
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](#) Central Asian Security Trends: Views from Europe and Russia
- [Item#2](#) China's Foreign-Policy Balancing Act - Part I
- [Item#3](#) China's Foreign-Policy Balancing Act - Part II
- [Item#4](#) Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Update on Federal Financial Risks and Claims Processing
- [Item#5](#) Ethical and Effective Policing
- [Item#6](#) How Good is the 2010 Census Count?: An Update
- [Item#7](#) Innovation, Espionage, and Chinese Technology Policy
- [Item#8](#) Japan's 2011 Earthquake and Tsunami: Economic Effects and Implications for the United States
- [Item#9](#) A More Strategic U.S. Approach to Police Reform in Africa.
- [Item#10](#) The New Digital American Family: Understanding Family Dynamics, Media and Purchasing Behavior Trends
- [Item#11](#) Public Opinions on Taxes: 1937 to Today
- [Item#12](#) Trump Has Highest Profile Among Possible GOP Contenders: But Few Paying Attention to Presidential Race

Reports

Item#1

Central Asian Security Trends: Views from Europe and Russia. Strategic Studies Institute. Stephen J. Blank. April 19, 2011.

The war in Afghanistan has added considerably to the strategic significance of Central Asia due to its proximity to the conflict. Moreover, the continuation of the war increasingly involves the vital interests of many other actors other than the U.S. and NATO forces currently there. The study provides a comprehensive analysis of the means and objectives of Russia's involvement in Central Asia. It also provides Russian perspectives concerning the other actors in Central Asia and how Moscow views the policy significance of those efforts.

<http://strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=1063> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#2

China's Foreign-Policy Balancing Act - Part I. YaleGlobal. Jonathan Fenby. April 13, 2011.

Every move of fast-rising China in international affairs is closely studied for a shift from old patterns. Some analysts expect China to shoulder new global responsibility; others anticipate continuation of policies upholding national sovereignty. China's evolving policy on Libya reveals its earnest pursuit of African trade and investment and caution on security matters, explains the author. China did not have to take a stand on revolts in Tunisia or Egypt. But Libya became a topic for the UN Security Council. China allowed the vote on a no-fly zone for Libya to proceed while abstaining itself. Now, China criticizes the intervention, calling for stability but offering little assurance to desperate citizens seeking safety let alone needed reforms. Fenby concludes that global powers must take stands on difficult issues - or risk losing influence.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/chinas-foreign-policy-balancing-act-part-i> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

China's Foreign-Policy Balancing Act - Part II. YaleGlobal. Shen Dingli. April 15, 2011.

Ranked 11th largest in the world in 1980, China's economy has since swelled to the second spot. Outbreak of hostility in any part of the world - like Libya - affects China's global portfolio. China prefers pragmatism in alleviating global tensions, contends Shen Dingli. China's rapid rise, increased external pressures to act at a faster pace and tardy responses to crises heighten suspicions. A case in point is China's inconsistent position vis-à-vis North Korea despite its open violation of international law in dealing with its southern neighbor. The principle of noninterference, territorial integrity, reliance on patient diplomacy and a desire for stability that characterize China's strategies can appear opaque. Every nation, including China, can benefit by examining its own foreign-policy responses for consistency and the reactions they generate. Shen concludes that delicate handling and building mutual trust would minimize frustrations and serve everyone's interest.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/chinas-foreign-policy-balancing-act-part-ii> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#4

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Update on Federal Financial Risks and Claims Processing. U.S. Government Accountability Office. April 18, 2011.

With reported Fund costs of about \$629.5 million as of March 31, 2011, NPFC had obligated or incurred costs that could result in over 60 percent of the amount available under the Fund's statutory \$1-billion-per-incident-expenditure-cap. If, regardless of any reimbursements from responsible parties, total Fund expenditures exceed the \$1-billion cap, agencies may be required to rely on reallocating their appropriated funding to cover costs they incur or obtain supplemental funding. In addition, agencies may be unable to cover some of their costs and NPFC would be unable to pay any additional claims to individuals and businesses related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The report reiterates our prior matter that Congress should consider changing the calculation of expenditures made against the Fund's \$1-billion-per-incident-expenditure-cap to take into account reimbursements from responsible parties.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11397r.pdf> [PDF format, 33 pages].

Item#5

Ethical and Effective Policing. Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. April 2011.

