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Reports

[Item#1](#)
Dangerous Waters: China-Japan Relations on the Rocks. International Crisis Group. April 8, 2013.

The world's second and third largest economies are engaged in a standoff over the sovereignty of five islets and three rocks in the East China Sea, known as the Diaoyu in Chinese and the Senkaku in Japanese.

Tensions erupted in September 2012 when Japan purchased three disputed islands from their private owner to keep them from the nationalist governor of Tokyo. In response, Beijing implemented a series of measures including the establishment of overlapping administration in the disputed waters. Both sides' law enforcement agencies and militaries currently operate in close proximity in disputed naval and aerial space. The two countries lack the mutual trust and communication mechanisms to manage incidents, let alone to discuss intentions or operating protocols, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/asia/north-east-asia/245-dangerous-waters-china-japan-relations-on-the-rocks.pdf> [PDF format, 63 pages, 1.49 MB].

Item#2

Winning Without a Fight in the South China Sea. YaleGlobal. Marvin Ott. April 10, 2013.

China has the largest military in Asia, and expenditures on Chinese navy, coast guard and air force are second only to that of the United States. Still, China is pressing new forces into protecting sweeping claims in the South China Sea, cruise ships and tourists. For decades Chinese maps have shown a U-shaped swathe with dotted lines suggesting maritime claims cutting into 200-mile offshore exclusive economic zones of neighboring states, as protected by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Nationalistic tensions are rising over the competing claims, with reported incidents of shots exchanged by fishing vessels and patrol boats. The U.S. official position is maintenance of international sea lanes and resolution of territorial disputes without military force, explains Marvin Ott, senior scholar on Asia with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. In a war without battles, China tries to win with tactics like splitting ASEAN members, applying economic leverage, and bolstering legal claims by deploying fishing, research, surveillance and cruise vessels.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/winning-without-fight-south-china-sea> [HTML format, various pagings].

Item#3

Taiwan's Leadership Changes: Implications for U.S.-Taiwan and Cross-strait Relations. National Bureau of Asian Research. Edward I-Hsin Chen. April 16, 2013.

Ma Ying-jeou, the president of the Republic of China (ROC), was inaugurated on May 20, 2012, after winning his re-election bid on January 14 of that year. In a cabinet reshuffle in September 2012, several important members of his national security team were replaced by some new faces. The author argues that these leadership changes indicate President Ma will press ahead with more balanced policies toward China and the United States.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://nbr.org/downloads/pdfs/Outreach/Chen_commentary_041613.pdf [PDF format, 7 pages, 333.81 KB].

Item#4

What's Yours Is Mine: New Actors and New Approaches to Asset Recovery in Global Corruption Cases. Center for Global Development. Andrew Marshall. April 12, 2013.

The study is about recovering money stolen by corrupt politicians and officials. Asset recovery is a key element in deterring and punishing the corrupt, and the reduction of corruption is critical to development. The money can be put to better uses once recovered, and it amounts to billions. But there's another reason why this is significant for those who are primarily focused on development: among the key issues in asset recovery are greater accountability and transparency, which are also increasingly regarded as key to long-term development success.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/whats-yours-is-mine_0.pdf [PDF format, 42 pages, 673.68 KB].

Item#5

Teenage Pregnancy Prevention: Statistics and Programs. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Carmen Solomon-Fears. April 15, 2013.

In 2011, U.S. teen births accounted for 8.4% of all births and 18.4% of all nonmarital births. The birth rate for U.S. teenagers (ages 15 through 19) increased in 2006 and 2007 after a steady decline since 1991. However, in 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011 the teen birth rate dropped below the 2006 teen birth rate, reversing the two-year upward trend. Although the birth rate for U.S. teens has dropped in 18 of the past 20 years, it remains higher than the teen birth rate of most industrialized nations. Preventing teen pregnancy is generally considered a priority among policymakers and the public because of its high economic, social, and health costs for teen parents and their families.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RS20301.pdf> [PDF format, 23 pages, 330.33 KB].

