
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

Americans See U.S. as Exceptional; 37% Doubt Obama Does. Gallup. Jeffrey M. Jones. December 22, 2010.

Americans widely agree that the United States has a unique character because of its history and Constitution that sets it apart from other nations as the greatest in the world. This view, commonly referred to as "U.S. exceptionalism," is shared by at least 73% of Americans in all party groups, including 91% of Republicans.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/145358/Americans-Exceptional-Doubt-Obama.aspx> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#2

Approaching Korean Unification: What We Learn from Other Cases. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Victor Cha and David Kang. December 17, 2010.

This interim conference report chronicles the progress of the CSIS–University of Southern California joint project on Korean unification. The project's primary purpose is to frame a discussion on the long-term tasks involved in the eventual unification of the Korean Peninsula. The project does this by pairing Korea scholars with various functional experts in areas such as migration, health, energy, environment, and education to promote innovative thinking on a range of topics related to unification. The report outlines the basic concept of the project and highlights the topics of discussion and important conclusions reached at the summation of the first conference (August 20–21, 2010). In light of the experience of this first conference, the report concludes by tracing the substantive and organizational adjustments to be made for the upcoming second and third conferences.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://csis.org/files/publication/101217_Cha_ApproachingUnification_WEB.pdf [PDF format, 14 pages].

Item#3

Baby Boomers Approach Age 65 – Glumly: Survey Findings about America's Largest Generation. Pew Research Center. D'Vera Cohn and Paul Taylor. December 20, 2010.

Perched on the front stoop of old age, Baby Boomers are more downbeat than other age groups about the trajectory of their own lives and about the direction of the nation as a whole, according to the survey.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1834/baby-boomers-old-age-downbeat-pessimism> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#4

Classified Information Policy and Executive Order 13526. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Kevin R. Kosar. December 10, 2010.

Recently, there have been multiple high-profile incidents involving the release of classified government information. Perhaps most prominent was *Wikileaks.org*'s unauthorized publication of more than 600,000 classified Department of Defense documents. Such incidents have further heightened congressional, media, and public interest in classified information policy. President Barack H. Obama issued Executive Order 13526 on "Classified National Security Information" on December 29, 2009, and Congress enacted P.L. 111-258, the Reducing Over-Classification Act, which President Obama signed into law on October 9, 2010.

Full Text:

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/153313.pdf> [PDF format, 22 pages].

Item#5

Creating the Demand Curve for Cybersecurity. Atlantic Council. Melissa E. Hathaway. December 16, 2010.

Melissa Hathaway, the former White House official who led President Obama's Cyberspace Policy Review, argues for a new approach to cybersecurity in the absence of additional financial resources and greater Congressional constraints. She calls on the administration to consider a three-pronged strategy using the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, and the Federal Trade Commission to marshal the capabilities of private sector stakeholders to strengthen the integrity of private sector information infrastructure, enhance protection of vital systems, and to secure online transactions.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.acus.org/files/publication_pdfs/403/121610_ACUS_Hathaway_CyberDemand.pdf [PDF format, 8 pages].

Item#6

The Debate Over Airport Security. Council on Foreign Relations. Jayshree Bajoria. December 28, 2010.

New screening measures at U.S. airports are being called overly intrusive by some passengers and civil rights groups. National security experts advise using a system that relies more on intelligence, behavioral profiling, and empowering passengers.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/23673/debate_over_airport_security.html [HTML format, various paging].

Item#7

Immigration Legalization in the United States and European Union: Policy Goals and Program Design. Migration Policy Institute. Marc R. Rosenblum. December 2010.

Immigrant legalization, while highly controversial on both sides of the Atlantic, is a critical and widely used tool for managing illegal immigration. Lawmakers seeking to design effective legalization regimes must balance competing goals: inclusiveness versus avoidance of rewarding illegal behavior, and assuring a high rate of participation without admitting ineligible migrants or encouraging future illegal migration. The brief examines the legalization debate and discusses policy parameters that characterize legalization programs, such as qualifications, requirements, benefits, and program design and implementation.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/legalization-policydesign.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages].

Item#8

North Korea's Nuclear Question: Sense of Vulnerability, Defensive Motivation, and Peaceful Solution. Strategic Studies Institute. Kwang Ho Chun. December 28, 2010.

Why have efforts to dismantle the North Korean nuclear program failed so far? What can be done in order to achieve a peaceful and long-lasting resolution to this conundrum? To answer these questions, the report scrutinizes and refutes two prevailing academic-cum-policy approaches to the North Korean nuclear situation: the use of coercive tools within a general framework of containment, and bypassing the regime in Pyongyang and engaging the Korean people with the hope that they will gain enough power to transform North Korea into a democratic nuclear-free country.

Full Text:

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=1037> [HTML format with links].

Item#9

Politics Goes Mobile. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Lee Rainie and Aaron Smith. December 23, 2010.

More than a quarter of American adults – 26% – used their cell phones to learn about or participate in the 2010 mid-term election campaign.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2010/PIP_Mobile_Politics.pdf [PDF format, 11 pages].

Item#10

Shut Out of the Military: Today's High School Education Doesn't Mean You're Ready for Today's Army. The EducationTrust. December 2010.

For generations of Americans, a military career has provided the chance to join a tradition of discipline, honor, service to country, and achievement. However, the analysis reveals that many young people pinning their hopes on a career in the Armed Forces will never get the chance to serve. It examines data from the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) administered to potential Army recruits gathered from 2004 to 2009. The analysis paints a picture of the K-12 school system's inability to academically prepare students for opportunities in the military and beyond.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.edtrust.org/sites/edtrust.org/files/publications/files/ASVAB_4.pdf [PDF format, 11 pages].

Item#11

What Is the Price of College? National Center for Education Statistics. Christina Chang Wei. December 20, 2010.

The brief describes the annual price of education among undergraduates enrolled in U.S. postsecondary institutions in 2007–08. The most recent administration of the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS) supplied the data.

Full Text:

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011175.pdf> [PDF format, 18 pages].