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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](#)

“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”: The Law and Military Policy on Same-Sex behavior. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. David F. Burrelli. October 14, 2010.

In 1993, new laws and regulations pertaining to homosexuality and U.S. military service came into effect reflecting a compromise in policy. This compromise, colloquially referred to as “don’t ask, don’t tell,” holds that the presence in the armed forces of persons who demonstrate a propensity or intent to engage in same-sex acts would create an unacceptable risk to the high standards of morale, good order and discipline, and unit cohesion which are the essence of military capability. Under this policy, but not the law, service members are not to be asked about nor allowed to discuss their “same-sex orientation.” The law itself does not prevent service members from being asked about their sexuality. This compromise notwithstanding, the issue has remained politically contentious.

Full Text:

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40782_20101014.pdf [PDF format, 25 pages].

Item#2

Country Analysis Briefs: China. Energy Information Administration. November 2010.

China is the second largest oil consumer behind the United States. China emerged from being a net oil exporter in the early 1990s and became the world’s third-largest net importer of oil in 2006. China’s oil consumption growth accounted for about a third of the world’s oil consumption growth in 2009. Natural gas usage in China has also increased rapidly in recent years, and China has looked to raise natural gas imports via pipeline and liquefied natural gas (LNG). China is also the world’s largest producer and consumer of coal, an important factor in world energy markets.

Full Text:

<http://www.eia.gov/emeu/cabs/China/pdf.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages].

Item#3

Mixed Reactions to Republican Midterm Win: Public Less Happy Than After 2006 and 1994 Elections. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. Andrew Kohut. November 11, 2010.

Compared with previous changes in the balance of power in Congress, Americans are expressing a muted reaction to the GOP victories this year. Just under half (48%) say they are happy the Republican Party won control of the House, while 34% are unhappy. By contrast, after the Democratic Party’s victories in 2006, 60% of Americans said they were happy the Democrats had gained control of Congress, while just 24% were unhappy. Similarly, when Republicans won in 1994, 57% of Americans said they were happy the GOP won, while 31% were happy.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/675.pdf> [PDF format, 57 pages].

Item#4

Previewing Obama’s European Trip #1: The NATO Summit in Lisbon, November 19-20, 2010. Brookings Institution. Steven Pifer and Justin Vaisse. November 10, 2010.

The 28 NATO leaders will gather in Lisbon on November 19-20 for a summit meeting with a full agenda: the Alliance's new Strategic Concept, NATO's nuclear posture, missile defense, Afghanistan and relations with Russia, among other issues. Many of these issues go to the heart of a larger question that has bedeviled the Alliance since 1991: What exactly is the enduring purpose of NATO, formed in 1949 to defend Europe against a possible Soviet attack, twenty years after the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union?

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2010/1110_nato_summit_pifer_vaisse.aspx [HTML format, various paging].

Item#5

Previewing Obama's European Trip #2: U.S.-European Economic Relations. Brookings Institution. Carlo Bastasin. November 10, 2010.

Even though the economy will be only one point on the crowded agenda for the November 20 U.S.-EU Summit, the meeting will take place at a crucial moment for policy coordination. While discordant exit strategies from the crisis and the U.S. choice for aggressive monetary stimulus will be on the table at the G-20 Summit in Seoul on November 11 and at other fora, the divergent approaches also open a very specific rift between Europe and the United States that needs to be discussed in Lisbon.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2010/1110_us_europe_economy_bastasin.aspx [HTML format, various paging].

Item#6

Previewing Obama's European Trip #3: The U.S.-EU Summit in Lisbon, November 20, 2010. Brookings Institution. Justin Vaisse. November 10, 2010.

On November 20, President Barack Obama will participate in the first U.S.-EU Summit since the Lisbon Treaty went into effect almost a year ago. Even though some of its dispositions have yet to produce their full effect, the treaty has started to transform the European Union, and President Obama will sense a noticeable difference from the 2009 summits. He will find less institutional confusion within the EU and a streamlined and more concrete agenda for the summit, according to the author.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2010/1110_us_eu_summit_vaisse.aspx [HTML format, various paging].

Item#7

Reinterpreting China's Success Through the New Economic Geography. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Yukon Huang. November 10, 2010.

China has capitalized on its huge population and geographic size to become the world's most efficient assembler and exporter of manufactured goods, but China's transformation is now reaching a critical turning point. Huang explains how China relied on lower transportation costs and a concentration of economic activities to foster rapid, albeit unbalanced, growth. If China builds on its recent success and adopts a more flexible exchange rate system, the major policy questions that are now dominating the debate over China's economic future can be answered, says Huang.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/reinterpreting_china_success1.pdf [PDF format, 28 pages].

Item#8

Taking Action on Climate Change: The Forecast for Cancun and Beyond. Brookings Institution. Katherine Sierra et al. November 22, 2010.

Negotiators to the 16th Conference of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will meet in Cancun (COP16) November 29 to December 10, 2010. The Mexican hosts have tried hard to avoid the overblown hopes of last year's meetings in Copenhagen—and expectations remain modest. Instead of striving for a master agreement, delegates in Cancun will look to agree on the building blocks that tackle key issues for global cooperation. Nevertheless, while there is no expectation for a binding international treaty, elements of these individual building blocks remain contentious, and success in negotiating a balanced package of actions therefore remains uncertain.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2010/11_climate_sierra_hultman/11_climate_sierra_hultman.pdf [PDF format, 20 pages].

Item#9

Ties that Bind: U.S.-Taiwan Relations and Peace and Prosperity in East Asia. Center for American Progress. Winny Chen. November 10, 2010.

Winny Chen lays out an agenda for ensuring mutual prosperity and peace between the United States, Taiwan, and China.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/11/pdf/taiwan_trip.pdf [PDF format, 25 pages].

Item#10

U.S. in Asia: Seeking Partners at a Troubled Time – Part I. YaleGlobal. Ashok Malik. November 10, 2010.

As U.S. President Barack Obama travels in Asia, the series analyzes U.S. foreign-policy initiatives emerging from a packed schedule with stops in four nations. The tour began in India. Malik explains how Obama shares the goals of his predecessor, George W. Bush, for a strategic partnership with India as a strong rising power, even though the two men represent opposing parties with contrasting points of view. Bush agreed to India's pursuit of civil nuclear power without abandoning its nuclear arsenal; Obama called for Pakistan to act against terrorist sanctuaries and endorsed India's bid for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council. Burdened by a troubled US economy, Obama pursues a quid pro quo relationship, exchanging access to U.S. technology for access to India's markets. Obama seeks Asia's support for creating U.S. jobs and that requires steady growth in nations like India.
[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/us-seeking-partners-part-i> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#11

U.S. in Asia: Seeking Partners at a Troubled Time – Part II. YaleGlobal. Bruce Stokes. November 12, 2010.

Asia is seen as a pivotal region for U.S. foreign policy, as demonstrated by U.S. President Barack Obama's travels to India, Indonesia, Japan and South Korea. Despite setbacks for Obama's party in mid-term elections, he continues to win high public-approval ratings in many Asian nations, notes the author. Growing trade and careful coordination on global economic issues have benefited the U.S. and its partners in the past and can do so again, but the failure to sign the Korea-US free trade agreement is not a good omen, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/us-seeking-partners-part-ii> [HTML format, various paging].