Item#6

Cybersecurity: Selected Legal Issues. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Edward C. Liu et al. April 17, 2013.

The federal government's role in protecting U.S. citizens and critical infrastructure from cyber attacks has been the subject of recent congressional interest. Critical infrastructure commonly refers to those entities that are so vital that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating impact on national security, economic security, or the public health and safety. This report discusses selected legal issues that frequently arise in the context of recent legislation to address vulnerabilities of critical infrastructure to cyber threats, efforts to protect government networks from cyber threats, and proposals to facilitate and encourage sharing of cyber threat information among private sector and government entities. This report also discusses the degree to which federal law may preempt state law.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42409.pdf> [PDF format, 31 pages, 371.00 KB].

Item#7

Concerns About Religious Extremism in Boston Bombings Suspects' Homelands. pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. April 23, 2013.

The survey report finds high levels of concern about religious extremism among Muslims in the North Caucasus area of Russia and the neighboring Central Asian countries of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. It also finds that few Muslims across the region support the use of violence against civilians in the name of Islam, though there is somewhat more support for suicide bombing and similar violence among Muslims in Kyrgyzstan than in Russia or Kazakhstan.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewforum.org/Muslim/Most-Muslims-in-Region-Reject-Violence-Against-Civilians.aspx>

[HTML format, various paging].

Item#8

China Targets Greenland for Mining. YaleGlobal. Will Hickey. April 18, 2013.

Tight profit margins in the mining industry, along with consolidation among large multinationals, huge capital investments, high-tech automation and rigid equipment maintenance contracts, have reduced job creation for nations with natural resources. Greenland, with 57,000 citizens, mostly indigenous, has vast deposits of minerals. A logical move would be for Greenlanders to rely on Danish mining with its negotiating and technical experience. Yet the world's largest island seems eager to shed links with the Danish kingdom and move on a foreign joint-venture for a huge iron-ore deposit: London Mining would provide technical expertise and China's Sichuan Xinye Mining Investment Co. would provide labor and capital. Hickey urges any country negotiating mining contracts to optimize resources for future generations, reach agreements that provide for local job training and hiring, and set tough investment terms, including environmental protections.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/china-targets-greenland-mining> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#9

Survey of Federal Whistleblower and Anti-Retaliation Laws. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Jon O. Shimabukuro et al. April 22, 2013.

The report provides an overview of federal whistleblower and anti-retaliation laws. In general, these laws protect employees who report misconduct by their employers or who engage in various protected activities, such as participating in an investigation or filing a complaint. In recent years, Congress has expanded employee protections for a variety of private-sector workers. Eleven of the forty laws reviewed in this report were enacted after 1999. Among these laws are the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, and the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. The report focuses on key aspects of the federal whistleblower and anti-retaliation laws.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R43045.pdf> [PDF format, 67 pages, 432.23 KB].

Item#10

Gun Control and the Media. Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism. April 25, 2013.

In the four months since the Newtown, Connecticut shootings, the tone of the conversation about gun control on Twitter has shifted sharply several times in apparent response to ongoing events, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of nearly 21 million tweets from December 18 through April 21.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.journalism.org/sites/journalism.org/files/gun%20report.pdf> [PDF format, 9 pages, 489.36 KB].

Item#11

Civic Engagement in the Digital Age. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Aaron Smith. April 26, 2013.

Social networking sites have grown more important in recent years as a venue for political involvement, learning, and debate. Overall, 39% of all American adults took part in some sort of political activity on a social networking site during the 2012 campaign. This means that more Americans are now politically active on social networking sites (SNS) than used them at all as recently as the 2008 election campaign. At that point, 26% of the population used a social networking site of any kind.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://pewinternet.org/~media//Files/Reports/2013/PIP_CivicEngagementintheDigitalAge.pdf [PDF format, 59 pages, 1.78 MB].