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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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Title Index

- [Item#1](#) Advanced Economics Pose Three Financial Risks to Developing Countries in 2011
- [Item#2](#) Can Tunisia Spark a Revolutionary Wave?
- [Item#3](#) CLEAN Contracts: Making Clean Local Energy Accessible Now
- [Item#4](#) Conduct Befitting a Great Power: Responsibility and Sovereignty in U.S.-China Relations
- [Item#5](#) Education is Not the Cure for High Unemployment or for Income Inequality
- [Item#6](#) Freedom in the World 2011: The Authoritarian Challenge to Democracy
- [Item#7](#) How to Keep the Nuclear Genie in the Bottle
- [Item#8](#) Job Creation on a Budget: How Regional Industry Clusters Can Add Jobs, Bolster Entrepreneurship, and Spark Innovation
- [Item#9](#) The Markets Prey on Debt-Laden Nations
- [Item#10](#) Political Violence in North Africa: The Perils of Incomplete Liberalization
- [Item#11](#) Poverty in Numbers: The Changing State of Global Poverty from 2005 to 2015
- [Item#12](#) Reality in U.S. –China Relations. Council on Foreign Relations
- [Item#13](#) Spending and Funding for Highways
- [Item#14](#) Sustainable Cities: Oxymoron or the Shape of the Future?
- [Item#15](#) Trade Induced Change? The Impact of Chinese Imports on Innovation, IT and Productivity

Reports

Item#1

Advanced Economics Pose Three Financial Risks to Developing Countries in 2011. Center for Global Development. Liliana Rojas-Suarez. January 18, 2011.

As in recent years, the major risks for emerging market economies in 2011 will come not from the policies and actions of the countries themselves, but from developments in advanced economies. There are three major risks: the debt crisis in Europe and the ramifications of potential sovereign defaults, continued sluggish growth in the U.S., and China's role in the so-called "currency wars" that are adversely affecting many developing countries. Many developing countries have recently become notably resilient to adverse external shocks; with good macroeconomic policies and some good luck, they may be able to weather the storm, but the United States, Europe, and China have large roles to play in their success or failure to do so.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424748/> [HTML format with links].

Item#2

Can Tunisia Spark a Revolutionary Wave? Council on Foreign Relations. Deborah Jerome. January 18, 2011.

The overthrow of Tunisia's government last week in what has been dubbed a Jasmine Revolution has reverberated throughout the region and has left Tunisia itself in a state of political turbulence. In the wake of the ouster of Tunisian President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali are two questions: Is Tunisia's example likely to spark comparable uprisings across the Arab world? And will democracy take root in Tunisia?

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/23810/can_tunisia_spark_a_revolutionary_wave.html [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

CLEAN Contracts: Making Clean Local Energy Accessible Now. Center for American Progress. Richard W. Caperton et al. January 2011.

For many reasons, it's time to change direction in America's energy use to rely on clean renewable energy, according to the paper. Renewable power reverses harmful environmental trends from global warming to local air pollution that hurts human health. But clean energy has many purely economic benefits as well. The paper looks at the one policy that has helped to bring more renewable electricity into the marketplace than any other: the Clean Local Energy Accessible Now, or CLEAN, contract, also known as a "feed-in tariff."

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/01/pdf/clean_contracts.pdf [PDF format, 26 pages].

Item#4

Conduct Befitting a Great Power: Responsibility and Sovereignty in U.S.-China Relations. Center for American Progress. Nina Hachigian. January 14, 2011.

Chinese President Hu Jintao arrives in Washington for a state visit later this month, with hopes high in both capitals that his trip may serve to smooth out the edges of a U.S.-China relationship that has frayed over the past year. Clashes over security, the global economy, and differing political values challenge the relationship today. At the heart of many of these disputes are conflicting understandings about how a great power should act in the 21st century. Washington and Beijing have different conceptions of global responsibility. Washington has spent decades since World War II investing in an international architecture of economic and security accords that delivered stability and enabled China's growth. Now Washington wants Beijing to play by the rules, help improve the international system, and contribute to solving urgent global problems, many of which China helps to create, among them economic imbalances and global warming.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/01/pdf/china_policy.pdf [PDF format, 33 pages].

