
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](#) 65% of Internet Users Have Paid for Online Content
- [Item#2](#) China's Green Ambition, US Sees Red
- [Item#3](#) Designing Social Media Policy for Government
- [Item#4](#) Faith on the Hill: The Religious Composition of the 112th Congress
- [Item#5](#) Global Aging and the Crisis of the 2020s
- [Item#6](#) Hu Jintao's State Visit: China and the Korean Peninsula
- [Item#7](#) Public's Top Stories of the Decade – 9/11 and Katrina
- [Item#8](#) The Role of Women in Global Security
- [Item#9](#) Social Security and Medicare Taxes and Benefits Over a Lifetime
- [Item#10](#) U.S. South-Korea Relations

Reports

- [Item#1](#)
65% of Internet Users Have Paid for Online Content. Pew Internet & American Life Project. Jim Jansen. December 30, 2010.

Nearly two-thirds of internet users (65%) have paid to download or access some kind of online content from the internet, ranging from music to games to news articles. Music, software, and apps are the most popular content that internet users have paid to access or download, although the range of paid online content is quite varied and widespread.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2010/PIP-Paying-for-Online-Content_final.pdf
[PDF format, 13 pages].

Item#2

China's Green Ambition, US Sees Red. YaleGlobal. Michael Richardson. January 5, 2011.

As factory to the world, China is hungry for energy. The nation secures traditional sources of energy – as the largest producer and consumer of coal, ranking second in oil consumption and imports, fifth for oil production, and is also intent on dominating the global renewable-energies industry. Recognizing that the rapidly-growing industry creates jobs, China devotes a growing pile of investment funds targeted for green-energy development, explains the author.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/chinas-green-ambition-us-sees-red> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

Designing Social Media Policy for Government. Brookings Institution. Jana Hrdinova and Natalie Helbig. January 2011.

Government agencies in the United States and around the world are increasingly looking to leverage social media to improve the quality of government services and enable greater citizen engagement. One central challenge that has emerged is the blurring line between the three types of social media use by government employees, namely agency use, professional use, and personal use. In this brief, the Center for Technology in Government at the University at Albany draws on its research on social media to clarify these different use types and why they matter for designing social media policy.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2011/01_social_media_policy/01_social_media_policy.pdf [PDF format, 9 pages].

Item#4

Faith on the Hill: The Religious Composition of the 112th Congress. Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. January 5, 2011.

Many analysts described the November 2010 midterm elections as a sea change, with Republicans taking control of the U.S. House of Representatives and narrowing the Democratic majority in the Senate. But this political overhaul appears to have had little effect on the religious composition of Congress, which is similar to the religious makeup of the previous Congress and of the nation, according to the analysis.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://pewforum.org/Government/Faith-on-the-Hill--The-Religious-Composition-of-the-112th-Congress.aspx#2> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#5

Global Aging and the Crisis of the 2020s. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Richard Jackson and Neil Howe. January 4, 2011.

From the fall of the Roman and the Mayan empires to the Black Death to the colonization of the New World and the youth-driven revolutions of the twentieth century, demographic trends have played a decisive role in many of the great invasions, political upheavals, migrations, and environmental catastrophes of history. By the 2020s, an ominous new conjuncture of demographic trends may once again threaten widespread disruption. The report discusses global aging, which is likely to have a profound effect on economic growth, living standards, and the shape of the world

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://csis.org/publication/global-aging-and-crisis-2020s> [HTML format with links].

Item#6

Hu Jintao's State Visit: China and the Korean Peninsula. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Victor Cha. January 6, 2011.

On January 19, President Hu Jintao of China will arrive in Washington for his third state visit since President Barack Obama's inauguration. On the agenda will be discussion of a wide range of issues, including global trade imbalances, currency valuation, Iran's nuclear program, global climate change, and most critically, North Korea. President Hu's trip comes after a year of difficult relations between the United States and China over North Korea's provocations.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://csis.org/publication/hu-jintaos-state-visit-china-and-korean-peninsula> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#7

Public's Top Stories of the Decade – 9/11 and Katrina. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. December 30, 2010.

The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 drew more public interest than any other story in the past decade. The 2005 hurricanes in the Gulf, high gasoline prices and the collapse of the economy in 2008 also grabbed overwhelming public attention.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1841/publics-top-news-stories-2001-2010-september-11-katrina> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#8

The Role of Women in Global Security. U.S. Institute of Peace. Valerie Norville. January 2011.

The report examines women's roles in peace building, post-conflict reconstruction, and economic development. It draws on discussions at the conference on "The Role of Women in Global Security," held in Copenhagen on October 29–30, 2010, and co-hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Denmark and the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in partnership with the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP). Ambassador Laurie S. Fulton, U.S. Ambassador to Denmark and former member of USIP's board, brought together participants from the United States, Nordic-Baltic countries, Afghanistan, Liberia, and Uganda to focus on the roles that women can play as leaders in areas of active conflict and post-conflict.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.usip.org/files/resources/SR264-The_role_of_Women_in_Global_Security.pdf [PDF format, 16 pages].

Item#9

Social Security and Medicare Taxes and Benefits Over a Lifetime. Urban Institute. C. Eugene Steuerle and Stephanie Rennane. January 2011.

How much will you pay in Social Security and Medicare taxes over your lifetime? And how much can you expect to get back in benefits? It depends on whether you're married, when you retire, and how much you've earned over a lifetime. The tables provide estimates of the lifetime value of Social Security and Medicare benefits and taxes for typical workers in different generations at various earning levels. The "lifetime value of taxes" is based upon the value of accumulated taxes, as if those taxes were put into an account that earned a 2 percent real rate of return (that is, 2 percent plus inflation). The "lifetime value of benefits" represents the amount needed in an account (also earning a 2 percent real interest rate) to pay for those benefits.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/social-security-medicare-benefits-over-lifetime.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages].

Item#10

U.S. South-Korea Relations. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Mark E. Manyin et al. December 8, 2010.

Since late 2008, relations between the United States and South Korea (known officially as the Republic of Korea, or ROK) have been arguably at their best state in decades. By the middle of 2010, in the view of many in the Obama Administration, South Korea had emerged as the United States' closest ally in East Asia. U.S.-South Korean coordination over policy towards North Korea has been particularly close. The Obama and Lee Administrations have adopted a medium-to-longer-term policy of "strategic patience" that involves three main elements: refusing to return to the Six-Party Talks without an assurance from North Korea that it would take "irreversible steps" to denuclearize; gradually attempting to alter China's strategic assessment of North Korea; and using Pyongyang's provocations as opportunities to tighten sanctions against North Korean entities.

Full Text:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R41481.pdf> [PDF format, 33 pages].