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## Reports

### Item#1

**Conflict and Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region: A Strategic Net Assessment.** Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Michael D. Swaine. April 2, 2015.

The Asia-Pacific region is undergoing enormous change, fueled by high levels of economic growth and deepening levels of integration. These and other forces are generating a shift in the distribution of economic, political, and military power across the region. This changing security environment poses a major challenge for the United States, the historically dominant power in maritime Asia. Efforts to enhance regional cooperation, reassure allies, and deter and shape potentially destabilizing behavior are demanding a more complex mixture of U.S. skills and understanding. An array of current and likely long-term forces will drive both cooperation and conflict across the Asia-Pacific region.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://carnegieendowment.org/files/net\\_assessment\\_2.pdf](http://carnegieendowment.org/files/net_assessment_2.pdf) [PDF format, 286 pages, 1.43 MB].

### Item#2

**Nations Line up to Join China-Led Infrastructure Bank.** YaleGlobal. Will Hickey. April 9, 2015.

The world's most populous nation has a sizable sovereign fund and is on track to surpass the United States as the world's largest economy. "The Chinese development model of technology transfer and infrastructure development, including highways, ports, railways, has brought millions out of poverty and into a middle class existence," writes Will Hickey. "Exporting this model, and not just labor-intensive manufactured products to western nations, could prove the next leg up in China's ascent as a credible emerging superpower." Asia needs about \$800 billion in annual infrastructure funding. China organized the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank partly because Asian nations' stature in global finance institutions has not kept pace with their rapid growth. China's voting share for the International Monetary Fund is about one quarter that of the United States and less than shares held by Germany, France and England. Despite criticisms aired by the United States, many of its allies have signed on for an anticipated building boom in Asia.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/nations-line-join-china-led-infrastructure-bank> [HTML format, various paging].

### Item#3

**China-Pakistan: A Strategic Relationship in the Shadows.** YaleGlobal. Andrew Small. April 7, 2015.

China and Pakistan share a border of just 523 kilometers but are the strongest of neighbors. An on-again off-again trip to Pakistan by China's President Xi Jinping does not tell the real story. "This is a relationship where the public theatrics have generally been a poor indicator of the underlying substance," writes the author. "Not only have the most important facets of the relationship been difficult to capture in photo ops, they have often been those about which the two sides can say the least." China's security dealings with Pakistan are at times sensitive and best kept hidden. China is Pakistan's lead arms supplier, and Pakistan has passed along U.S. technologies on to China. Both

countries hope to influence Afghan politics, and both plan on expanding their civil nuclear cooperation without approval of the watchdog Nuclear Suppliers Group. Xi is leader of a rising global power and a visit to Pakistan is a noteworthy event, yet more important would be a strengthening of strategic ties in the shadows.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/china-pakistan-strategic-relations-shadows> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#4

**Americans, Japanese: Mutual Respect 70 Years After the End of WWII.** Pew Research Center. April 7, 2015.

Adversaries in World War II, fierce economic competitors in the 1980s and early 1990s, Americans and Japanese nonetheless share a deep mutual respect. About two-thirds of Americans trust Japan a great deal or a fair amount and three-quarters of Japanese say they trust the United States, according to a new Pew Research Center survey. Americans are pleased with the current state of U.S.-Japan relations: More than eight-in-ten prefer that ties between the two nations remain as close as they have been in recent years or get closer.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2015/04/Pew-Research-Center-US-Japan-Report-FINAL-April-7-2015.pdf> [PDF format, 24 pages, 656.82 KB].

#### Item#5

**The Ukraine Crisis: Risks of Renewed Military Conflict after Minsk II.** International Crisis Group. April 1, 2015.

According to the brief, danger of renewed fighting in Ukraine's east is mounting. It shows that neither side is looking to compromise or able to win outright. It also sets out a new Western strategy with Russia to defuse one of the greatest post-Cold War threats to European stability and global order.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/europe/ukraine/b073-the-ukraine-crisis-risks-of-renewed-military-conflict-after-minsk-ii.aspx> Summary in English [HTML format, various paging].  
[http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/europe/ukraine/b073-the-ukraine-crisis-risks-of-renewed-military-conflict-after-minsk-ii.aspx?alt\\_lang=ru](http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/europe/ukraine/b073-the-ukraine-crisis-risks-of-renewed-military-conflict-after-minsk-ii.aspx?alt_lang=ru) Summary in Russian [HTML format, various paging].  
<http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/europe/ukraine/b073-the-ukraine-crisis-risks-of-renewed-military-conflict-after-minsk-ii.pdf> Full Text in English [PDF format, 16 pages, 1.50 MB].