Item#5

Education is Not the Cure for High Unemployment or for Income Inequality. Economic Policy Institute. Lawrence Mishel. January 13, 2011.

With signs pointing to persistent high unemployment and a recovery even weaker than those of the early 1990s and 2000s, it is becoming common to hear in the media and among some policy makers the claim that lingering unemployment is not cyclical but "structural." In this story, the jobs problem is not a lack of demand for workers but rather a mismatch between workers' skills and employers' needs. Another version of the skills mismatch is also being told about the future: we face an impending skills shortage, particularly a shortfall of college graduates, after the economy returns to full employment. The author discusses these points.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://epi.3cdn.net/67ee506f20f88f8ee7_l7m6ii9g8.pdf [PDF format, 26 pages].

Item#6

Freedom in the World 2011: The Authoritarian Challenge to Democracy. Freedom House. January 2011.

According to the survey's findings, 2010 was the fifth consecutive year in which global freedom suffered a decline, the longest period of setbacks for freedom in the nearly 40-year history of the report. These declines threaten gains dating to the post-Cold War era in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the former

Soviet bloc. The latest survey highlights the increasing truculence of the world's most powerful authoritarian regimes, which has coincided with a growing inability or unwillingness on the part of the world's democracies to meet the authoritarian challenge.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.freedomhouse.org/images/File/fiw/FIW_2011_Booklet.pdf [PDF format, 34 pages].

Item#7

How to Keep the Nuclear Genie in the Bottle. YaleGlobal. Richard Weitz. January 19, 2011.

Following a series of agreements with the U.S., Russia and former Soviet states, the global stockpile of nuclear warheads has dropped from 70,000 to 22,000 since 1987, reports the World Nuclear Association. The Association says, "Highly-enriched uranium in US and Russian weapons and other military stockpiles amounts to about 2000 tonnes, equivalent to about twelve times annual world mine production," adding that governments direct the weapons-grade material for civilian fuel. Unsecured stockpiles remain a target for smugglers and terrorists, notes the author.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/how-keep-nuclear-genie-bottle> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#8

Job Creation on a Budget: How Regional Industry Clusters Can Add Jobs, Bolster Entrepreneurship, and Spark Innovation. Brookings Institution. Mark Muro and Kenan Fikri. January 19, 2011.

The best way to create more jobs in a state is to grow them at home, rather than poach them from elsewhere: Some 95 percent of all job gains in a year in an average state come from the expansion of existing businesses or the birth of new establishments. However, the usual recipe of tax credits, R&D, training programs, and physical infrastructure is not sufficient, by itself, to spur such "organic" job creation. States also need to cultivate their industry clusters, geographic concentrations of interconnected firms and supporting organizations. Properly designed, cluster strategies are a low-cost way to stimulate innovation, new-firm start-ups, and job creation by helping to link and align the many factors that influence firm and regional growth, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2011/0119_clusters_muro/0119_clusters_muro.pdf [PDF format, 12 pages].

Item#9

The Markets Prey on Debt-Laden Nations. YaleGlobal. Joergen Oerstroem Moeller. January 17, 2011.

The world has gross savings of more than \$61 trillion, reports the International Monetary Fund. Those holdings are highly imbalanced: China's surplus is more than \$4 trillion while the U.S. owes \$14 trillion.

Investors relentlessly detect and predict trends in pursuit of higher profits. Japan, the U.S. and many European nations carry high debt loads. The financial markets are impatient with low interest rates that spur government spending, debt and reckless investments that repeatedly threaten global economic stability. On the markets' radar are European nations like Greece, Ireland and Spain. Quick, unified action on reform, austerity, along with modest growth, protects the eurozone, for now, explains researcher Joergen Oerstroem Moeller. The U.S. – less quick to change its spending ways – is the next target for the markets.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/markets-prey-debt-laden-nations> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#10

Political Violence in North Africa: The Perils of Incomplete Liberalization. Brookings Doha Center. Anouar Boukhars. January 2011.

