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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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Reports

Item#1

After the Arab Spring - Part I. YaleGlobal. Gustav Ranis. September 21, 2011.

The Palestinian-Israeli pressure cooker of complex mix of interests and injustices has long threatened to explode, an issue ready-made for extremists of all stripes to needle leaders in Israel, the Palestine Authority or the United States. Since the Arab Spring swept old regimes from power, notably in Egypt, Muslims everywhere are emboldened to demand democratic institutions and full representation. The report explores the new contours of the Middle East rising out of the fiery spring. Gustav Ranis analyzes history of the conflict and the impact of the Arab Spring, including new challenges to Egypt's peace treaty with Israel. This is the backdrop to a Palestinian plan to seek recognition as a state from the UN during the General Assembly meeting, despite vehement opposition from Israel and the U.S. Frustration is escalating and the status quo is unsustainable, maintains Ranis. He argues that escalation of the conflict bound to occur from the UN move makes it imperative that the parties to the decades-old dispute, particularly the U.S., forcefully reject the extreme positions and get to work negotiating immediate agreement.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/after-arab-spring-part-i> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#2

All Immigration Is Local: Receiving Communities and Their Role in Successful Immigrant Integration. Center for American Progress. Michael Jones-Correa. September 20, 2011.

The process of immigrant integration and acceptance is often bumpy and messy, but a focus on receiving communities will smooth out that process and help make sure that immigrants and the native born can together fully take part in the American Dream.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/09/pdf/rci.pdf> [PDF format, 53 pages].

Item#3

China Plays Hard Ball. YaleGlobal. Francois Godement. September 19, 2011.

European nations deep in debt are playing a dangerous game with China by teasing global markets. Neither borrowers nor would-be rescuers offer transparency about how much European debt China holds. Sensing that China is increasingly the only available willing buyer, leaders like Wen Jiabao allude to conditional lending, urging an end to anti-dumping charges or allowing asset sales that benefit Chinese trade. "If the eurozone's less directly challenged economies pocket windfall benefits of quasi-zero interest rates for their own budgets, while denying support to less well-endowed economies, the eurozone will crack up," warns China expert Francois Godement. China could be considering deleveraging its EU bond purchases, and no doubt, nationalistic Chinese citizens would appreciate Europe's comeuppance. But the European Union is China's top customer and a swift move toward belt-tightening would hurt the Chinese economy. Its growing division is weakening the EU. Markets will take advantage of the disorganization, and China will be looking for opportunities.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/china-plays-hard-ball> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#4

Congressional Authority to Limit Military Operations. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Jennifer K. Elsea et al. September 8, 2011.

Controversy continues over the appropriate role that Congress should play in regulating U.S. military operations against foreign entities. U.S. action against Libya reignited consideration of long-standing questions concerning the President's constitutional authority to use military force without congressional authorization, as well as congressional authority to regulate or limit the use of force. As Congress considers defense authorization and appropriations bills for FY2012, there may be a renewed focus on whether or to what extent Congress has the constitutional authority to legislate limits on the President's authority to conduct military operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, or other locations.

<http://www.fas.org/spp/crs/natsec/R41989.pdf> [PDF format, 41 pages].

Item#5

Do Tax Cuts Boost the Economy? Center for Economic and Policy Research. David Rosnick and Dean Baker. September 13, 2011.

There are many economists who argue that temporary tax cuts have no impact on the economy. They argue that people will save a temporary tax credit rather than spend it. Stanford Economics Professor John Taylor, who served as Under Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs under President Bush, is one of the economists making this argument. He purports to show that there was no statistically significant increase in private consumption of goods and services as a result of certain types of government transfers made over the last decade. According to his analysis, it is unclear whether an additional dollar of government transfers led to any additional spending, or, alternatively, whether it raised personal savings by more than one dollar. The paper shows that there is very little indication that, based on Taylor's work, personal transfers from the government fail to stimulate private spending.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/tax-cuts-2011-09.pdf> [PDF format, 9 pages].

Item#6

The Future of U.S. Aid Reform: Rhetoric, Reality, and Recommendations. Center for Global Development. Connie Veillette. September 19, 2011.

The report takes a look at the Obama administration's FY2012 budget request and congressional reaction to gauge the potential for implementing foreign aid reforms as spelled out in the administration's policy documents.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1425457/> [HTML format with a link].

Item#7

Growing U.S. Trade Deficit with China Cost 2.8 Million Jobs Between 2001 and 2010. Economic Policy Institute. Robert E. Scott. September 20, 2011.

The U.S.-China trade deficit has eliminated or displaced nearly 2.8 million U.S. jobs since 2001, according to the briefing. It finds that all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico suffered jobs lost or displaced as a result of the growing U.S.-China trade deficit.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.epi.org/files/2011/BriefingPaper323.pdf> [PDF format, 23 pages].

