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Reports

Item#1

The New Russian Engagement with Latin America: Strategic Position, Commerce, and Dreams of the Past. Strategic Studies Institute. R. Evan Ellis. June 17, 2015.

Although overshadowed by China, Russia's re-engagement with Latin America and the Caribbean, which includes military deployments, arms sales, and the negotiation of base access agreements, impacts the regional security environment and potentially challenges U.S. national security. The monograph provides one of the first broad, in depth analyses of Russian engagement in the region, including an examination of its political and economic, as well as military activities, with an examination of implications for the U.S. and recommendation for U.S. policymakers.

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=1275> [HTML format with a link to the PDF file].

Item#2

North Korea: Beyond the Six-Party Talks. International Crisis Group. June 16, 2015.

According to the report, prospects are bleak that the Six-Party Talks can lead to a denuclearised Korean peninsula, notably since North Korea has made nuclear weapons an integral part of its identity. The international community must open new channels of communication and interaction, give greater roles to international organizations, the private sector and civil society.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/asia/north-east-asia/north-korea/269-north-korea-beyond-the-six-party-talks.pdf> [PDF format, 31 pages, 699.00 KB].

Item#3

Iran's Role in Iraq: Room for Cooperation? RAND Corporation. Alizera Nader. June 1, 2015.

The paper examines Iran's objectives and influence in Iraq in light of ISIL's ascendance. It focuses on Iran's ties with Iraqi Shi'a parties and militias and the implications of Iran's sectarian policies for U.S. interests.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/perspectives/PE100/PE151/RAND_PE151.pdf [PDF format, 23 pages, 0.2 MB].

Item#4

Iran's Global Image Mostly Negative: Israel, Arab States Share Unfavorable View of Middle East Neighbor. Pew Research Center. Hani Zainulbhai and Richard Wike. June 18, 2015.

As the June 30 deadline for negotiations over its nuclear program approaches, the poll finds that attitudes toward Iran are mostly negative worldwide. Majorities or pluralities in 31 of 40 countries surveyed hold an unfavorable opinion of the Islamic Republic. And in several Muslim-majority countries in the Middle East and Asia, ratings have declined considerably in recent years.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2015/06/Pew-Research-Center-Iran-Report-June-18-2015-FINAL.pdf>
[PDF format, 13 pages, 422.71 KB].

Item#5

Modi's Visit to China Marks New Tone, But No Concrete Progress. YaleGlobal. Neelam D Sabharwal. June 16, 2015.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi may have set a new tone for India's relations with China, yet personal rapport and economic interdependence offer little guarantee of settling longstanding strategic issues that divide the world's two most populous nations, warns Sabharwal. Core concerns for India include clarifying the boundary issues and the Line of Actual Control in the Himalayan region and China's planned development with Pakistan in areas under dispute. Sabharwal concludes on economic cooperation: "the test is how much China would be willing to invest in India, the extent of technology transfer and generation of employment by Chinese investment, and how open the Chinese market would be to Indian products, services and entrepreneurs." Dialogue begins with both nations understanding the differences.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/modi%E2%80%99s-visit-china-marks-new-tone-no-concrete-progress> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#6

NATO Publics Blame Russia for Ukrainian Crisis, but Reluctant to Provide Military Aid. Pew Research Center. Katie Simmons et al. June 10, 2015.

Publics of key member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) blame Russia for the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Many also see Russia as a military threat to other neighboring states. But few support sending arms to Ukraine. Moreover, at least half of Germans, French and Italians say their country should not use military force to defend a NATO ally if attacked by Russia. A median of 39% among NATO publics say Russia is the main culprit in the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2015/06/Pew-Research-Center-Russia-Ukraine-Report-FINAL-June-10-2015.pdf> [PDF format, 58 pages, 928.51 KB].

Item#7

Faith in European Project Reviving. Pew Research Center. Bruce Stokes. June 2, 2015.

To paraphrase the American author and humorist Mark Twain, recent reports of the death of the European Union were greatly exaggerated. In the wake of the euro currency crisis, public support for the EU and the belief that European economic integration was good for one's country had declined precipitously across Europe, reaching a low point in 2013. But in 2015, favorable views of the EU and faith in the efficacy of creating a single market are generally rebounding in major EU member states, according to the survey. And this revival in pro-EU sentiment is closely related to the public's economic mood.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2015/06/Pew-Research-Center-European-Union-Report-FINAL-June-2-20151.pdf> [PDF format, 36 pages, 673.01 KB].

Item#8

India – A Silicon Valley for Emerging Markets? YaleGlobal. Dinesh C. Sharma. June 4, 2015.

Emerging markets represent 80 percent of the globe's population and more than 50 percent of its GDP. So many consumers living in the emerging economies are digitally deprived, yet eager to explore the internet. India is well positioned to become the next hub for internet development. "Capitalizing on early investments in science and engineering development, India showed the world a new way of doing business despite bottlenecks of poor physical infrastructure and low domestic demand," explains Dinesh C. Sharma. "Now the country is at the cusp of another change, riding on deep penetration of digital devices and robust unmet demand for digital services." For many growing up in emerging economies, the mobile phone is their first digital device. They joined the internet by bypassing traditional devices like desktops, laptops, and develop idiosyncratic customs like "missed calls." Tech firms in India are finding success by targeting the vast market while attracting acquisition attention from giants like Facebook or Twitter.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/india-%E2%80%93-silicon-valley-emerging-markets> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#9

Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) and the Role of Congress in Trade Policy. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Ian F. Fergusson. May 28, 2015.

