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Reports

[Item#1](#)
America's Global Image Remains More Positive than China's. Pew Research Global Attitudes Project. July 18, 2013.

Publics around the world believe the global balance of power is shifting. China's economic power is on the rise, and many think it will eventually supplant the United States as the world's dominant

superpower. However, China's increasing power has not led to more positive ratings for the People's Republic. Overall, the U.S. enjoys a stronger global image than China. Across the nations surveyed, a median of 63% express a favorable opinion of the U.S., compared with 50% for China.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2013/07/Pew-Research-Global-Attitudes-Project-Balance-of-Power-Report-FINAL-July-18-2013.pdf> [PDF format, 132 pages, 1,014.20 KB].

Item#2

Containing the Fire in Syria. YaleGlobal. Ryan Crocker. July 23, 2013.

The urge to do something, anything, to stem the bloodshed in Syria is intense. Ryan Crocker reviews the history and explains how the civil war in Syria began well before the Arab Spring protests. In 1982, the Assad regime decimated the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood in Hama and has made military preparations for anticipated revenge attacks since. In 1983, U.S. Marines on a peacekeeping mission were subjected to a bomb attack by Shia radicals that killed more than 200 troops and civilians. Basher al Assad took control of Syria in 2000 and, coordinating with Iran, has supported Shia radical activities in the region. The opposition in Syria lacks cohesion and has radical elements, too. Crocker warns that Syria is not ready for a political solution. Major intervention in this regional proxy war may only add new dangers, spreading civil war.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/containing-fire-syria> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

Family Welfare Cultures. National Bureau of Economic Research. Gordon B. Dahl et al. July 22, 2013.

Strong intergenerational correlations in various types of welfare use have fueled a long standing debate over whether welfare dependency in one generation causes welfare dependency in the next generation. Some claim a culture has developed in which welfare use reinforces itself through the family, because parents on welfare provide information about the program to their children, reduce the stigma of participation, or invest differentially in child development. Others argue the determinants of poverty or poor health are correlated across generations, so that children's welfare participation is associated with, but not caused by, parental welfare use. However, there is little empirical evidence to sort out these claims. The paper investigates the existence and importance of family welfare cultures in the context of Norway's disability insurance (DI) system.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.nber.org/papers/w19237.pdf?new_window=1 [PDF format, 43 pages, 1759 KB].

Item#4

How America Pays for College 2013. Sallie Mae. July 23, 2013.

The study gives a compelling look at how today's families view higher education, manage higher education costs, and tap a variety of funding sources. This year's study finds that families are adjusting to a new post-recession reality to pay for college.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<https://www.salliemae.com/assets/Core/how-America-pays/howamericapays2013.pdf> [PDF format, 58 pages, 1.69 MB].

Item#5

Many Say Economic Recovery Is Still a Long Way Off. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. July 23, 2013.

Four years after the recession officially ended, the economic recovery remains a long way off in the view of many Americans. A new survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted July 17-21 among 1,480 adults, finds that 44% say it will be a long time before the nation's economy recovers. Smaller percentages say either the economy already is recovering (28%) or will recover soon (26%). These opinions are little changed from March. But last October, shortly before the presidential election, fewer Americans (36%) said it would be a long time before the economy recovers.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/legacy-pdf/7-23-2013%20Obama%20Econ%20Release.pdf> [PDF format, 19 pages, 531.08 KB].

Item#6

North Korean-Cuban Arms Shipment Shows Need to Tighten Sanctions. The Heritage Foundation. Bruce Klingner. July 22, 2013.

To a world used to North Korean exports of weapons, the seizure of a North Korean ship carrying arms from Cuba was unique. Pyongyang's attempted transshipment of antiquated weapons revealed much about the North Korean regime. First, Pyongyang clearly continues to violate multiple United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions. Second, the U.N. sanctions are hurting North Korean finances, forcing the impoverished regime to scramble for cash. Third, the U.N. resolutions continue to have loopholes that must be rectified, says the author.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2013/pdf/ib3996.pdf [PDF format, 2 pages, 100.45 KB].

Item#7

OPEC Net Oil Export Revenues. U.S. Energy Information Administration. July 22, 2013.

EIA estimates that Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), not including Iran, earned about \$982 billion in net oil export revenues in 2012, a 5-percent increase from 2011, and the largest level over the 1975-2012 period for which EIA has tracked OPEC oil revenues. Saudi Arabia earned the largest share of these earnings, \$311 billion in 2012, representing approximately 32 percent of total OPEC revenues. Based on projections from the U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA) July 2013

Short-Term Energy Outlook, EIA estimates that members of OPEC, not including Iran, could earn about \$940 billion of net oil export revenues in 2013 and about \$903 billion in 2014, in nominal terms (unadjusted for inflation). These net export earnings do not include Iran's revenues, due to the difficulties associated with estimating Iran's earnings, including its inability to receive payments and possible price discounts Iran offers its existing customers.

http://www.eia.gov/countries/analysisbriefs/OPEC_Revenues/opec.pdf [PDF format, 2 pages, 160.13 KB].

Item#8

Re-Examining the Al Qa'ida Threat to the United States. Testimony, RAND Corporation. Seth G. Jones. July 18, 2013.

This is a testimony presented before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade on July 18, 2013.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/testimonies/CT300/CT396/RAND_CT396.pdf [PDF format, 15 pages, 0.6 MB].

Item#9

Supreme Court's Favorability Edges Below 50%. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. July 24, 2013.

The Supreme Court's favorability rating has edged below 50% for the first time in nearly three decades of Pew Research Center polling. Currently, 48% have a favorable opinion of the court while 38% have an unfavorable opinion. In March, before the court's end-of-term decisions on same-sex marriage and the Voting Rights Act, 52% had a favorable impression of the Supreme Court while 31% had an unfavorable opinion. In March, 61% of blacks viewed the court favorably while 24% had an unfavorable opinion. <http://www.people-press.org/2013/07/24/supreme-courts-favorability-edges-below-50/blacks-view-supreme-court-much-less-favorably/> Today, their opinions are divided (44% favorable vs. 41% unfavorable). This is among the lowest favorable ratings for the Supreme Court among blacks in polling dating to 1985.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/legacy-pdf/7-24-13%20Supreme%20Court%20Release.pdf> [PDF format, 9 pages, 242.17 KB].

Item#10

Taxes on Foreign Earned Income. Urban Institute. Eric Toder. Web posted July 24, 2013.

While taxation of overseas profits of U.S. multinational corporations has made the headlines lately, U.S. citizens who work overseas also face special rules. Unlike most countries, the United States requires that its citizens pay tax on their worldwide income (with a credit for foreign taxes paid), even when they are residing elsewhere. But the United States also allows its citizens who reside abroad exclusion for the first \$97,600 of their foreign earned income and a special housing allowance.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/1001689-TN-taxes-on-foreign-earned-income.pdf> [PDF format, 1 page, 89.70 KB].

Item#11

US and Iranian Strategic Competition: Sanctions, Energy, Arms Control, and Regime Change. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Anthony H. Cordesman et al. July 22, 2013.

As the crisis over Iran's nuclear program continues without resolution, the U.S. and EU have implemented new rounds of increasingly expansive and rigorous sanctions. Iran's economy is reportedly suffering from high inflation, a devalued currency, unemployment, and high food costs. Sanctions have also begun to whittle away at Iran's ability to sell its oil and repatriate earnings from the sales it has been able to complete. The report examines the impact of sanctions in the broader perspective of its potential impact on global energy exports, arms control, and regional security concerns.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://csis.org/files/publication/130722_iransanctions.pdf [PDF format, 206 pages, 3.31 MB].