
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.

Please contact the Information Resource Center if you have problem retrieving any of the documents listed. To cancel this service, please reply to the present message and type "unsubscribe" as the text of your message.

Title Index

[Item#1](#) CENTCOM's China Challenge: Anti-Access and Area Denial in the Middle East

[Item#2](#) Chinese Military Modernization and Force Development: A Western View

[Item#3](#) Division, Uncertainty Over Court's Health Care Ruling

[Item#4](#) Emerging Economies - Rich And Confident

[Item#5](#) Eurozone Heaves Sigh of Relief - For How Long?

[Item#6](#) Global Government, Mixed Coalitions, and the Future of International Cooperation

[Item#7](#) Health Care: Constitutional Rights and Legislative Powers

[Item#8](#) Higher Education Tax Benefits: Brief Overview and Budgetary Effects

[Item#9](#) International Food Security Assessment, 2012-22

[Item#10](#) New Media and Conflict after the Arab Spring

Reports

[Item#1](#)

CENTCOM's China Challenge: Anti-Access and Area Denial in the Middle East. Brookings Institution. Eduardo A. Abisellan. June 28, 2012.

In the last year, America has sought to refocus its diplomatic and military attention to East, rather than Middle East. This makes perfect sense, according to the author. The last decade of wars in the greater Middle East have been draining in terms of both blood and treasure, while the Asia-Pacific region appears to be the new center of future world politics and economy. While the U.S. is looking more towards the Pacific, China's needs are driving it more towards the Middle East. The paper illustrates how China could leverage its use of soft power and regional allies as a strategy within the Middle East of an asymmetric anti-access and area denial (A2/AD) through other means.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/reports/2012/6/28%20centcom%20china%20abisellan/28%20centcom%20china%20abisellan.pdf> [PDF format, 30 pages, 399 KB].

[Item#2](#)

Chinese Military Modernization and Force Development: A Western View. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Anthony H. Cordesman. June 21, 2012.

The U.S. and China face a critical need to improve their understanding of how each nation is developing its military power, and how to avoid forms of military competition that could lead to rising tension or conflict between the two states.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://csis.org/files/publication/120621_Chinese_Military_Modernization.pdf [PDF format, 200 pages, 3.90 MB].

Item#3

Division, Uncertainty Over Court's Health Care Ruling. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. July 2, 2012.

The American public is divided over the U.S. Supreme Court's decision upholding the 2010 health care law - 40% disapprove of the decision, while 36% approve. Nearly a quarter (24%) offer no opinion. And despite extensive public interest in the ruling, just 55% know that the Supreme Court upheld most of the law's provisions.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/legacy-pdf/7-2-12%20Health%20Care%20Release.pdf> [PDF format, 11 pages, 723.36 KB].

Item#4

Emerging Economies - Rich And Confident. YaleGlobal. Bruce Stokes. July 12, 2012.

The emerging economies account for an increasing share of the globe's billionaires. But widespread public attitudes can wield far more influence over an economy than the wealth of a few hundred people, suggests Bruce Stokes. While people polled in the U.S. and Europe are pessimistic about their future prospects, citizens of the emerging economies, especially China and Brazil, are optimistic about their own national economies and personal wealth, according to the most recent 21-nation survey on global attitudes from Pew Research Center. The outlook for the long term is bleak in most places with the exception of China, the only nation surveyed where a majority of respondents expressed confidence that their children's future would be brighter. "[U]pbeat people invest in the future in a self-reinforcing dynamic that bodes well for their economies," Stokes concludes. The global economy could depend on optimism rising from the emerging economies.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/emerging-economies-rich-and-confident> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#5

Eurozone Heaves Sigh of Relief - For How Long? YaleGlobal. Jean-Pierre Lehmann. July 3, 2012.

The European Union's heads of state avoided disaster for the time being, preventing impending collapse of Spanish banks and offering assistance to Italy, too. Europe has decided to move toward a more complete integration. The steps are cautious, but "the USE - United States of Europe - would seem to be the ultimate destination, in fact if not in name," explains Jean-Pierre Lehmann. Yet nobody has stepped forward with a vision for a united Europe and a plan of action. Germany, as the strongest and most dominant economy, will demand self-discipline from the other states. The project of a constitution for Europe, trounced by sizable numbers of Europeans, would have created a common foundation. Too many Europeans question if integration entails more layers of bureaucracy, incapable of providing efficiencies.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/eurozone-heaves-sigh-relief> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#6

Global Government, Mixed Coalitions, and the Future of International Cooperation. Center for Global Development. William D. Savedoff. July 5, 2012.

William Savedoff looks at the long history of global multipolarity and forecasts what recent geopolitical changes mean for the future of international cooperation.

[*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.cgdev.org/files/1426316_file_Savedoff_global_government_FINAL.pdf [PDF format, 21 pages, 476 KB].

Item#7

Health Care: Constitutional Rights and Legislative Powers. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Kathleen S. Swendiman. July 9, 2012.

The health care reform debate raises many complex issues including those of coverage, accessibility, cost, accountability, and quality of health care. Underlying these policy considerations are issues regarding the status of health care as a constitutional or legal right. This report analyzes constitutional and legal issues pertaining to a right to health care, as well as the power of Congress to enact and fund health care programs. The United States Supreme Court's decision in *NFIB v. Sebelius*, which upheld most of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Affordable Care Act/ACA), is also discussed.

<https://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R40846.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages, 288.39 KB].

Item#8

Higher Education Tax Benefits: Brief Overview and Budgetary Effects. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Margot L. Crandall-Hollick. July 10, 2012.

This report provides a brief overview of the higher education tax benefits that are currently available to students and their families. The report contrasts higher education tax benefits with traditional student aid, presents a brief history of higher education tax policy over the past 60 years, summarizes key features of the available tax benefits, and provides JCT estimates of revenue losses resulting from individual tax provisions.

<https://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41967.pdf> [PDF format, 11 pages, 263.74 KB].

Item#9

International Food Security Assessment, 2012-22. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Stacey Rosen et al. July 9, 2012.

Food security is estimated to improve slightly in 2012 as the number of food-insecure people in the 76 countries covered in this report declines from 814 million in 2011 to 802 million in 2012. The share of the population that is food insecure remains at 24 percent. Over the next decade, the share of the population that is food insecure is projected to decline from 24 percent in 2012 to 21 percent in 2022, but the number of food insecure people is projected to increase by 37 million. Regionally, food insecurity is projected to remain most severe in Sub-Saharan Africa. Food-insecure people are defined as those consuming less than the nutritional target of roughly 2,100 calories per day per person.

<http://ers.usda.gov/media/849266/gfa23.pdf> Report [PDF format, 71 pages, 1.89 KB].

Item#10

New Media and Conflict after the Arab Spring. U.S. Institute of Peace. Sean Aday et al. July 2012.

An extraordinary wave of popular protest swept the Arab world in 2011. Massive popular mobilization brought down long-ruling leaders in Tunisia and Egypt, helped spark bloody struggles in Bahrain, Libya, Syria, and Yemen, and fundamentally reshaped the nature of politics in the region. New media, at least that which uses bit.ly linkages, did not appear to play a significant role in either in-country collective action or regional diffusion during this period. This lack of impact does not mean that social media, or digital media generally, were unimportant. Nor does it preclude the possibility that other new media technologies were significant in these contexts, or even that different Twitter or link data would show different results. But it does mean that at least in terms of media that use bit.ly links (especially Twitter), data do not provide strong support for claims of significant new media impact on Arab Spring political protests.

[*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.usip.org/files/resources/PW80.pdf> [PDF format, 28 pages, 2.47 MB].