#### Item#6

**Russia's Turbulence Could Drive Sustainable Development.** YaleGlobal. Anastasia Okorochkova. April 14, 2015.

Falling oil prices and western sanctions have led to hard economic times for Russians. But lingering economic crisis can also allow a country new opportunity to regroup and reform, innovating and transforming the economy. Paradoxically, the long-running crisis could drive Russia to end its reliance on export of fossil fuels and embrace sustainability. “To do so, Russia must mobilize its strengths – including a well-educated public, sustainable development of rich natural resources, and economic reform,” writes Okorochkova. “Oil and gas represent about 50 percent of the Russian government’s budget. Sacrifices would be required in reducing dependence on these resources, striving for sustainability and shifting toward a service economy.” Economic growth and sustainable development can be achieved, Okorochkova notes, with strategic planning and diversifying the economy. Russians, practical and innovative, driven by economic crisis, could become leaders in sustainability.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/russia%E2%80%99s-turbulence-could-drive-sustainable-development> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#7

**European Union Divided Over Greek Bailout.** YaleGlobal. Chris Miller. April 16, 2015.

Fervent democracy at the national level is hampering monetary policymaking for the broader European Union in bringing quick end to the Greek debt crisis, explains Chris Miller. Greek voters resent austerity measures imposed by the rest of Europe led by Germany, yet polls show that two thirds prefer staying in the eurozone. Europe is divided: Electorates in the south generally favor debt write-offs and those in the north insist on austerity. Extremists on both the left and right take advantage of the divide. The debt crisis could be ended swiftly with a compromise mix of write-offs and conditions on austerity, yet both sides stubbornly seek voters’ approval to cling to their positions. An exit by Greece from the eurozone would trigger economic chaos along with other unintended security consequences spreading throughout the continent. The reputations of Greece and the European Union each would suffer with a Grexit.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/european-union-divided-over-greek-bailout> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#8

**Setting the Stage for Peace in Syria: The Case for a Syrian National Stabilization Force.** Atlantic Council. Frederic C. Hof et al. April 14, 2015.

After four years of conflict in Syria, peace is still a distant prospect. According to the report, the West insists that there is no “military solution,” while Iran and Russia provide the Assad regime with a military advantage obstructing the possibility of real diplomatic negotiations. With over 220,000 Syrians dead and more than half of the Syrian population displaced, the need for peace is critical.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/images/Syria-SNSF-Report-WEB.pdf> [PDF format, 44 pages, 1.18 MB].

#### Item#9

**Islamic State Financing and U.S. Policy Approaches.** Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Carla E. Humud et al. April 10, 2015.

Countering the financial resources of the Islamic State, which has seized significant territory in Iraq and Syria and threatened to conduct attacks against the United States and its citizens, has become a significant national security priority for policymakers, including Members of Congress. By undermining the financial strength of the group, also known as ISIL or ISIS, policymakers seek to reduce its capability to conduct terrorist attacks, as well as to ultimately “degrade and ultimately destroy” the group. This effort includes a comprehensive look at how the group generates revenue.

<http://www.fas.org:8080/sgp/crs/terror/R43980.pdf> [PDF format, 32 pages, 543.8 KB].

