
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](#) Advancing U.S., African, and Global Interests: Security and Stability in the West Africa Maritime Domain
- [Item#2](#) Afghanistan: Exit vs Engagement. International Crisis Group
- [Item#3](#) Are Housing Prices Rising Too Fast in China?
- [Item#4](#) Can China Afford to Confront the World? – Part II
- [Item#5](#) The College Conundrum: Why the Benefits of a College Education May Not Be So Clear, Especially to Men
- [Item#6](#) Fact Sheet: Cutting the Deficit by Freezing Federal Employee Pay
- [Item#7](#) Global Giving: The Culture of Philanthropy
- [Item#8](#) Hitting the Reset Button on U.S.-Russia Cooperation
- [Item#9](#) Kennedy Still Highest-Rated Modern President, Nixon Lowest
- [Item#10](#) North Korea's 2009 Nuclear Test: Containment, Monitoring, Implications
- [Item#11](#) Summary: U.S. Crude Oil, Natural Gas, and Natural Gas Liquids Proved Reserves
- [Item#12](#) The U.S. Role in International Climate Finance: A Blueprint for Near-Term Leadership
- [Item#13](#) Why U.S.-Korea Trade Deal Matters

Reports

Item#1

Advancing U.S., African, and Global Interests: Security and Stability in the West Africa Maritime Domain. Atlantic Council. John Raidt and Kristen E. Smith. November 30, 2010.

The report notes the rising importance of U.S. national security interests in West Africa's Gulf of Guinea.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.acus.org/files/publication_pdfs/3/advancing-us-african-global-interests-security-stability-west-africa-maritime-domain.pdf [PDF format, 88 pages].

Item#2

Afghanistan: Exit vs Engagement. International Crisis Group. November 28, 2010.

U.S. military operations in Afghanistan are now entering their tenth year and policymakers in Washington are looking for a way out. According to the brief, the U.S. forces will try to pummel the Taliban to bring them to the table, responsibility for security will increasingly be transferred to Afghan forces and more money will be provided for economic development. The aim will be a dignified drawdown of troops as public support wanes while at the same time ensuring that a post-withdrawal Afghanistan, at the very least, does not become the epicentre of transnational terrorism.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/asia/south-asia/afghanistan/B115%20Afghanistan%20--%20Exit%20vs%20Engagement.ashx> [PDF format, 12 pages].

Item#3

Are Housing Prices Rising Too Fast in China? International Monetary Fund Working Paper. Ashvin Ahuja et al. December 2010.

Sharp increase in house prices combined with the extraordinary Chinese lending growth during 2009 has led to concerns of an emerging real estate bubble. The report finds that, for China as a whole, the current levels of house prices do not seem significantly higher than would be justified by underlying fundamentals. However, there are signs of overvaluation in some cities' mass-market and luxury segments. Unlike advanced economies before 2007-8, prices have tended to correct frequently in China. Given persistently low real interest rates, lack of alternative investment and mortgage-to-GDP trend, rapid property price growth in China has, and will continue to have a structural driver.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2010/wp10274.pdf> [PDF format, 32 pages].

Item#4

Can China Afford to Confront the World? – Part II. YaleGlobal. Pichamon Yeophantong. November 30, 2010.

China and the U.S. battle for influence over Asian security and economic matters. Yeophantong suggests that China's aggressive push for resources meets with quiet resistance from China's Southeast Asian neighbors. "Having close historical ties to both China and the U.S., ASEAN members frequently find themselves at the receiving end of Chinese and American actions, for better or worse," the author explains. Those same ties give the Association of South East Asian Nations power to balance the two larger powers.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/can-china-afford-confront-world-%E2%80%93-part-ii> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#5

The College Conundrum: Why the Benefits of a College Education May Not Be So Clear, Especially to Men. Center for American Progress. John Schmitt and Heather Boushey. December 2010.

Many economists are concerned that the supply of college graduates is not keeping pace with what they see as an accelerated demand for the skills taught at college. This college gap seems particularly large for young men, who are now substantially less likely than young women to earn a four-year college degree.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/12/pdf/college_conundrum.pdf [PDF format, 19 pages].

Item#6

Fact Sheet: Cutting the Deficit by Freezing Federal Employee Pay. The White House. November 29, 2010.

