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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](#)  
CREDIT SUISSE GLOBAL WEALTH REPORT 2010. Credit Suisse Research Institute. October 8, 2010.

Examining the wealth pyramid from rich to poor, and across countries and regions, it offers a host of new insights and perspectives. The report analyzes the world's entire 200 trillion US dollars of wealth, through the lens of the wealth pyramid and sheds light on areas such as the differences in wealth across countries and regions, and how they have changed during the past decade. It also describes the pattern of wealth within countries and by gender, as well as systematic differences in household portfolios.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<https://emagazine.credit-suisse.com/app/shop/index.cfm?fuseaction=OpenShopDetail&aoid=291481&lang=EN> [HTML format with links].

#### Item#2

ELECTION 2010 STATE FACT SHEETS: MAPPING THE LATINO VOTE: LATINO ELIGIBLE VOTERS BY STATE AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT. Pew Hispanic Center. October 15, 2010.

The state fact sheets contain data on the size and social and economic characteristics of the Hispanic and non-Hispanic eligible voter populations. The fact sheets are based on the Center's tabulations of the Census Bureau's 2008 American Community Survey. Eligible voters are defined as U.S. citizens ages 18 and older.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://pewhispanic.org/data/election10/> [HTML format with links].

#### Item#3

THE IMPACT OF PUBLIC PENSIONS ON STATE AND LOCAL BUDGETS. Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. Alicia H. Munnell et al. October 2010.

State and local pensions have been headline news since the financial collapse reduced the value of their assets, leaving a substantial unfunded liability. The magnitude of that liability depends on the interest rate used to discount future benefit promises but, regardless of the assumptions, states and localities are going to have to come up with more money. The brief looks at the size of the additional funding relative to state budgets.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/slp\\_13.pdf](http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/slp_13.pdf) [PDF format, 12 pages].

#### Item#4

IS SCHOOL FUNDING FAIR? A NATIONAL REPORT CARD. Education Law Center. Bruce Baker et al. October 2010.

The National Report Card is a critique of state school funding systems and the extent to which these systems ensure equality of educational opportunity for all children, regardless of background, family

income, place of residence or school. The report makes the assumption that "fair" school funding is defined as "a state finance system that ensures equal educational opportunity by providing a sufficient level of funding distributed to districts within the state to account for additional needs generated by student poverty."

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://www.schoolfundingfairness.org/National\\_Report\\_Card.pdf](http://www.schoolfundingfairness.org/National_Report_Card.pdf) [PDF format, 54 pages].

#### Item#5

MIDTERM ELECTIONS 2010: SPENDING WARS. Council on Foreign Relations. Roya Wolverson. October 19, 2010.

With U.S. unemployment and high debt threatening Americans at home and U.S. power abroad, the Backgrounder looks at congressional candidates' difficulty in articulating policies that balance job creation and debt reduction.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://www.cfr.org/publication/23181/midterm\\_elections\\_2010.html](http://www.cfr.org/publication/23181/midterm_elections_2010.html) [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#6

POLITICAL RHETORIC AND A DRAMATIC RESCUE LEAD THE NEWS. Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism. October 19, 2010.

A midterm election cycle quickly becoming known for harsh rhetoric and sharp personal attacks once again finished as the No. 1 story last week. But it had to share the media spotlight with a live dramatic rescue that became the ultimate reality show. The week's No. 2 story (filling 21% of the newshole) was the rescue of 33 Chilean miners who had been trapped underground for 69 days. The rescue proved to be one of the rare mega-stories that offered nothing but good news, and it was viewed live around the world. In the U.S., the story filled one-third of the airtime studied on cable news for the week.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://www.journalism.org/index\\_report/pej\\_news\\_coverage\\_index\\_October\\_11\\_17\\_2010](http://www.journalism.org/index_report/pej_news_coverage_index_October_11_17_2010) [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#7

POST-PARTISAN POWER: HOW A LIMITED AND DIRECT APPROACH TO ENERGY INNOVATION CAN DELIVER CLEAN, CHEAP ENERGY, ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY AND NATIONAL PROSPERITY. American Enterprise Institute. Steven F. Hayward et al. October 12, 2010.

