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## Reports

### Item#1

**Xi Jinping's High-Risk Policy Needs a National Security Commission.** YaleGlobal. David M. Lampton. May 5, 2015.

Governments tend to rely on national security apparatuses to protect those in power as much as the country at large. President Xi Jinping assumed leadership of the Chinese Communist Party in late 2012, and since then, indicated an expectation for increasing the nation's global influence. Such influence "requires a broadly conceived central foreign and security policy coordination mechanism of increasing sophistication, a mechanism that can provide top leaders with options, help establish priorities, evaluate costs and gains, and enforce implementation on a fractious bureaucracy and society," explains David Lampton.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/xi-jinping%E2%80%99s-high-risk-policy-needs-national-security-commission> [HTML format, various paging].

### Item#2

**Parsing Chinese-Russian Military Exercises.** Strategic Studies Institute. Richard Weitz. April 15, 2015.

During the past decade, China and Russia have deepened their defense cooperation to include a range of bilateral and multilateral military exercises. These have multiple purposes and the potential to evolve into a more significant security development in coming years.

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=1266> [HTML format with a link to the full text PDF file].

### Item#3

**40 Years After Exit From Saigon: Vietnam and US Find Strategic Common Ground.** YaleGlobal. Murray Hiebert. April 30, 2015.

North Vietnamese troops met little resistance in taking control of Saigon on April 30, 1975, after the United States rejected extending further military aid to the South Vietnamese after years of intervention. By 1979, Chinese troops invaded Vietnam from the north. All sides suffered tens of thousands of casualties in the two wars, and still, Vietnam tries to maintain good ties with the United States and China, the world's largest economic and military powers. "A key factor driving Vietnam to bolster its relations with the United States in recent years has been China's increasingly assertive behavior in the disputed South China Sea," writes Murray Hiebert. Vietnam and the U.S. partner on trade, education and cultural exchanges. But for weapons procurement and military cooperation, Vietnam remains cautious about antagonizing its neighbor to the north. Vietnam's hope may be that the U.S. will lead in countering Chinese aggression in the South China Sea.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/40-years-after-exit-saigon-vietnam-and-us-find-strategic-common-ground> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#4

**The Trans-Pacific Partnership Is Unlikely to Be a Good Deal for American Workers.** Economic Policy Institute. Josh Bivens. April 16, 2015.

Debate is heating up about the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)—a proposed new trade agreement. The report urges policymakers to assess every issue they approach, whether macroeconomic stabilization policy, tax and budget policy, regulatory policy, labor policy, or yes, trade policy, on the grounds of whether or not it will boost wages for the vast majority of Americans.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://s1.epi.org/files/pdf/83872.pdf> [PDF format, 18 pages, 290.6 KB].

#### Item#5

**Germany and the United States: Reliable Allies.** Pew Research Center. May 7, 2015.

Seven decades after the end of World War II and a quarter-century after the end of the Cold War, roughly seven-in-ten Americans see Germany as a reliable ally, and about six-in-ten Germans trust the United States, according to the survey. A majority of Germans believe it is more important for Germany to have strong ties with the U.S. than with Russia. Germans also give U.S. President Barack Obama high marks for his management of the U.S.-German relationship. And Germans and Americans are equally wary of international entanglements and want their countries to focus on domestic problems.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2015/05/Pew-Research-Center-U.S.-Germany-Report-FINAL-FOR-WEB.pdf> [PDF format, 19 pages, 339.51 KB].

#### Item#6

**Strengthening Nuclear Stability in Turbulent Times.** Brookings Institution. April 2015.

The Ukraine crisis and broader deterioration in relations between Russia and the West has created a heightened danger of unintended clashes between Russian and NATO military forces, and continues to deflate hopes for near-term progress on nuclear arms control. The report offers key recommendations and identifies additional measures to build confidence and strengthen security in Europe, enhance global nuclear stability, and set the stage for further progress on reducing nuclear weapons.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/reports/2015/04/nuclear-stability-turbulent-times-pifer/201504-report-2.pdf> [PDF format, 32 pages, 716 KB].

#### Item#7

**Rebalancing the Middle East.** YaleGlobal. Emma Sky. April 23, 2015.

The U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003 empowered Iran as did the American departure in 2011. Since then the region has unraveled. Emma Sky suggests that U.S. regional policy narrowly focuses on three objectives:

the defeat of the Islamic State, neutralization of other extremist groups and a nuclear agreement with Iran. Bilateral approaches can present inconsistencies, she points out, as the U.S. allies with Shia-backed groups to defeat the Islamic State in Iran and then with Sunni groups to defeat the Shia-backed Houthis in Iran. Every policy in the Middle East should be measured for how it affects the region as a whole and aim for regional balance. Military force is not enough, and a pattern has emerged of weapons falling into the wrong hands. The U.S. and others must help guide Iraq and other players in the region with greater engagement to address root problems, including inequality and corruption, while guiding citizens through a process of reconciliation, integration and economic diversification.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/rebalancing-middle-east> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#8

**Multiple Causes Seen for Baltimore Unrest.** Pew Research Center. May 4, 2015.

The public sees a number of contributing factors for the outbreak of violence and unrest in Baltimore. About six-in-ten (61%) say that “some people taking advantage of the situation to engage in criminal behavior” contributed a “great deal” to the unrest, while 56% say the same about tensions between the African-American community and the police. However, majorities say all five factors mentioned in the survey – including anger over the death of Freddie Gray, poverty in some neighborhoods and the initial response by city officials – contributed at least a fair amount to the unrest.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/2015/05/5-4-2015-Baltimore-release.pdf> [PDF format, 18 pages, 444.49 KB].

