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Reports

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Amid Criticism, Support for Media's 'Watchdog' Role Stands Out. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. August 8, 2013.

Public evaluations of news organizations' performance on key measures such as accuracy, fairness and independence remain mired near all-time lows. But there is a bright spot among these otherwise gloomy ratings: broad majorities continue to say the press acts as a watchdog by preventing political

leaders from doing things that should not be done, a view that is as widely held today as at any point over the past three decades. In the wake of revelations about government activities, including the NSA surveillance program and the IRS targeting of political groups, nearly seven-in-ten (68%) say press criticism of political leaders keeps them from doing things that should not be done, while just 21% say press criticism keeps leaders from doing their job.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/legacy-pdf/8-8-2013%20Media%20Attitudes%20Release.pdf> [PDF format, 21 pages, 487.99 KB].

Item#2

Chemical Facility Security: Issues and Options for the 113th Congress. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Dana A. Shea. August 2, 2013.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has statutory authority to regulate chemical facilities for security purposes. The 113th Congress extended this authority through October 4, 2013. Congressional policymakers have debated the scope and details of reauthorization and continue to consider establishing an authority with longer duration. Some Members of Congress support an extension, either short- or long-term, of the existing authority. Other Members call for revision and more extensive codification of chemical facility security regulatory provisions. Questions regarding the current law's effectiveness in reducing chemical facility risk and the sufficiency of federal chemical facility security efforts exacerbate the tension between continuing current policies and changing the statutory authority.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/homesec/R42918.pdf> [PDF format, 45 pages, 547.51 KB].

Item#3

Great Expectations: Iran's New President and the Nuclear Talks. International Crisis Group. August 13, 2013.

In a region that recently has produced virtually nothing but bad news, Hassan Rouhani's 4 August swearing in as Iran's president offers a rare and welcome glimmer of hope, according to the report. There are still far more questions than answers: about the extent of his authority; his views on his country's nuclear program, with which he long has been associated; and the West's ability to display requisite flexibility and patience. But, although both sides can be expected to show caution, now is the time to put more ambitious proposals on the table, complement the multilateral talks with a bilateral U.S.-Iranian channel and expand the dialogue to encompass regional security issues.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/Middle%20East%20North%20Africa/Iran%20Gulf/Iran/b036-great-expectations-irans-new-president-and-the-nuclear-talks> [PDF format, 20 pages, 190.03 KB].

Item#4

Innovative Immigration and Border Control Reform. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Stephanie Sanok Kostro and Scott F. Mann. Web posted August 6, 2013.

Over the last 10 years, the United States placed great emphasis on securing its borders and improving its immigration process. Concerns about terrorism in the shadow of the September 11, 2001, attacks led to the creation of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as a means for streamlining and improving the government's ability to protect the U.S., its citizens, and its infrastructure inside the nation's borders. From intelligence gathering and sharing to interdiction and apprehension, the goal was to bring all of the essential homeland security agencies into one federal department and reduce the characteristically disparate and disconnected nature of previous homeland security agencies and responsibilities. Despite attempts to improve efficiency and efficacy, regulating the U.S. border and enforcing U.S. immigration policies remain significant challenges. The complexity of operations required to achieve the stated policy goals of the U.S. government, combined with the sheer volume of border traffic (licit and illicit, human and trade), hampered past attempts at effective border control, and cloud the potential for success of future operational undertakings.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://csis.org/files/publication/130807_Sanok_InnovativeImmigrationBorderControl.pdf [PDF format, 11 pages, 243.76 KB].

Item#5

Privacy and Biometric ID Systems: An Approach Using Fair Information Practices for Developing Countries. Center for Global Development. August 2013.

Biometric identification systems that are in place or under consideration in many countries present significant privacy consequences principally relating to information privacy or data protection. This paper discusses personal privacy in the context of the adoption of biometric identification systems. While defining privacy is challenging, Fair Information Practices offer familiar and generally accepted privacy principles used in many countries around the world. The principles of Fair Information Practices can be implemented in a variety of ways to meet the needs of any given activity, culture, or nation.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/privacy-and-biometric-ID-systems_0.pdf [PDF format, 47 pages, 697.18 KB].

Item#6

Public Health in an Age of Genomics. Organisation for the Economic Co-operation and Development. August 2, 2013.

