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### **Reports**

[Item#1](#)

Emerging Best Practices of Chinese Globalizers: Tackle the Operational Challenges. World Economic Forum. April 14, 2014.

The report identifies emerging best practices of Chinese globalizers in a new global operating model that consists of four building blocks: Culture, Governance, Processes, and People. Despite the global economic and financial crises of recent years, corporate China continues its push for globalization. The research finds, however, that increased effort at globalization does not necessarily lead to increased output. Furthermore, companies with similar, perfectly sound globalization strategies do not necessarily achieve similar results.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_EmerginBestPracticesofChineseGlobalizers\\_2014.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_EmerginBestPracticesofChineseGlobalizers_2014.pdf) In English [PDF format, 36 pages, 4.98 MB].

[http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_EmerginBestPracticesofChineseGlobalizers\\_2014\\_CN.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_EmerginBestPracticesofChineseGlobalizers_2014_CN.pdf) In Chinese [PDF format, 36 pages, 2.49 MB].

#### Item#2

Obama Travels to Asia But Future of Trade Pact Is Uncertain. YaleGlobal. David Dapice. April 21, 2014.

President Barack Obama begins travels this week to Japan, South Korea, Malaysia and the Philippines as the United States strives to convince Asian allies that a pivot to Asia is real. An indicator of U.S. policy success is the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trade pact being negotiated by 12 Pacific Rim nations, explains Dapice. Such regional trade agreements are emerging beyond the scope of the World Trade Organization, and the TPP focuses on convergence in specific regulations and standards, including rules on market access, foreign direct investment, intellectual property, environment and labor. Some analysts question whether the pact is designed to isolate China from many supply-chain partners. But nothing prevents China from the TPP pact, and joining could boost needed reforms for the Chinese economy, notes Dapice.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/obama-travels-asia-future-trade-pact-uncertain> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#3

Asia's Big Democracies Head to the Polls. YaleGlobal. Pallavi Aiyar. April 17, 2014.

Unity in Diversity is a motto for both India and Indonesia, and ongoing elections demonstrate that Asia's two largest democracies have much in common, explains Pallavi Aiyar. Election operations are complex and impressive, considering that India has more than 800 million registered voters and Indonesia has nearly 200 million. "Noisy political rallies, outspoken trade unionists, and a free and assertive press are part of the political landscape in both nations," she writes. "But they are also equally afflicted by a tendency towards governmental coalitions that must confront deep-seated corruption, creaking infrastructure, yawning inequalities and unpopular economic reforms, all the while ensuring that the peace between majority and minority religions is kept." Neither nation anticipates any one party or candidate to capture a majority of votes. So coalition governments may prevent India and Indonesia from acting decisively on major challenges like corruption, economic development or climate change.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/asia%E2%80%99s-big-democracies-head-polls> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#4

Iran-North Korea-Syria Ballistic Missile and Nuclear Cooperation. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Paul K. Kerr et al. April 16, 2014.

Congress has at times expressed concern regarding ballistic missile and nuclear programs in Iran, North Korea, and Syria. This report focuses primarily on unclassified and declassified U.S. Intelligence Community (IC) assessments over the past two decades. These assessments indicate that: 1. there is no evidence that Iran and North Korea have engaged in nuclear-related trade or cooperation with each other, although ballistic missile technology cooperation between the two is significant and meaningful, and 2. Syria has received ballistic missiles and related technology from North Korea and Iran and also engaged in nuclear technology cooperation with North Korea.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/nuke/R43480.pdf> [PDF format, 14 pages, 291 KB].

#### Item#5

Myanmar's Military: Back to the Barracks? International Crisis Group. April 22, 2014.

Myanmar's military, the Tatmadaw, has been the dominant institution in the country for most of its post-independence history. After decades of military rule, it began the shift to a semi-civilian government. A new generation of leaders in the military and in government pushed the transition far further and much faster than anyone could have imagined. Major questions remain, however, about the Tatmadaw's intentions, its ongoing involvement in politics and the economy, and whether and within what timeframe it will accept to be brought under civilian control. Transforming from an all-powerful military to one that accepts democratic constraints on its power will be an enormous challenge.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/asia/south-east-asia/burma-myanmar/b143-myanmar-s-military-back-to-the-barracks.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages].

#### Item#6

A Rough Guide to Afghan Youth Politics. U.S. Institute of Peace. Gran Hewad and Casey Garret Johnson. April 2014.

Afghan politics today are shifting in response to a growing youth population and an increasing number of young political leaders. Youth are critical to the future of the country, and what they think of the transition period since 2001 matters. Understanding their goals; how they network, organize, and mobilize; and their aspirations for the April 2014 presidential and provincial council elections reveal how they are looking to reshape the political culture. And perhaps the most significant single element in this equation is the relationship between today's youth and the old-guard political elite and provincial power brokers, according to the authors.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/SR344-A-Rough-Guide-to-Afghan-Youth-Politics.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages, 371.29 KB].