The White House proposes to cut deficit by freezing federal employee pay.

Full Text:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/11/29/fact-sheet-cutting-deficit-freezing-federal-employee-pay> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#7

Global Giving: The Culture of Philanthropy. Barclays Wealth. November 2010.

The report, which surveyed 2,000 high net worth individuals around the world, provides a snapshot of global philanthropy revealing key differences in the attitudes and behaviors that are driving high net worth individuals to support charitable causes.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.barclayswealth.com/insights/assets/pdf/Global-Giving-The-Culture-of-Philanthropy.pdf>

[PDF format, 8 pages].

Item#8

Hitting the Reset Button on U.S.-Russia Cooperation. Atlantic Council. Stephan M. Minikes. December 2, 2010.

Stephan M. Minikes, U.S. Ambassador to the OSCE from June 2001 to 2005 and current Eurasia Task Force member, argues how improved U.S.-Russia relations can enable a more active OSCE in the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.acus.org/files/publication_pdfs/403/120210_ACUS_Minikes_Reset.PDF [PDF format, 8

pages].

Item#9

Kennedy Still Highest-Rated Modern President, Nixon Lowest. Gallup. Lydia Saad. December 6, 2010.

Of the nine U.S. presidents who have served in the past 50 years, John F. Kennedy continues to earn the highest retrospective job approval rating from Americans, now 85%. Ronald Reagan ranks second, with 74%. While these presidents' ratings are largely unchanged from 2006, Bill Clinton's rating has improved, putting him in third place, while Jimmy Carter, at 52%, has dropped from third to sixth. Richard Nixon remains the lowest rated.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/145064/Kennedy-Highest-Rated-Modern-President-Nixon-Lowest.aspx>

[HTML format, various paging].

Item#10

North Korea's 2009 Nuclear Test: Containment, Monitoring, Implications. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Jonathan Medalia. November 24, 2010.

On May 25, 2009, North Korea announced that it had conducted its second underground nuclear test. Unlike its first test, in 2006, there is no public record that the second one released radioactive materials indicative of a nuclear explosion. How could North Korea have contained these materials from the May 2009 event and what are the implications? The report reflects developments in the North Korean uranium program and prospects for another nuclear test.

Full Text:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/nuke/R41160.pdf> [PDF format, 41 pages].

Item#11

Summary: U.S. Crude Oil, Natural Gas, and Natural Gas Liquids Proved Reserves. U.S. Energy Information Administration. November 30, 2010.

Domestic proved reserves¹ of oil and natural gas increased significantly in 2009. U.S. natural gas proved reserves² increased by 11 percent in 2009 to 284 trillion cubic feet (Tcf). This is the highest level since 1971, despite an approximate one-third decline in the prices used to assess economic viability for 2009 reserves as compared to the prices used in 2008. U.S. crude oil plus lease condensate proved reserves rose 9 percent to 22.3 billion barrels in 2009, regaining 1.8 billion barrels of the 2.3 billion barrel decline in 2008. These increases demonstrate the possibility of an expanding role for domestic natural gas and crude oil in meeting both current and projected U.S. energy demands.

Full Text:

http://www.eia.gov/pub/oil_gas/natural_gas/data_publications/crude_oil_natural_gas_reserves/current/pdf/arrsummary.pdf [PDF format, 28 pages].

Item#12

The U.S. Role in International Climate Finance: A Blueprint for Near-Term Leadership. Center for American Progress. Andrew Stevenson et al. December 2010.

The Alliance for Climate Protection and the Center for American Progress lay out an agenda for boosting U.S. leadership in financing clean energy projects worldwide.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/12/pdf/climatefinance.pdf> [PDF format, 74 pages].

Item#13

Why U.S.-Korea Trade Deal Matters. Council on Foreign Relations. Edward Alden and Scott A. Snyder. December 6, 2010.

The new and improved U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement announced on December 3 is certainly better for U.S. commercial interests than the first draft that was concluded in 2007. But like the consumer who decides to hold out for the next generation of the iPad rather than buying this Christmas, the question will be: Was it worth the wait?

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/23557/why_uskorea_trade_deal_matters.html [HTML format, various paging].