#### Item#10

**Iran Deal Reached, Struggle For Acceptance Begins.** YaleGlobal. Dilip Hero. April 2, 2015.

The cliff-hanging negotiations over curbing Iran’s nuclear program have ended with preliminary agreement. Iran negotiators had to contend with six powers that rarely agree – the U.S., the UK, China, France, Russia and Germany – as well as internal U.S. polarization. “The hard-knuckle bargaining that has marked high-level negotiations over the past several days at the Swiss resort of Lausanne centered chiefly around three contentious points: the length of restrictions on Tehran’s nuclear program within the general agreement; the pace or modality of lifting UN sanctions on Iran; and the penalty for Iran in case of its non-compliance with the agreed protocol,” explains author Dilip Hiro. U.S. officials must convince Republican lawmakers, Israel and Arab allies that completing this deal is better than doing nothing at all, according to Hiro.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/struggle-contain-iranian-bomb> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#11

**More Approve Than Disapprove of Iran Talks, But Most Think Iranians Are ‘Not Serious’** Pew Research Center. March 30, 2015.

More Americans approve (49%) than disapprove (40%) of the United States negotiating directly with Iran over its nuclear program. But the public remains skeptical of whether Iranian leaders are serious about addressing international concerns over their nuclear enrichment program. If a nuclear agreement is reached, most Americans (62%) want Congress to have final authority over the deal. Just 29% say President Obama should have final authority over any nuclear agreement with Iran.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/2015/03/3-30-15-Iran-Israel-release.pdf> [PDF format, 18 pages, 505.55 KB].

#### Item#12

**Campaign 2016: Modest Interest, High Stakes.** Pew Research Center. April 2, 2015.

The 2016 presidential campaign has gotten off to a slow start with voters. A majority of registered voters (58%) say they have given at least some thought to candidates who may run for president in 2016, but that is 10 points lower than at a comparable point in the 2008 campaign – the last time both parties had contested nominations. Yet, even at this early stage, the vast majority of voters (87%) say they care a good deal about who wins the presidency, and 72% say they care which party prevails.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/2015/04/4-2-2015-2016-release1.pdf> [PDF format, 33 pages, 562.30 KB].

#### Item#13

**The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050.** Pew Research Center. April 2, 2015.

The religious profile of the world is rapidly changing, driven primarily by differences in fertility rates and the size of youth populations among the world's major religions, as well as by people switching faiths. Over the next four decades, Christians will remain the largest religious group, but Islam will grow faster than any other major religion.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.pewforum.org/files/2015/03/PF\\_15.04.02\\_ProjectionsFullReport.pdf](http://www.pewforum.org/files/2015/03/PF_15.04.02_ProjectionsFullReport.pdf) [PDF format, 245 pages, 15.07 MB].

#### Item#14

**How Are Income and Wealth Linked to Health and Longevity?** Steven H. Woolf et al. April 13, 2015.

The greater one's income, the lower one's likelihood of disease and premature death. Americans at all income levels are less healthy than those with higher incomes. Not only is income associated with better health, but wealth affects health as well. Though it is easy to imagine how health is tied to income for the very poor or the very rich, the relationship between income and health is a gradient: discrepancies exist at every level of the economic ladder. Middle-class Americans are healthier than those living in or near poverty, but they are less healthy than the upper class.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/alfresco/publication-pdfs/2000178-How-are-Income-and-Wealth-Linked-to-Health-and-Longevity.pdf> [PDF format, 22 pages, 1.11 MB].

#### Item#15

**Teens, Social Media & Technology Overview 2015.** Pew Research Center. Amanda Lenhart. April 9, 2015.

24% of teens go online "almost constantly," facilitated by the widespread availability of smartphones. Aided by the convenience and constant access provided by mobile devices, especially smartphones, 92% of teens report going online daily — including 24% who say they go online "almost constantly," according to the study. More than half (56%) of teens — ages 13 to 17 — go online several times a day,

and 12% report once-a-day use. Just 6% of teens report going online weekly, and 2% go online less often. Much of this frenzy of access is facilitated by mobile devices. Nearly three-quarters of teens have or have access to a smartphone and 30% have a basic phone, while just 12% of teens 13 to 17 say they have no cell phone of any type.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.pewinternet.org/files/2015/04/PI\\_TeensandTech\\_Update2015\\_0409151.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/files/2015/04/PI_TeensandTech_Update2015_0409151.pdf) [PDF format, 48 pages, 886.83 KB].

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