates policy information into everyday language and assists national and grassroots groups in their efforts on such issues as improving their schools, creating living wage jobs and providing affordable housing.

Books

Jim Wallace, *God's Politics: How the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get it* (New York: Harper Collins, 2004).

In this call for a faith-based politics, evangelical Christian Jim Wallis excoriates both the left and the right in America for their mistaken positions on religion, a dispute which leaves the rest of us bereft and spiritually poorer. In his view, the left opts out by stubbornly refusing to allow religion a place at the table while the right hijacks religion for its own narrow agendas. Wallis says it is "time to reassert and reclaim the gospel faith--especially in our public life." He lays out what that progressive social agenda would encompass, and he calls for accountability on the part of politicians, policy makers, religious groups, and individuals.

Jeffery Sachs, *The End of Poverty: The Economic Possibilities of Our Time* (New York: Penguin, 2005).

As director of Columbia University's Earth Institute, Jeffrey Sachs has made news with a plan to end global "extreme poverty"--which, he says, kills 20,000 people a day--within 20 years. While much of the plan has been known to economists and government leaders for a number of years (including Kofi Annan, to whom Sachs is special advisor), this is Sachs's first systematic exposition of it for a general audience, and it is a landmark book. For on-the-ground research in reducing disease, poverty, armed conflict and environmental damage, Sachs has been to more than 100 countries, representing 90% of the world's population. The book combines his practical experience with sharp professional analysis and clear exposition.

John Iceland, *Poverty in America* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2003).

Poverty may have always been with us, but it hasn't always been the same. In an in-depth look at trends, patterns, and causes of poverty in the United States, John Iceland combines the latest statistical information, historical data, and social scientific theory to provide a comprehensive picture of poverty in America--a picture that shows how poverty is measured and understood and how this has changed over time, as well as how public policies have grappled with poverty as a political issue and an economic reality.

Jane Midgley, *Women and the U.S. Budget: Where the Money Goes and What You Can Do About it* (Gabriola Island, BC: New Society Publishers, 2005).

The national budget represents the common resources of the people of the United States. Yet only a few experts understand the full impact of budget policy on the American people. Since women comprise just a fraction of national decision-makers, women's needs and perspectives are largely left out of budget policy - a critical absence during our current era of rising deficits, increasing military and security budgets, and cutbacks in public investment. *Women and the U.S. Budget* helps fill the gap between the significance of the national budget in women's lives and the lack of information about it by focusing on budget literacy.

Articles/Papers

Dean Baker, "Can Progressives Do Arithmetic" *TruthOut*, 5 July 2006

<http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006/070506J.shtml>

When it comes to government social programs people care about the price tag. Unfortunately, the proponents of these programs never give a price tag, or at least they don't give one that the public can understand. As a result, many voters are resistant to spending on these programs, because they think they cost too much. The reality is that the price tag for most anti-poverty programs is quite small relative to the total federal budget.

Mark Greenberg, Indivar Dutta-Gupta and Elisa Minoff, "From Poverty to Prosperity: A National Strategy to Cut Poverty in Half," *Center for American Progress*, April 2007

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2007/04/poverty_report.html>

The Center for American Progress Task Force on Poverty outlines twelve key steps for cutting poverty in half in the next 10 years.

Robert Pollin and Heidi Garret-Peltier, "The U.S. Employment Effects of Military and Domestic Spending Priorities," *Institute for Policy Studies*, Oct. 2007, <<http://www.ips-dc.org/reports/071001-jobcreation.pdf>>

Robert Pollin and Heidi Garrett-Peltier consider the impact of military spending versus spending on a series of peaceful priorities – including health care, education, and energy conservation – on job creation in the U.S. The study finds, for example, that while investing a billion dollars of tax revenue in the military creates 8,500 jobs, investing the same amount in education or mass transit yields more than twice that number of jobs. This study is co-sponsored by the Institute for Policy Studies and Women's Action for New Directions.

Joan Chittister, OSB, "Is This Kind of Christianity Christian?" *National Catholic Reporter* 17 Feb. 2005,

<<http://www.nationalcatholicreporter.org/fwis/fw021705.htm>>

Joan Chittister speaks on the topic of "moral values" which received wide-spread attention during the 2004 presidential election. She questions the narrow lens through which issues of morality are defined.

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, "Economic Justice for All," USCCB, 1986,

<<http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/international/EconomicJusticeforAll.pdf>>

In the pastoral letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. economy, the U.S.C.C.B. writes that economic decisions have human consequences and moral content. They help or hurt people; strengthen or weaken family life; and advance or diminish the quality of justice in our land.

Periodicals/Newsletters

Dollars and Sense <<http://www.dollarsandsense.org/>>

NETWORK Connections <<http://www.networklobby.org/media/connection>>

Audio/Visual/Interactive Resources

True Majority's "Oreo Cookie Simulation"

<<http://www.truemajority.org/oreos/>>

Check out what our government's spending priorities really are, as Ben Cohen (co-founder of the Ben and Jerry's ice cream chain) uses Oreo cookies to demonstrate the amount of money that is allocated to defense spending verses other programs.

Social Security and the Common Good. Prod. Catholics for the Common Good, 2005

Presentations by Amata Miller, IHM, Rev. David Buersmeyer and Michael Hovey on social security, Catholic tradition and the common good.