#### Item#9

**A Different Look at Generations and Partisanship.** Pew Research Center. April 30, 2015.

Over the past decade, there has been a pronounced age gap in American politics. Younger Americans have been the Democratic Party’s strongest supporters in both vote preferences and partisanship, while older Americans have been the most reliably Republican.

The report earlier this month on partisan identification found that 51% of Millennials (18-33 years old in 2014) identify with or lean toward the Democratic Party, while 35% identify as Republicans or lean Republican. By contrast, 47% of those in the Silent Generation (ages 69-86 in 2014) say they are Republican or lean Republican; 43% affiliate with the Democratic Party or lean Democratic. The partisan leanings of Baby Boomers and Generation X fall in between; both generations favor the Democratic Party, but to a lesser extent than Millennials.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/2015/04/04-30-2015-Party-ID-and-generations-release.pdf> [PDF format, 17 pages, 338 KB].

#### Item#10

**Americans' Views on Open Government Data.** Pew Research Center. John B. Horrigan and Lee Rainie. April 21, 2015.

Government reformers and advocates believe that two contemporary phenomena hold the potential to change how people engage with governments at all levels. The first is data. There is more of it than ever before and there are more effective tools for sharing it. This creates new service-delivery possibilities for government through use of data that government agencies themselves collect and generate. The second is public desire to make government more responsive, transparent and effective in serving citizens — an impulse driven by tight budgets and declining citizens' trust in government. This report is based on the first national survey that seeks to benchmark public sentiment about the government initiatives that use data to cultivate the public square.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.pewinternet.org/files/2015/04/PI\\_OpenData\\_042115.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/files/2015/04/PI_OpenData_042115.pdf) [PDF format, 66 pages, 1.11 MB].

#### Item#11

**High Costs of Cheap Oil.** YaleGlobal. Deepak Gopinath. May 7, 2015.

Consumers are delighted by low oil prices and economists anticipate increased global growth. But the low prices are locking many industries into infrastructure that relies on fossil fuels. "High-carbon infrastructure – power plants, pipelines, factories, inefficient buildings, roads and transport vehicles – built now will last and pollute for decades to come," writes Deepak Gopinath. The low prices suppress demand for new technologies based on alternative fuels. Developing nations account for most global population growth in the energy sector. Delays in developing alternative energies lock countries like China and India into competitive patterns that encourage dependence on fossil fuels. In addition to ending subsidies for fossil fuels, Gopinath encourages taxes on consumption to reduce use and develop funding for alternative energies.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/high-costs-cheap-oil> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#12

**Fueling the Online Trade.** Center for Strategic & International Studies. Kati Suominen. April 23, 2015.

Across the United States, individuals and small businesses are increasingly buying and selling goods and services online. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the total value of online transactions in the United States grew from \$3 trillion in 2006 to \$5.4 trillion in 2012, about a third of U.S. GDP. Increasingly, these transactions are cross border. By 2017, a third of U.S. business-to-consumer (B2C) and consumer-to-consumer (C2C) e-commerce transactions will be with foreign counterparts, up from 16 percent today.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

[http://csis.org/files/publication/150421\\_Suominen\\_FuelingOnlineTradeRev\\_Web.pdf](http://csis.org/files/publication/150421_Suominen_FuelingOnlineTradeRev_Web.pdf) [PDF format, 56 pages, 5.49 MB].

### Item#13

**Cybersecurity and Information Sharing: Comparison of H.R. 1560 and H.R. 1731.** Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Eric A. Fischer. April 20, 2015.

It is generally recognized that effective sharing of information in cybersecurity is an important tool in the protection of information systems and their contents from unauthorized access by cybercriminals and other adversaries. Five bills on information sharing in cybersecurity have been introduced in the 114th Congress (H.R. 234, H.R. 1560, H.R. 1731, S. 456, and S. 754). The White House has also submitted a legislative proposal and issued an executive order on the topic.

<http://www.fas.org:8080/sgp/crs/misc/R43996.pdf> [PDF format, 29 pages, 380.41 KB].

### Item#14

**State of the News Media 2015.** Pew Research Center. Amy Mitchell. April 29, 2015.

At the start of 2015, 39 of the top 50 digital news websites have more traffic to their sites and associated applications coming from mobile devices than from desktop computers, according to the analysis. At the same time, though, desktop visitors to these sites tend to spend more time per visit than do mobile visitors. For half of these top 50 news sites, which include legacy print, cable, network, international and public broadcasting outlets as well as digital-only entities, visitors from desktops stay longer than those coming through mobile. The reverse is true for only 10 of the sites, while for 15 sites the time spent is roughly equal.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.journalism.org/files/2015/04/FINAL-STATE-OF-THE-NEWS-MEDIA.pdf> [PDF format, 98 pages, 1.23 MB].

### Item#15

**What the Public Knows — In Pictures, Words, Maps and Graphs.** Pew Research Center. April 28, 2015.

The News IQ survey finds that, nearly half a century after the death of Martin Luther King Jr., an overwhelming majority of Americans (91%) are able to identify the civil rights leader from his picture. Fully 96% of Millennials (ages 18 to 34), who were born decades after King's assassination, could identify King, as could 89% among older generations. Respondents were shown a photograph of King and asked to identify him from a list of names that included Malcolm X, Jesse Jackson and Thurgood Marshall. The survey, conducted among 3,147 adults, also finds a large majority are able to associate a photograph of Kim Jong-un with the country he leads. Shown a picture of Kim Jong-un, 82% say he leads North Korea (from a list that includes South Korea, China and Malaysia).

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/2015/04/4-28-15-Knowledge-release.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages, 645.96 KB].