#### Item#7

The Help America Vote Act and Election Administration: Overview and Issues. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Kevin J. Coleman and Eric A. Fischer. April 17, 2014.

The deadlocked November 2000 presidential election focused national attention on previously obscure details of election administration. Even before the U.S. Supreme Court had resolved the election in December, numerous bills to address the failings of the election system were introduced in Congress and state legislatures. The response at the federal level was the Help America Vote Act (HAVA; P.L. 107-252), enacted in 2002. HAVA created the Election Assistance Commission (EAC), established a set of election administration requirements, and provided federal funding, but did not supplant state and local control over election administration. Several issues have arisen or persisted in the years since HAVA was enacted. The report provides background information about HAVA and its provisions, the EAC, funding for the agency and for state programs to improve elections, and a number of enduring election administration issues.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RS20898.pdf> [PDF format, 19 pages, 346 KB].

#### Item#8

NAFTA at 20: Overview and Trade Effects. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. M. Angeles Villarreal and Ian F. Fergusson. April 16, 2014.

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) entered into force on January 1, 1994. The agreement was signed by President George H.W. Bush on December 17, 1992, and approved by Congress on November 20, 1993. The NAFTA Implementation Act was signed into law by President William J. Clinton on December 8, 1993 (P.L. 103-182). The overall economic impact of NAFTA is difficult to measure since trade and investment trends are influenced by numerous other economic variables, such as economic growth, inflation, and currency fluctuations. The agreement may have accelerated the trade liberalization that was already taking place, but many of these changes may have taken place with or without an agreement. Nevertheless, NAFTA is significant because it was the most comprehensive free trade agreement (FTA) negotiated at the time and contained several groundbreaking provisions.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R42965.pdf> [PDF format, 34 pages, 484 KB].

#### Item#9

Indians See Rape as a Major National Problem. Pew Research Global Attitudes Project. April 22, 2014.

One year after the gang rape and murder of a 23-year-old student in New Delhi made national headlines, Indians remain concerned about the problem of rape in their country and the inadequacy of the criminal justice system in dealing with the issue. A national poll shows that nine-in-ten Indians agree that the crime of rape is a "very big problem" in the country. Further, roughly eight-in-ten (82%) say the problem is growing. While four of the men convicted in the infamous Delhi case were given the death penalty, nearly three-in-four Indians (74%) say that the laws in the country are too lax when it comes to punishing cases of rape. About as many (78%) fault the country's police for not being strict enough in investigating such cases.

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<http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2014/04/Pew-Research-Center-India-Rape-Report-FINAL-22-April-2014.pdf> [PDF format, 7 pages, 342 KB].

#### Item#10

Same-Sex Marriage: A Legal Background After United States v. Windsor. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Alison M. Smith. April 17, 2014.

In United States v. Windsor, a closely divided U.S. Supreme Court held that Section 3 of DOMA, which prohibited federal recognition of same-sex marriage, violated due process and equal protection principles. As such, federal statutes that refer to a marriage and/or spouse for federal purposes should be interpreted as applying equally to legally married same-sex couples recognized by the state. However, the Court left unanswered questions such as (1) whether same-sex couples have a fundamental right to marry and (2) whether state bans on same-sex marriage are constitutional.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R43481.pdf> [PDF format, 11 pages, 249 KB].

#### Item#11

Credit Risk in the Eurozone. National Bureau of Economic Research. Simon Gilchrist and Benoit Mojon. April 22, 2014.

The authors develop credit risk indicators for banks and non-financial corporations in the euro area, and find that the 2008 financial crisis sharply increased the cost of borrowing for both groups of firms. In contrast, the 2000 dot-com collapse in the United States raised credit spreads for non-financial firms, but did not affect financial firms.

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<http://www.nber.org/papers/w20041.pdf> [PDF format, 52 pages, 860 KB].

#### Item#12

U.S. Views of Technology and the Future: Science in the next 50 years. Pew Research Internet Project. Aaron Smith. April 17, 2014.

The American public anticipates that the coming half-century will be a period of profound scientific change, as inventions that were once confined to the realm of science fiction come into common usage. Overall, most Americans anticipate that the technological developments of the coming half-century will have a net positive impact on society. Some 59% are optimistic that coming technological and scientific changes will make life in the future better, while 30% think these changes will lead to a future in which people are worse off than they are today. Many Americans pair their long-term optimism with high expectations for the inventions of the next half century. Fully eight in ten (81%) expect that within the next 50 years people needing new organs will have them custom grown in a lab, and half (51%) expect that computers will be able to create art that is indistinguishable from that produced by humans.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.pewinternet.org/files/2014/04/PIP\\_US-Views-of-Technology-and-the-Future\\_041714.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/files/2014/04/PIP_US-Views-of-Technology-and-the-Future_041714.pdf)  
[PDF format, 19 pages, 289.47 KB].