
E-ALERT is compiled based on an email service we receive from the Department of State's Office of International Information Programs. We are sending it to you to alert you of the latest issues and debates in the United States.

It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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Reports

- [Item#1](#)
Could Europe Ruin the World Economy? YaleGlobal. David Dapice. June 19, 2012.

Greek voters in parliamentary elections narrowly approved staying with the euro, but the debt crisis is far from over. Winning about 30 percent of the vote, the conservative leaders of New Democracy must build a coalition government and fend off a sizable opposition that resists austerity imposed as part of the bailout. Italy and Spain, heavily indebted, also test the eurozone's stability. The European Union is the world's largest economy, and the crisis promises varying levels of trouble for the rest of the world, explains David Dapice. The potential of one region's crisis to induce global strain demonstrates the need for countries to tackle their own governance, infrastructure and finances with ongoing vigilance to maintain resilience.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/could-europe-ruin-world-economy> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#2

Does the United States Need a New Russia Policy? National Bureau of Asian Research. Stephen E. Hanson. June 2012.

Since Vladimir Putin's return to the presidency of the Russian Federation, U.S.-Russian relations have entered troubled and turbulent waters. Russia's support for Syrian strongman Bashar al-Assad has exasperated U.S. policymakers. Putin's crackdown on domestic opposition has inspired bipartisan support for the Magnitsky bill, which would deny U.S. visas and bank accounts to Russian officials suspected of involvement in corruption and human rights abuses. The new U.S. ambassador to Russia, Michael McFaul, has been subjected to an unprecedented campaign of harassment and vilification by the Kremlin-affiliated news media. Meanwhile, long-standing disputes with Russia over Iran's nuclear program, European missile defense, and the recognition of South Ossetia and Abkhazia as independent states continue to fester. Given this accumulation of tensions, is it time for the United States to give up on the "reset" of relations with Russia?

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.nbr.org/publications/nbranalysis/pdf/Brief/061912_Hanson.pdf [PDF format, 2 pages, 222.59 KB].

Item#3

GOP Holds Early Turnout Edge, But Little Enthusiasm for Romney. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. June 21, 2012.

Less than five months before Election Day, voters are not as engaged with the presidential campaign as they were at this point four years ago, when interest in the campaign reached record levels. But voter engagement today generally equals or surpasses levels from the four campaigns prior to 2008, indicating that 2012 could be another relatively high turnout election. Republicans hold the edge on several turnout measures, in contrast to 2008 when Democrats had leads, some quite substantial, on nearly every indicator. Yet Democrats are more enthusiastic about their candidate. Most Obama backers support him strongly, while most Romney voters support him only moderately.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/legacy-pdf/06-21-12%20Voter%20Attitudes.pdf> [PDF format, 72 pages, 1.19 MB].

Item#4

Libya's Troubled Transition. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Amanda Kadlec and Paul Salem. June 2012.

More than a year after the outbreak of the uprising against Muammar Qaddafi's rule, Libya is in the midst of a challenging transition, struggling without state institutions to manage the transition, security services to keep the peace, and sufficient national unity, according to the authors.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/libya_transition.pdf [PDF format, 34 pages, 1.70 MB].

Item#5

Membership of the 112th Congress: A Profile. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Jennifer E. Manning. June 14, 2012.

The report presents a profile of the membership of the 112th Congress (2011-2012). Statistical information is included on selected characteristics of Members, including data on party affiliation, average age, occupation, education, length of congressional service, religious affiliation, gender, ethnicity, foreign births, and military service.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41647.pdf> [PDF format, 11 pages, 223.39 KB].

Item#6

Obama Health Care Law: Where Does the Public Stand? Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. June 15, 2012.

The American public has been deeply divided from the start over the health care reform law now before the U.S. Supreme Court, though opinion has generally tilted more negative than positive over the past two years. A majority of Americans disapprove of a key component of the law, which requires most individuals to be covered by health insurance by 2014 or pay a penalty, says the survey.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/2012/06/15/obama-health-care-law-where-does-the-public-stand/> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#7

The Rise of Asian Americans. Pew Social & Demographic Trends. June 19, 2012.

Asian Americans are the best-educated, highest-income, fastest-growing race group in the country. Pew Research Center's report paints a comprehensive portrait of Asian Americans, examining their demographic characteristics, social and family values, education, economic circumstances and more. The report also explores six subgroups by country of origin.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2012/06/SDT-Rise-of-Asian-Americans.pdf> [PDF format, 225 pages, 2.68 MB].

Item#8

Saving Mothers, Giving Life: Attainable or Aspirational? Center for Strategic & International Studies. Janet Fleischman. June 20, 2012.

On June 1 in Oslo, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced the "Saving Mothers, Giving Life" project, an ambitious, dynamic effort by the U.S. government with a new public private partnership to drive efficiencies, spur innovation, and ensure impact in this fundamental area of global health. Maternal mortality is the ultimate health indicator, reflecting both a health system's strength and how accessible it is to women and girls of reproductive age. If successful, "Saving Mothers" will be an important dimension of Clinton's legacy as Secretary, lifting the lives of women, families, and communities around the world.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://csis.org/files/publication/120620_SavingMothers_JFleischman.pdf [PDF format, 7 pages, 248.83 KB].

Item#9

Twenty Years Later: Will Green Growth be the Game Changer Needed for Sustainable Development? Brookings Institution. Katherine Sierra. June 8, 2012.

The author outlines why green growth is important and how it can be leveraged by the international community to bolster the global growth, but explains how the outcomes from Rio+20 will be driven by bottom-up initiatives and organizations, often ahead of national governments or international consensus.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/reports/2012/6/rio20/rio20_sierra.pdf [PDF format, 3 pages, 160 KB].

Item#10

U.S. Agriculture and Nutrition Policy Statement: Transforming American Food and Agriculture Policy. The Chicago Council on Global Affairs. June 20, 2012.

The paper urges the 112th U.S. Congress to modernize the current U.S. agriculture, nutrition, and food sector to be more efficient and cost-effective, and provide more than \$31 billion in deficit reduction over the next decade. It also offers recommendations on how Congress can protect the farm and nutrition safety net for the American families and enhance the U.S. agriculture's global competitiveness while reducing agriculture's cost to American taxpayers.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/UserFiles/File/GlobalAgDevelopment/Agriculture_and_Nutrition_Policy_Statement.pdf [PDF format, 24 pages, 653.38 KB].

Item#11

World Expectations Lowered. YaleGlobal. Bruce Stokes. June 14, 2012.

U.S. presidential campaigns often tangle over which candidate is best capable of boosting the country's reputation abroad and providing leadership in global affairs. Trouble is, the two major political parties in the U.S. often don't agree on how to achieve global respect. The diversity of global opinion based on political and cultural context does not help either. Polls in 2008 and 2009 showed satisfaction and great expectations in Europe, Mexico, Japan and elsewhere with Barack Obama's election in 2008, while citizens in six Muslim nations expressed doubts about U.S. policy changes, regardless of who's in charge.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/world-expectations-lowered> [HTML format, various paging].