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Reports

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Ukraine: Running out of Time. International Crisis Group. May 14, 2014.

Ukraine's provisional government faces an uphill struggle to make it to the May 25th presidential election. Shaken by separatist agitation and distracted by Russian troops on its borders, it has not asserted itself coherently and has lost control of the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, which have voted for independence in contentious referendums. It appears incapable of keeping order in much of the south east, where separatists, supported and encouraged by Moscow, threaten the state's viability and unity. According to the report, Kyiv and the presidential candidates should reach out to the south east, explaining plans for local self-government and minority rights, and for Ukraine to be a bridge between Russia and Europe, not a geopolitical battleground. With relations between Moscow and the West deeply chilled, the U.S. and EU should continue tough sanctions to show Russia it will pay an increasing cost for destabilising or dismembering its neighbour, while pursuing parallel, vigorous diplomacy to reach understandings that avoid the worst and respect mutual interest.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/europe/ukraine/231-ukraine-running-out-of-time.pdf> [PDF format, 39 pages, 2.43 MB].

Item#2

The Constitutional Process in Ukraine. U.S. Institute of Peace. Dominik Tolksdorf. May 22, 2014.

The author suggests that the Ukrainian government should promote an inclusive, participatory and transparent constitutional process. Such a process could help de-escalate the current conflict and build confidence in the central government and its willingness to integrate all constituencies into Ukraine's political system.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/PB172-The%20Constitutional%20Process%20in%20Ukraine-Issues%20in%20Play.pdf> [PDF format, 5 pages, 305.64 KB].

Item#3

Despite Concerns about Governance, Ukrainians Want to Remain One Country. Pew Research Global Attitudes Project. May 8, 2014.

clear majority of Ukrainians agree that their country should remain a single, unified state, according to a pair of new surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center in Ukraine and Russia - after Crimea's annexation by Russia, but prior to recent violence in Odessa and other cities. The survey in Ukraine also finds a clearly negative reaction to the role Russia is playing in the country. By contrast, the poll in Russia reveals a public that firmly backs Vladimir Putin and Crimea's secession from Ukraine.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2014/05/Pew-Global-Attitudes-Ukraine-Russia-Report-FINAL-May-8-2014.pdf> [PDF format, 33 pages, 538.72 KB].

Item#4

From War to Deterrence? Israel-Hezbollah Conflict Since 2006. Strategic Studies Institute. Jean-Loup Samaan. May 16, 2014.

Over the last 7 years, the border between Israel and Lebanon has remained quiet. Against all odds, in a Middle East experiencing tremendous challenges, Israel and Hezbollah did not trigger a new conflict. To understand this paradox, the monograph explores the mechanisms of deterrence in the competition between both actors. Based on original materials, the author underlines the recent doctrinal innovations on both sides that engendered strategic stability in the area and ventures thoughts on potential evolutions in the near future.

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/download.cfm?q=1198> [PDF format, 84 pages, 1.34 MB].

Item#5

Venezuela: Tipping Point. International Crisis Group. May 21, 2014.

Failure to resolve the Venezuelan crisis could plunge the country into yet more violence, leaving it unable to address soaring criminality and economic decline and exposing the inability of regional inter-governmental bodies to manage the continent's conflicts, says the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/latin-america-caribbean/andes/venezuela/b030-venezuela-tipping-point.aspx> Summary in English [HTML format, various paging].

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/latin-america/venezuela/b030-venezuela-tipping-point> Full Text in English [PDF format, 24 pages, 296.14 KB].

Item#6

Timor-Leste: Lessons of a Failing State? YaleGlobal. Loro Horta. May 22, 2014.

Timor-Leste shares the island of Timor and a bloody history with Indonesia. The former Portuguese colony was part of Indonesia from 1976 until 2002, when it was declared an independent state. The country's small population is less than half of 1 percent of that in neighboring Indonesia, and one quarter died in fighting for independence. Despite great natural resources, the country has since struggled with rebel attacks, ruined infrastructure, instability, corruption, high unemployment and inequality. Resignation of Xanana Gusmao, founding president of the country who later became prime minister, could exacerbate the crisis, argues Loro Horta. Oil and gas exports account for more than 90 percent of the nation's GDP, but reserves are in rapid decline. The United Nations and the international community invested great resources into development and peacekeeping. Horta warns that "Timor's case also has profound implications for future international efforts at state building."

