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Reports

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Shaping the Asia-Pacific Future: Strengthening the Institutional Architecture for an Open, Rules-Based Economic Order. Atlantic Council. Olin Wethington and Robert A. Manning. June 24, 2015.

A national debate is heating up about the rise of China and what it means for U.S. national interests. The assumptions guiding U.S. policy toward China under eight presidents, from Nixon to Obama, are being called into question. Is China seeking to overturn the existing order and displace the United States in the Asia-Pacific? The report addresses these questions.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/images/publications/Shaping_AP_Future_Digital.pdf [PDF format, 40 pages, 4.53 MB]..

Item#2

Beijing's Maritime Silk Road Passes Through Islamabad. YaleGlobal. Dilip Hiro. July 21, 2015.

Ties between China and Pakistan run strong and often aim at containing India. In recent decades, China helped Pakistan with its nuclear-weapons program and after 1991 became the country's chief arms supplier. The relationship could signal that China's One Belt, One Road project is as much about developing a strategic military network as trade and cultural exchange, suggests historian and author Dilip Hiro.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/beijing%E2%80%99s-maritime-silk-road-passes-through-islamabad> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

Cuba: Transforming a Revolution. YaleGlobal. Patricia Alejandro. July 23, 2015.

The United States and Cuba are reopening their respective embassies and preparing for more exchanges in diplomacy and trade. "Cubans and Americans are equally curious about exploring the other side since December when President Barack Obama and Raúl Castro made the surprise announcement on restoration of full diplomatic relations between the two countries," writes Patricia Alejandro. "Both sides concede the process will be gradual, yet changes in leadership that paved the way for rapprochement are inevitable – Obama leaves office in January 2017, and Castro, now 84, announced intentions to retire in 2018." The Cuban-American community could help boost ties between the two countries. The Cuban government is wary about foreign investment, and the United States will press for improved human rights. Cubans are eager for an end to the U.S. embargo, along with new electronics, cars and internet service, while US tourists are nostalgic for the Cuba of the early 20th century. Economic imbalances and challenges to normalize relations are many, but there's likely no going back.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/cuba-transforming-revolution> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#4

Ensuring that the Nuclear Agreement Effectively Constrains Iran. Center for American Progress. Brian Katulis et al. July 17, 2015.

The nuclear deal between Iran and leading global powers set off an intense debate just hours after its announcement. With vital national security interests at stake, this is an important debate to have, one that will continue in the months ahead as Congress deliberates the deal. The report recommends that Congress measure the deal against the main alternatives and work with the Obama administration to ensure strong and effective implementation using three steps.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/IranDealAnalysis-brief.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages, 81.8 KB].

Item#5

Backed by Big Powers, a Successful Iran Deal Could Rescue NPT. YaleGlobal. Richard Weitz. July 16, 2015.

The leading impact of the July 14 Iran nuclear deal may be how it affects the overall pace and extent of nuclear-weapons proliferation. To succeed in resolving the Iranian nuclear deal and strengthening barriers against the further spread of nuclear weapons, China, Russia and the United States must cooperate despite their many other differences. "The agreement to freeze Iran's nuclear-weapons program for a limited period might offer opportunities to strengthen the NPT, dispel assumptions of near-term nuclear disarmament and generate a fresh attempt to curb North Korea's nuclear ambitions," explains Richard Weitz. "To support disarmament as they eventually eliminate their own nuclear arsenals, Russia, China and the United States have agreed to reduce their reliance on nuclear weapons in the foreign and defense policies."

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/iran-deal-requires-great-power-support> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#6

A Year Later, U.S. Campaign Against ISIS Garners Support, Raises Concerns. Pew Research Center. July 22, 2015.

Nearly a year after the United States launched its first airstrikes against ISIS, the public remains broadly supportive of the military campaign. Yet Americans also have persistent doubts about how well the U.S. military effort is going, and there is no agreement about whether the U.S. should deploy ground troops as part of the military campaign in Iraq and Syria.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/2015/07/07-22-2015-ISIS-release.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages, 403.32 KB].