As enforcers of the law, police play a crucial role in upholding democracy. In democratic societies, citizens grant increased authority to police in order to live in a safe community. They give police the power to detain, search, arrest citizens, and lawfully use physical force when situations dictate. In return, police departments must ensure that police officers adhere to high ethical standards. When they don't, the reciprocal trust between citizenry and police is disrupted, undermining the tacit social contract that is the basis of democracy. This issue of *eJournal USA* examines the ways in which citizens and police strive to sustain the social contract.

http://photos.state.gov/libraries/korea/397355/April_2011/Ethical-Policing-041311.pdf [PDF format, 28 pages].

Item#6

How Good is the 2010 Census Count?: An Update. Pew Social & Demographic Trends. D'Vera Cohn. April 18, 2011.

In addition to publishing detailed numbers from the 2010 Census, the Census Bureau has been releasing performance indicators from the count. They offer clues to help answer the question of how well the bureau did in counting the entire U.S. population, only once, and in the right place.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1966/census-2010-how-accurate-new-indicators> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#7

Innovation, Espionage, and Chinese Technology Policy. Council on Foreign Relations. Adam Segal. April 15, 2011.

Adam Segal testifies before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations about Chinese cyber espionage and China's desire to reduce its dependence on the West for advanced technologies.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.cfr.org/china/innovation-espionage-chinese-technology-policy/p24686> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#8

Japan's 2011 Earthquake and Tsunami: Economic Effects and Implications for the United States. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. March 31, 2011.

The earthquake-related events in Japan are still unfolding; and each round of economic assessments seems more and more pessimistic. Analysts expect that over the next quarter or so, Japan's economy will contract and may fall into recession, but it may begin to expand later in the year because of rebuilding activity. Much depends on whether the damage from the nuclear plant can be contained, the speed at which electrical and oil refining capacity can be restored, and how quickly Japan's industrial base can recover. As the third largest economy in the world, Japan's GDP at \$5.5 trillion accounts for 8.7% of global GDP. The net impact of the disaster on global GDP is that it is expected to shave about a half percentage point off global economic growth with about half of that effect confined to Japan, itself. Congressional interest on the economic side centers on humanitarian concerns, radioactive fallout reaching the United States, the impact on U.S. citizens and American companies in Japan, the effects on trade and supply chain disruptions, and increased volatility in Japanese and U.S. financial markets, interest rates, and the yen-dollar exchange rate.

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R41702_20110331.pdf [PDF format, 20 pages].

Item#9

A More Strategic U.S. Approach to Police Reform in Africa. Center for Strategic and International Studies. Richard Downie and Jenniefer G. Cooke. April 20, 2011.

U.S. strategic stakes in Africa have expanded in the last 15 years, with growing awareness among policymakers and the American public that developments in Africa can have direct and significant impact on U.S. economic, political, and security interests.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://csis.org/files/publication/110414_Downie_PolicyReformAfrica_Web.pdf [PDF format, 30 pages].

Item#10

The New Digital American Family: Understanding Family Dynamics, Media and Purchasing Behavior Trends. Nielsen. Doug Anderson et al. April 2011.

The average media-consuming household in the U.S. is getting smaller, growing more slowly and becoming more ethnically diverse than at any point in history. Diversity in all its dimensions defines the emerging American Family archetype, with no single cultural, social, demographic, economic or political point of view dominating the landscape. The report looks at ethnic shifts, financial and educational divides, marital status and other factors influencing the state of the New Digital American Family.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.ad-tech.com/sf/images/adtechSF-USReportFINAL.PDF> [PDF format, 8 pages].

Item#11

Public Opinions on Taxes: 1937 to Today. American Enterprise Institute. Karlyn Bowman and Andrew Rugg. April 2011.

Almost half of Americans say federal income taxes are too high, and many believe there is a need for major reforms. The latest polls indicate that Americans believe Republicans could handle tax reform better than Democrats, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/AEIPublicOpinionTaxes2011.pdf> [PDF format, 108 pages].

Item#12

Trump Has Highest Profile Among Possible GOP Contenders: But Few Paying Attention to Presidential Race. Pew Center for the People & the Press. April 20, 2011.

11Among Republicans, 39% name Trump as the most visible presidential candidate -- more than all other possible GOP candidates combined. A majority of Americans, however, could not name anyone when asked which GOP candidate they have been hearing the most about.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1968/trump-most-public-attention-republican-candidates-budget-deficit-news-depressing-difficult-to-understand-large-numbers> [HTML format, various paging].