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Title Index

[Item#1](#) Ukraine After Yanukovich

[Item#2](#) The Taliban in Afghanistan

[Item#3](#) Is Geography Destiny? A Primer on North American Relations

[Item#4](#) Indians Want Political Change: Modi Viewed More Favorably than Gandhi

[Item#5](#) Left in the Cold? The ELN and Colombia's Peace Talks

[Item#6](#) Liberty, Equality, Connectivity: Transatlantic Cybersecurity Norms

[Item#7](#) Genetically Engineered Crops in the United States

[Item#8](#) Effective Public Policies and Active Citizenship: Brazil's Experience of Building a Food and Nutrition Security System

[Item#9](#) Higher Education Earnings Premium: Value, Variation, and Trends

[Item#10](#) Mapping Twitter Topic Networks: From Polarized Crowds to Community Clusters

Reports

[Item#1](#)

Ukraine After Yanukovich. YaleGlobal. David R. Cameron. February 27, 2014.

In November, Ukraine's President Viktor Yanukovich rejected signing an Association Agreement with the European Union and later negotiated a bailout deal with Russia. Months of protests led to a week of violence and culminated in Yanukovich's removal from office. The parliament moved swiftly to reorganize: demobilizing the police, firing most of the government ministers, and electing Oleksandr

Turchynov as acting president. The country faces a multitude of challenges, explains David R. Cameron, political science professor and director of the Yale European studies program. The new government must establish itself as the legitimate authority throughout the country, including the eastern and southern regions that have strong ties with Russia.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/ukraine-after-yanukovych> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#2

The Taliban in Afghanistan. Council on Foreign Relations. Zachary Laub. February 25, 2014.

The Taliban is a Sunni Islamic fundamentalist group that ruled Afghanistan from 1996 until 2001, when a U.S.-led invasion toppled the regime for providing refuge to al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden. The Taliban regrouped across the border in Pakistan, where its central leadership, headed by Mullah Mohammed Omar, operates an insurgency and shadow government aimed at undermining the government in Kabul. Since 2010, both the United States and Afghanistan have pursued a negotiated settlement with the Taliban, but with the planned withdrawal of international forces at the end of 2014, many analysts say the prospects for such an agreement are dim.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.cfr.org/afghanistan/taliban-afghanistan/p10551> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

Is Geography Destiny? A Primer on North American Relations. Wilson Center. February 2014.

At a time when nearly all of the key issues facing North America are being understood and addressed either independently by the United States, Canada and Mexico, or within the dual-bilateral framework of U.S.-Mexico and U.S.-Canada relations, the report attempts to view these challenges and opportunities through a trilateral lens.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/primer_north_american_relations.pdf [PDF format, 73 pages, 3.13 MB].

Item#4

Indians Want Political Change: Modi Viewed More Favorably than Gandhi. Pew Research Global Attitudes Project. February 26, 2014.

Seven-in-ten Indians are dissatisfied with the way things are going in India today, according to the survey. And, with the Indian parliamentary elections just weeks away, the Indian public, by a margin of more than three-to-one, would prefer the Hindu-nationalist opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to lead the next Indian government rather than the Indian National Congress (INC), which heads the current left-of-center governing coalition.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2014/02/India_Political_Report_FINAL_February_26_2014.pdf [PDF format, 12 pages, 791.71 KB].

Item#5

Left in the Cold? The ELN and Colombia's Peace Talks. International Crisis Group. February 26, 2014.

Whether the National Liberation Army (ELN) joins the current peace process is one of the biggest uncertainties around Colombia's historic opportunity to end decades of deadly conflict. Exploratory contacts continue, and pressure to advance decisively is growing, as the Havana negotiations with the larger Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) approach a decisive point. However, hopes fresh negotiations with the second insurgency were imminent were repeatedly dashed in 2013. Agreeing on an agenda and procedures that satisfy the ELN and are consistent with the Havana framework will not be easy. The ELN thinks the government needs to make an overture or risk ongoing conflict; the government believes the ELN must show flexibility or risk being left out. But delay is in neither's long-term interest. A process from which the ELN is missing or to which it comes late would lack an essential element for the construction of sustainable peace. Both sides, therefore, should shift gears to open negotiations soonest, without waiting for a perfect alignment of stars in the long 2014 electoral season, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/latin-america-caribbean/andes/colombia/051-left-in-the-cold-the-eln-and-colombia-s-peace-talks.aspx> Summary in English [HTML format, various paging].