American energy policy is at a standstill. A new approach is needed that focuses on energy innovation as a key driver of American economic growth, national security, and health and safety benefits. This joint paper by the Brookings Institution, the American Enterprise Institute, and the Breakthrough Institute

argues that the federal government should invest roughly \$25 billion per year in military procurement, R&D, and a new network of university-private sector innovation hubs to create an energy revolution. The program should be financed through several mechanisms, including a low price on carbon.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/Post-Partisan-Power-Hayward-101310.pdf> [PDF format, 36 pages].

#### Item#8

RESET RELOADED: THE SECOND PHASE OF OBAMA'S RUSSIA POLICY SHOULD NOW HAVE A MAJOR EUROPEAN COMPONENT. Brookings Institution. Emiliano Alessandri. October 14, 2010.

The Obama administration's "reset" policy with Russia has been a diplomatic success. It has eased tensions with Moscow and helped the U.S. gain Russia's cooperation on key priorities outside Europe, such as Afghanistan, Iran and nuclear non-proliferation. It is now time, however, for the reset to also have a major European component, says the author. Phase II of the reset should involve European countries more fully in the West's engagement of Russia.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2010/1014\\_europe\\_russia\\_alessandri/1014\\_europe\\_russia\\_alessandri.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2010/1014_europe_russia_alessandri/1014_europe_russia_alessandri.pdf) [PDF format, 11 pages].

#### Item#9

THE SPEECH ACT: THE FEDERAL RESPONSE TO "LIBEL TOURISM." Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Emily C. Barbour. September 16, 2010.

The 111th Congress considered several bills addressing "libel tourism," the phenomenon of litigants bringing libel suits in foreign jurisdictions so as to benefit from plaintiff-friendly libel laws. Several U.S. states have also responded to libel tourism by enacting statutes that restrict enforcement of foreign libel judgments. On August 10, 2010, President Barack Obama signed into law the Securing the Protection of our Enduring and Established Constitutional Heritage Act (SPEECH Act), P.L. 111-223, codified at 28 U.S.C. §§ 4101-4105, which bars U.S. courts, both state and federal, from recognizing or enforcing a foreign judgment for defamation unless certain requirements, including consistency with the U.S. Constitution and section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. § 230), are satisfied.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41417.pdf> [PDF format, 18 pages].

#### Item#10

TRIPLE CROWN 2010: CAN THE TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP BE STRATEGIC? The Atlantic Council. Marc Grossman. October 15, 2010.

Former Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs and Atlantic Council Board Director Marc Grossman encourages the Obama Administration to view the bureaucratic challenge of managing the upcoming NATO, U.S.-EU and OSCE summits as an opportunity to create a more coherent, strategic transatlantic relationship that maximizes the capabilities of all three organizations.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://www.acus.org/files/publication\\_pdfs/403/ACUS\\_TripleCrown\\_SAGIB.pdf](http://www.acus.org/files/publication_pdfs/403/ACUS_TripleCrown_SAGIB.pdf) [PDF format, 12 pages].

#### Item#11

VIDEO CALLING AND VIDEO CHAT. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Lee Rainie and Kathryn Zickuhr. October 13, 2010.

Almost a fifth of American adults – 19% – have tried video calling either online or via their cell phones. These figures translate into 23% of internet users and 7% of cell phone owners who have participated in video calls, chats, or teleconferences. Video calling has become increasingly available as camcorders have spread through the online environment, cameras have been built into smart phones, and as video-chat services like Skype, Google Talk, and Apple iChat have become a feature of the online and smart phone environment. Teleconferencing is also becoming more embedded in the business environment.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://www.pewinternet.org/~media//Files/Reports/2010/PIP\\_Video%20calling%20data%20memo.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/~media//Files/Reports/2010/PIP_Video%20calling%20data%20memo.pdf) [PDF format, 12 pages].