Item#7

Extremism Concerns Growing in West and Predominantly Muslim Countries. Pew Research Center. Jacob Poushter. July 16, 2015.

As the Islamic militant group ISIS continues to entrench itself in Syria and Iraq, and instigate terrorist attacks around the world, concerns about Islamic extremism are growing in the West and in countries with significant Muslim populations. Since 2011, the percentage saying they are very concerned about Islamic extremism in their country has increased 38 percentage points in France, 29 points in Spain, 21 points in the United Kingdom, 20 points in Germany and 17 points in the United States.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2015/07/Pew-Research-Center-Extremism-Concern-Report-FINAL-July-16-2015.pdf> [PDF format, 13 pages, 916.89 KB].

Item#8

The New Containment: Changing America's Approach to Middle East Security. Atlantic Council. Bilal Y. Saab. July 6, 2015.

Securing the Middle East after an Iran nuclear deal is the next big challenge for both the region and the international community. The United States and its allies have engaged in tireless diplomacy with Iran over the past few years to produce an agreement that would limit Tehran's nuclear program for the next decade and a half. To protect the deal, assuming one is finalized, and take full advantage of its potential benefits, which include the drastic reduction of the risk of nuclear weapons proliferating in the region, the United States needs a comprehensive strategy for regional security in the Middle East, according to the author.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/images/publications/The_New_Containment.pdf [PDF format, 34 pages, 5.75 MB].

Item#9

Revisiting Counter-terrorism Strategies in Pakistan: Opportunities and Pitfalls. International Crisis Group. July 22, 2015.

According to the report, Pakistan's six-month-old counter-terrorism strategy has failed to end the operations of violent jihadi groups, while military-led measures continue to undermine the civilian government. A winning strategy will have to include structural and governance reform, both to stop jihadis exploiting the absence of rule of law and to address the root causes of extremist violence.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/asia/south-asia/pakistan/271-revisiting-counter-terrorism-strategies-in-pakistan-opportunities-and-pitfalls.pdf> [PDF format, 44 pages, 2.87 MB].

Item#10

The Impact of Turkish Stream on European Energy Security and the Southern Gas Corridor. Atlantic Council. John Roberts. July 9, 2015.

Russia has proposed building a major new pipeline intended to carry gas to customers in both Turkey and the European Union. The project, dubbed Turkish Stream, is controversial for two interconnected

reasons. Firstly, it is intended to help Gazprom fulfil its stated intention of terminating gas exports to Europe via Ukraine by the end of 2019. Secondly, it is far from clear that customers in the European Union would accept delivery of gas at Turkey's border with Greece in place of current deliveries to locations in Central Europe.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/images/publications/TurkishStream_webfinal.pdf [PDF format, 24 pages, 1.32 MB].

Item#11

Climate Change Seen as Top Global Threat. Pew Research Center. Jill Carle. July 14, 2015.

In advance of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris this December, many publics around the world name global climate change as a top threat, according to the survey measuring perceptions of international challenges. This is particularly true in Latin America and Africa, where majorities in most countries say they are very concerned about this issue. But as the Islamic militant group ISIS maintains its hold in Iraq and Syria and intensifies its grisly public executions, Europeans and Middle Easterners most frequently cite ISIS as their main concern among international issues.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2015/07/Pew-Research-Center-Global-Threats-Report-FINAL-July-14-2015.pdf> [PDF format, 18 pages, 727.57 KB].

Item#12

The Evolving Role of News on Twitter and Facebook. Pew Research Center. Michael Barthel et al. July 14, 2015.

The share of Americans for whom Twitter and Facebook serve as a source of news is continuing to rise. This rise comes primarily from more current users encountering news there rather than large increases in the user base overall, according to findings from the survey. The report also finds that users turn to each of these prominent social networks to fulfill different types of information needs.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.journalism.org/files/2015/07/Twitter-and-News-Survey-Report-FINAL2.pdf> [PDF format, 18 pages, 738.90 KB].