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/latin-america/colombia/051-left-in-the-cold-the-eln-and-colombia-s-peace-talks.pdf> Full Text in English [PDF format, 39 pages, 653.77 KB].

Item#6

Liberty, Equality, Connectivity: Transatlantic Cybersecurity Norms. Center for Strategic & International Studies. James Andrew Lewis. February 25, 2014.

According to Lewis, Europe and the United States have a collective interest in the promotion of a stable international order based on the rule of law, open and equitable arrangements for trade, and a commitment to democratic government and individual rights. These interests face renewed challenges in a complex global political environment.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://csis.org/files/publication/140225_Lewis_TransatlanticCybersecurityNorms.pdf [PDF format, 15 pages, 292.7 KB].

Item#7

Genetically Engineered Crops in the United States. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Jorje Fernandez-Ornejo. February 20, 2014.

Genetically engineered (GE) crops, mainly corn, cotton, and soybeans, were planted on 169 million acres in 2013, about half of U.S. land used for crops. Their adoption has saved farmers time, reduced

insecticide use, and enabled the use of less toxic herbicides. Research and development of new GE varieties continues to expand farmer choices.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err-economic-research-report/err162.aspx> [HTML format with links to PDF summary and full text files].

Item#8

Effective Public Policies and Active Citizenship: Brazil's Experience of Building a Food and Nutrition Security System. Oxfam International. Marília Mendonça Leão Renato S. Maluf. February 19, 2014.

Since it was launched in 2003, Brazil's Fome Zero (Zero Hunger) strategy has allowed 28 million people to break free from the cycle of hunger. These impressive figures suggest that public policy can have a significant impact in the fight against hunger. The report looks at some of the conditions contributing to the success of the strategy, including political will combined with a plan that is coherent, consistent, multidimensional and participatory.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/rr-brazil-experience-food-nutrition-security-190214-en.pdf> [PDF format, 74 pages, 895.19 KB].

Item#9

Higher Education Earnings Premium: Value, Variation, and Trends. Urban Institute. Sandy Baum. February 24, 2014.

Postsecondary education leads to significant financial benefits for most students, and average earnings premiums have grown over time. However, there is considerable variation in outcomes across individuals, types of credentials, occupations, and geographical locations. The brief discusses some of the different ways the financial benefits of higher education can be measured and documents the high average payoff to college degrees. It emphasizes the importance of recognizing that this high payoff does not eliminate disappointing outcomes for some individuals, while highlighting the fact that focusing on recent college graduates leads to under-estimation of the returns.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/413033-Higher-Education-Earnings-Premium-Value-Variation-and-Trends.pdf> [PDF format, 14 pages, 694.5 MB].

Item#10

Mapping Twitter Topic Networks: From Polarized Crowds to Community Clusters. Pew Research Internet Project. Marc A. Smith et al. February 20, 2014.

Conversations on Twitter create networks with identifiable contours as people reply to and mention one another in their tweets. These conversational structures differ, depending on the subject and the people driving the conversation. Six structures are regularly observed: divided, unified, fragmented, clustered, and inward and outward hub and spoke structures. These are created as individuals choose whom to reply to or mention in their Twitter messages and the structures tell a story about the nature of the conversation. If a topic is political, it is common to see two separate, polarized crowds take shape. They

form two distinct discussion groups that mostly do not interact with each other. Frequently these are recognizably liberal or conservative groups.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.pewinternet.org/files/2014/02/PIP_Mapping-Twitter-networks_022014.pdf [PDF format, 56 pages, 5.56 MB].