

Brookings Institution Press

What Do We Do Now? That's the question Barack Obama and his transition staff are asking. And that's the title of a timely Brookings Institution Press book written by Stephen Hess, designed to provide the answers. Hess is a senior fellow *emeritus* in Governance Studies.

Early blunders can carry serious consequences well into a president's term. Drawing on his long personal experience as a White House staff member and presidential adviser, Hess has written a practical workbook to help the new president make crucial decisions during the transition period. The instructions offered here—including which presidential portraits to hang in the Oval Office—are also a delightful read for anyone interested in exactly how one goes about being the president of the United States.

In the months leading up to the election, more than 20 Brookings experts analyzed the problems confronting America and offered innovative policy solutions to the incoming administration. With Senior Fellow Michael O'Hanlon as editor, the Brookings Press presented the ideas in a volume titled *Opportunity 08: Independent Ideas for America's Next President*. Reflecting an impressive breadth of expertise, opinions, and political beliefs, the book outlines challenges including how to deal with Iran and Iraq, the rise of China, climate change, poverty and inequality, and retirement security.

The incoming chief executive

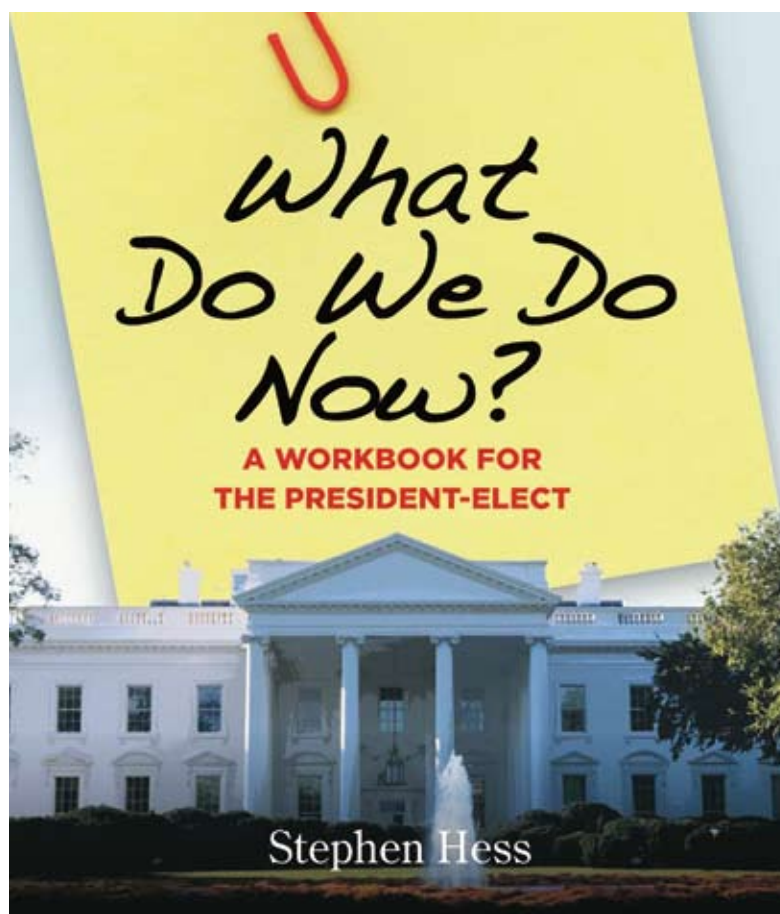
will also need to pursue a new strategic framework for advancing American interests in the Middle East. Martin S. Indyk, the director of the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at Brookings, and Richard N. Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, have authored *Restoring the Balance: A Middle East Strategy for the Next President*. In this vol-

Senior Fellow Clifford Winston and Gines de Rus, a professor of applied economics in Spain, edited *Aviation Infrastructure Performance: A Study in Comparative Political Economy*, a study that assesses congestion at airports and airline travel delays. It concludes that the United States has much to learn from other countries.

editor of *Twenty-First-Century Gateways: Immigrant Incorporation in Suburban America* with Susan W. Hardwick of the University of Oregon and Caroline B. Brettell of Southern Methodist University.

The fight against global poverty has quickly become one of the hottest tickets on the global agenda, with rock stars, world leaders, and multibillionaires calling attention to the plight of the poor at international confabs such as the World Economic Forum and the Clinton Global Initiative. Edited by Lael Brainard, vice president and director, Global Economy and Development, and Derek Chollet, a nonresident fellow in the program, *Global Development 2.0* celebrates this transformative trend within international aid and offers lessons to ensure that this wave of generosity yields lasting and widespread improvements to the lives and prospects of the world's poorest.

Many recent books were cited for distinctions this year: *Journey Into Islam: The Crisis of Globalization* by Akbar Ahmed won two prestigious awards. It was chosen "Book of the Week" by *The Guardian* newspaper in late June, and was named "Book of the Year" by the *Globalist* on-line magazine. *Choice* magazine cited four Brookings books as "Outstanding Academic Titles"—*Finance for Development: Latin America in Comparative Perspective*, by Barbara Stallings; *Integrating Islam: Political and Religious Challenges in Contemporary France*, by Jonathan Laurence and Justin Vaisse; *The Law-Growth Nexus: The Rule of Law and Economic Development*, by Kenneth W. Dam; and *Building a New Afghanistan*, edited by Robert I. Rotberg. ■



ume, experts suggest new strategic and tactical proposals to help the White House deal with Iran, Iraq, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and other challenges in the Middle East.

One major domestic problem the new president will need to resolve is the nation's flagging infrastructure. Economic Studies

Another new book focused on the fastest-growing immigrant populations in metropolitan areas with previously low levels of immigration—places such as Atlanta, Charlotte, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Portland, Sacramento, and Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Policy Program Senior Fellow Audrey Singer was an