Item#8

Hillary Clinton to Attend Busan Forum: Demonstrating Development Diplomacy? Brookings Institution. Noam Unger and Homi Kharas. September 21, 2011.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will be attending the upcoming High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, South Korea. Although this event will be the fourth such forum, following on Rome (2003), Paris (2005) and Accra (2008), it will be the first time the U.S. is represented at such a high level. The authors view Clinton's attendance as a positive step, having made the case for it privately in meetings and openly in publications. But how does her attendance fit into the context of reforms to elevate global development within the U.S. government? And how can her participation lead to a better High-Level Forum?

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0921_clinton_busan_kharas_unger.aspx [HTML format, various paging].

Item#9

Illegal Internet Streaming of Copyrighted Content: Legislation in the 112th Congress. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Brian T. Yeh. August 29, 2011.

Technological developments related to the Internet benefit consumers who want convenient ways to view and hear information and entertainment content on a variety of electronic devices. New technologies offer the potential to help copyright holders promote their creative works for artistic, educational, and commercial reasons. One of these new technologies enables the "streaming" of copyrighted content over the Internet from a website to an end user. There are many legitimate streaming websites such as Hulu, Netflix, YouTube, and HBO GO that offer on-demand streams of television programs, motion pictures, live sporting events, and sound recordings. However, streaming technology can also be misused for facilitating copyright infringement online. So-called "rogue" websites serve as an alternative to the authorized websites.

http://ipmall.info/hosted_resources/crs/R41975_110829.pdf [PDF format, 14 pages].

Item#10

Iraq and US Strategy in the Gulf. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Anthony H. Cordesman. September 20, 2011.

During the coming months, the U.S. must reshape its strategy and force posture relative to Iraq and the Gulf States. It must take account of its withdrawal of most of its forces from Iraq, and whether or not it can give real meaning to the U.S.-Iraqi Strategic Framework Agreement, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://csis.org/files/publication/Iraq_and_US_Strategy_in_the_Gulf_14.9.11.pdf [PDF format, 33 pages].

Item#11

Now Is the Time to Fix Our Broken Infrastructure: American Jobs Act Will Put Millions to Work. Center for American Progress. Heather Boushey. September 22, 2011.

Investing in infrastructure creates jobs and yields lasting benefits for the economy, including increasing growth in the long run. Upgrading roads, bridges, and other basic infrastructure creates jobs now by putting people to work earning good, middle-class incomes, which expands the consumer base for businesses. These kinds of investments also pave the way for long-term economic growth by lowering the cost of doing business and making U.S. companies more competitive. The author believes that the American Jobs Act could provide it.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/09/aja_infrastructure.html [HTML format, various paging].

Item#12

Unraveling China's "String of Pearls" YaleGlobal. Ashley S. Townshend. September 16, 2011.

Reports that Pakistan invited China to construct a naval base in Gwadar have reignited concerns about Beijing's strategic ambitions in the Indian Ocean. For many China-watchers, the militarization of this commercial port, just 500 kilometers from the Strait of Hormuz, would confirm longstanding anxieties about Beijing's so-called "string of pearls" strategy. Yet there are few reasons to fear China's strategic weight in the Indian Ocean, explains Ashley S. Townshend. The ports are, as China contends, conventional shipping facilities to connect landlocked Chinese provinces with trade routes. Transforming the commercial ports into military bases would not only require extensive fortification but also convincing host countries to upend a geopolitical strategy balancing interests of China, the U.S. and India. The ports have long-term strategic value, but Townshend concludes that it's in the interest of all, including China, to minimize conflicts in the Indian Ocean and keep trade routes open.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/unraveling-chinas-string-pearls> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#13

An Update to "Simulating the Effect of the 'Great Recession' on Poverty" Brookings Institution. Emily Monea and Isabel V. Sawhill. September 13, 2011.

According to the Census Bureau, 14.3 percent of Americans were living in poverty in 2009. For the past several years, the analysis was performed by simulating what would happen to the poverty rate over the next several years based on projections of the unemployment rate and the estimated relationship between the poverty rate and the unemployment rate. The bottom line of this analysis is that the recession is likely to have a dramatic impact on poverty over the next several years.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2011/0913_recession_poverty_monea_sawhill/0913_recession_poverty_monea_sawhill.pdf [PDF format, 4 pages].

Item#14

The US Public Wants Disengagement. YaleGlobal. Bruce Stokes. September 14, 2011.

The U.S. has periodically withdrawn into its isolationist shell, particularly after wars. While much of the world looks to the U.S. to exercise strong leadership, otherwise polarized opinion within the U.S. often finds common ground on at least one issue: expecting leaders to focus less attention on problems overseas. Recent surveys show the U.S. could be heading towards such an isolationist phase. Results of the German Marshall Fund 2011 Transatlantic Trends survey released today show that a majority of Republicans have joined Democrats in supporting troop reductions or withdrawals from Afghanistan. Support for NATO among Democrats has risen in recent years, while Republicans express preference for a more independent approach. A majority of respondents also reported emerging Asia affects U.S. interests more than Europe does. China divides respondents: 66 percent of Republicans have an unfavorable view, and 58 percent of Democrats reported a positive view. With campaign rhetoric reflecting surly partisanship and isolationism, the U.S. could become a less reliable partner in foreign affairs.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/us-public-wants-disengagement> [HTML format, various paging].