After the attacks of September 11, 2001, a growing number of analysts and policymakers drew a link between the dramatic rise of terrorism in the Middle East and the region's lack of democracy. The question of whether levels of political rights and freedoms affect the resort to violence continues to be a source of major political debate. While some scholars insist that democracies are less likely to produce terrorist activity, due to their ability to channel grievance peacefully, others contend that regimes transitioning to democracy are highly vulnerable to destabilization. Periods of liberalization often raise citizens' expectations for freedom that regimes are unwilling or unable to meet. The resulting dissonance can fuel violent opposition.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2011/01_north_africa_boukhars/01_north_africa_boukhars.pdf [PDF format, 43 pages].

Item#11

Poverty in Numbers: The Changing State of Global Poverty from 2005 to 2015. Brookings Institution. Laurence Chandy and Geoffrey Gertz. January 2011.

Poverty reduction lies at the core of the global development challenge. For the international development community, this objective serves not only as a source of motivation, but as a defining theme across its work. Many of the world's most prominent aid organizations cite poverty reduction as their overarching goal. But while the common goal of poverty reduction is never disputed, we find it remarkably difficult to measure whether it is happening, and if so how fast, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2011/01_global_poverty_chandy/01_global_poverty_chandy.pdf [PDF format, 23 pages].

Item#12

Reality in U.S. –China Relations. Council on Foreign Relations. Elizabeth C. Economy. January 14, 2011.

A series of frank statements by U.S. officials before the upcoming summit with Chinese president Hu Jintao provides an important new footing for advancing cooperation between the two countries, says Elizabeth Economy.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/23803/reality_in_uschina_relations.html [HTML format, various paging].

Item#13

Spending and Funding for Highways. Congressional Budget Office. January 20, 2011.

The nation's network of highways plays a vital role in the U.S. economy; private commercial activity and people's daily lives depend on that transportation infrastructure. In 2007, the public sector spent \$146 billion to build, operate, and maintain highways in the United States. About three-quarters of that total were provided by state and local governments. One-quarter was provided by the federal government, primarily through the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The initial authorization for that law has expired; as the Congress considers the future role of the federal government in providing highway infrastructure, it faces three important questions: how to structure decisionmaking about highway projects, how much money to spend on highways, and how to pay for that spending.

Full Text:

http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/120xx/doc12043/01-19-HighwaySpending_Brief.pdf [PDF format, 8 pages].

Item#14

Sustainable Cities: Oxymoron or the Shape of the Future? Harvard Business School. Annissa Alussi et al. January 2011.

According to the authors, two trends are likely to define the 21st century: threats to the sustainability of the natural environment and dramatic increases in urbanization. This paper reviews the goals, business models, and partnerships involved in eight early "ecocity" projects to begin to identify success factors in this emerging industry. Ecocities, for the most part, are viewed as a means of mitigating threats to the natural environment while creating urban living capacity by combining principles of green building with the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) to better manage complex urban systems.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.hbs.edu/research/pdf/11-062.pdf> [PDF format, 26 pages].

Item#15

Trade Induced Change? The Impact of Chinese Imports on Innovation, IT and Productivity. National Bureau of Economic Research. Nicholas Bloom et al. January 24, 2011.

The report examines the impact of Chinese import competition on patenting, IT, R&D and TFP using a panel of up to half a million firms over 1996-2007 across twelve European countries. Chinese import competition had two effects: first, it led to increases in R&D, patenting, IT and TFP within firms; and second it reallocated employment between firms towards more innovative and technologically advanced firms. These within and between effects were about equal in magnitude, and appear to account for around 15% of European technology upgrading between 2000-2007. Rising Chinese import competition also led to falls in employment, profits, prices and the skill share. By contrast, import competition from developed countries had no effect on innovation.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w16717.pdf> [PDF format, 63 pages].