The report presents the findings of a research project to investigate the drivers and criteria shaping the application of genomic biotechnology to health in different national settings, and the barriers to implementation nationally and internationally. A case study approach was adopted for the project. The findings are based on the active participation in the survey of seven self-selected countries, including both OECD member and non-member countries (Finland, Israel, Luxembourg, Mexico, the United Kingdom, China and South Africa). The report outlines a number of potentially important patterns that are seen to emerge when the country case studies are set alongside one another and viewed in transnational perspective. The data, albeit based on limited evidence from a small sample of countries, suggest a significant divergence in the way that different countries are tending to adopt genomics for public health, which may have important implications for thinking about how genomic science and

technology might best be employed in the interests of global public health.

[*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/download/5k424rdzj3bx.pdf?expires=1375814427&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=F99B9F4BA69A5E58C02A97D22FD8FD7F> [PDF format, 47 pages, 427.30 KB].

Item#7

Slowdown in China Isn't Bad News. YaleGlobal. Michael Pettis. August 13, 2013.

The Chinese economy is inevitably slowing. This doesn't mean doom for the global economy or even China's. Much depends on how Chinese leaders rebalance the economy, and signs so far point to a smooth transition, explains Michael Pettis. Orderly rebalancing entails restrained credit growth, easing the trade imbalance with steady decline in the savings rate relative to investment. Pettis compares the challenges of China's economy with those of Japan during the 1990s, and suggests that orderly rebalancing could prevent social unrest: "As Japan was forced to rebalance its economy after 1990, one of the implications was, by definition, that household income and household consumption grew as a share of overall GDP, just as it must in China." Economies that depend on high-priced commodity sales may feel a pinch, while other manufacturing nations can expect to be more competitive. China's anticipated shift toward services and consumer spending could hurt capital-goods exporters, but lift exporters of consumer goods.

[*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/slowdown-china-isn%E2%80%99t-bad-news> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#8

The Strugglers: The New Poor in Latin America? Center for Global Development. Nancy Birdsall et al. August 8, 2013.

The paper identifies a group of people in Latin America and other developing countries that are not poor but not middle class either. It defines them as the vulnerable "strugglers", people living in households with daily income per capita between \$4 and \$10, at constant 2005 PPP dollar. They are well above the international poverty line, but still vulnerable to falling back into poverty and hence not part of the secure middle class. The paper uses long-term growth projections to show that in Latin America about 250 million people will likely be in the struggler group in 2030, accounting for about a third of the total population. It argues that in many upper-middle income countries of the region, the strugglers will likely risk marginalization and become the new poor.

[*Note: contains copyrighted material*].

http://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/new-poor-latin-america_1.pdf [PDF format, 58 pages, 1.33 MB].

Item#9

Urgent Need to Protect the Internet. YaleGlobal. John Negroponte. August 8, 2013.

The internet has contributed to unprecedented global connections, but its openness distresses some governments. Censorship takes many forms, and some nations even consider creating an exclusive system for their citizens, cutting off contact with the rest of the globe, notes John Negroponte. He co-chaired a Council on Foreign Relations taskforce report "Defending an Open, Global, Secure, and Resilient Internet." The report, released before recent revelations about classified U.S. surveillance programs, notes the internet reflects its global users and that a window for U.S. leadership on free expression and free markets is rapidly closing. Taskforce recommendations for the United States and its trade partners include negotiating free trade agreements that encourage flow of internet information across borders, while protecting intellectual property and privacy; developing standards for content removal; discouraging nontariff barriers to trade; and nurturing an environment for an open internet economy.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/urgent-need-protect-internet> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#10

Yemen and U.S. Security. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Anthony H. Cordesman. August 8, 2013.

The closings of U.S. Embassies in the Gulf and reporting on the threat raised by Al Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula has served as a grim warning of the level of instability in Yemen. Yemen is the most troubled state in the Arabian Peninsula. It remains in a low-level state of civil war, and is deeply divided on sectarian, tribal, and regional levels. A largely Shi'ite Houthi rebellion still affects much of the northwest border area and has serious influence in the capital of Sana and along parts of the Red Sea coast. Al Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) poses a threat in central Yemen, along with other elements of violent Sunni extremism, there are serious tensions between the northern and southern parts of Yemen, and power struggles continue between key elements of the military ruling elite in the capital and outside it.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://csis.org/files/publication/130808_yemen_burkechair_updated.pdf [PDF format, 28 pages, 412.76 KB].