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/timor-leste-lessons-failing-state> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#7

Counting the Costs: Myanmar's Problematic Census. International Crisis Group. May 14, 2014.

Myanmar's controversial census has inflamed ethnic tensions at a critical moment in the peace process. Releasing the data will require great political sensitivity to avoid further violence, all the more so with elections scheduled for 2015, says the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/asia/south-east-asia/burma-myanmar/b144-counting-the-costs-myanmar-s-problematic-census.pdf> [PDF format, 24 pages, 2.55 MB].

Item#8

A Fragile Rebound for EU Image on Eve of European Parliament Elections. Pew Research Global Attitudes Project. May 12, 2014.

Support for the European Union may be rebounding just in time for the European Parliament elections, according to the survey of seven EU nations by the Pew Research Center. After a dramatic decline in the wake of the euro crisis, EU favorability is now on the rise in France, the United Kingdom, and Germany. And faith in one of the EU's founding principles - that European economic integration is good for their own country - is up in the UK, Poland and Germany.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2014/05/2014-05-12_Pew-Global-Attitudes-European-Union.pdf [PDF format, 51 pages, 538.38 KB].

Item#9

For 2016 Hopefuls, Washington Experience Could Do More Harm than Good. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. May 19, 2014.

A national survey testing candidate traits finds that 30% would be less likely to support a candidate with "many years" of experience as an elected official in Washington, while 19% would be more likely to support such a candidate. About half (48%) say it would not matter if a candidate had long Washington experience. By contrast, early in the 2008 presidential campaign, more than twice as many saw lengthy Washington experience as a positive than negative trait for a presidential candidate.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/legacy-pdf/5-19-14%20Presidential%20Traits%20Release.pdf> [PDF format, 18 pages, 561.67 KB].

Item#10

Learning without Teachers? A Randomized Experiment of a Mobile Phone-Based Adult Education Program in Los Angeles. Center for Global Development. Christopher Ksoll et al. May 22, 2014.

Over 755 million adults worldwide are unable to read and write in any language. Yet the widespread introduction of information and communication technology offers new opportunities to provide standardized distance education to underserved illiterate populations in both developed and developing countries. Using data from a randomized experiment of an innovative mobile phone-based adult education program (Cell-Ed) in Los Angeles, The authors find that the Cell-Ed program significantly

increased students' basic and broad reading scores, equivalent to a 2-4 year increase in reading levels over a four-month period. The program also increased participants' self-esteem by 7 percent as compared with the comparison group. The results suggest that there is great scope for using information technology as a means of improving educational skills for illiterate adults.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/learning-without-teachers-randomized-experiment-los-angeles.pdf> [PDF format, 56 pages, 1.67 MB].

Item#11

Rethinking Personal Data: A New Lens for Strengthening Trust. Web Economic Forum. May 12, 2014.

The report addresses the key trust challenges facing the personal data economy, and offers a set of near-term and long-term insights for addressing these issues. The result is the product of a multi-year global dialogue on new approaches for creating a balanced and sustainable personal data economy that serves the interests of individuals while maintaining flexibility for innovation. The community contributing to this dialogue is comprised of actors from government, academia, civil society, and the private sector.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_RethinkingPersonalData_ANewLens_Report_2014.pdf [PDF format, 40 pages, 7.7 MB].

Item#12

The Internet of Things Will Thrive by 2025. Pew Research Internet Project. Janna Anderson and Lee Rainie. May 14, 2014.

The report is an analysis of opinions about the likely expansion of the Internet of Things, a catchall phrase for the array of devices, appliances, vehicles, wearable material, and sensor-laden parts of the environment that connect to each other and feed data back and forth. It covers the over 1,600 responses that were offered specifically about our question about where the Internet of Things would stand by the year 2025. It includes some of the best and most provocative of the predictions survey respondents made when specifically asked to share their views about the evolution of embedded and wearable computing and the Internet of Things.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.pewinternet.org/files/2014/05/PIP_Internet-of-things_0514141.pdf [PDF format, 66 pages, 916.57 KB].