Legislation to reauthorize Trade Promotion Authority ("TPA"), sometimes called "fast track," was introduced as the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (TPA- 2015; H.R. 1890/S. 995) on April 16, 2015. The legislation was reported by the Senate Finance Committee on April 22, 2015, and by the House Ways and Means Committee the next day. TPA, as incorporated into H.R. 1314 by substitute amendment, passed the Senate on May 22 by a vote of 62-37. The previous grant of authority expired on July 1, 2007. TPA is the process Congress has made available to the President to enable legislation to approve and implement certain international trade agreements to be considered under expedited legislative procedures for limited periods, provided the President observes certain statutory obligations.

<http://www.fas.org:8080/sgp/crs/misc/RL33743.pdf> [PDF format, 28 pages, 439.0 KB].

Item#10

Foreign Holdings of Federal Debt. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Marc Labonte and Jared C. Nagel. May 28, 2015.

The report presents current data on estimated ownership of U.S. Treasury securities and major holders of federal debt by country. Federal debt represents the accumulated balance of borrowing by the federal government. To finance federal borrowing, U.S. Treasury securities are sold to investors. Treasury securities may be purchased directly from the Treasury or on the secondary market by individual private investors, financial institutions in the United States or overseas, and foreign, state, or local governments. Foreign investors have held slightly less than half of the publicly held federal debt in recent years, prompting questions on the location of the foreign holders and how much debt they hold.

<http://www.fas.org:8080/sgp/crs/misc/RS22331.pdf> [PDF format, 10 pages, 255.39 KB].

Item#11

The Challenge of Financing Long-term Care. Urban Institute. Judith Feder. June 2, 2015.

The paper examines the nature of long-term care financing—who needs care, how they get care, and how care is financed. It demonstrates that for long-term care, like health care, insurance is essential to spreading risk. But neither public programs nor the private sector, currently provide that insurance. As the population ages, the inequity and inadequacy of current financing mechanisms will increase. The paper concludes that enactment of public social insurance protection is essential to protect Americans against the unpredictable, catastrophic risk of needing expensive, extensive long-term care.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.slu.edu/colleges/law/new/sites/default/files/Journals/feder_article.pdf [PDF format, 17 pages, 225.5 KB].

Item#12

The Single Best Health Policy in the World: Tobacco Taxes. Center for Global Development. Willaim D. Savedoff and Albert Alwang. June 3, 2015.

The single most cost-effective way to save lives in developing countries is in the hands of developing countries themselves: raising tobacco taxes. In fact, raising tobacco taxes is better than cost-effective. It saves lives while increasing revenues and saving poor households money when their members quit smoking, according to the report.

[Notes: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/CGD-Policy-Paper-62-Savedoff-Alwang-Best-Health-Policy-Tobacco-Tax.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages, 497.7 KB].

Item#13

Support for Same-Sex Marriage at Record High, but Key Segments Remain Opposed. Pew Research Center. June 8, 2015.

As the Supreme Court prepares to decide a key case involving states' requirements to recognize same-sex marriage, public support for allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally continues its rapid rise: A 57% majority of Americans now favor allowing same-sex marriage and 39% oppose. As recently as five years ago, more opposed (48%) same-sex marriage than supported it (42%). This is the highest level of support measured for same-sex marriage in nearly 20 years of Pew Research Center polling of the issue.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/2015/06/6-8-15-Same-sex-marriage-release1.pdf> [PDF format, 28 pages, 631.28 KB].

Item#14

Multiracial in America: Proud, Diverse and Growing in Numbers. Pew Research Center. June 11, 2015.

Multiracial Americans are at the cutting edge of social and demographic change in the U.S.—young, proud, tolerant and growing at a rate three times as fast as the population as a whole. As America becomes more racially diverse and social taboos against interracial marriage fade, the survey finds that majorities of multiracial adults are proud of their mixed-race background (60%) and feel their racial heritage has made them more open to other cultures (59%).

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2015/06/2015-06-11_multiracial-in-america_final-updated.pdf [PDF format, 156 pages, 1.57 MB].

Item#15

Millennials and Political News: Social Media – the Local TV for the Next Generation? Pew Research Center. Amy Mitchell et al. June 1, 2015.

When it comes to where younger Americans get news about politics and government, social media look to be the local TV of the Millennial generation. About six-in-ten online Millennials (61%) report getting political news on Facebook in a given week, a much larger percentage than turn to any other news source, according to the analysis. This stands in stark contrast to internet-using Baby Boomers, for whom local TV tops the list of sources for political news at nearly the same reach (60%). At the same time, Millennials' relatively low reliance on local TV for political news (37% see news there in a given week) almost mirrors Baby Boomers' comparatively low reliance on Facebook (39%).

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.journalism.org/files/2015/06/Millennials-and-News-FINAL.pdf> [PDF format, 29 pages, 909.32 KB].