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Title Index

- [Item#1](#) Xi-Obama Summit: Bridging the Trust Deficit in US-China Ties?
- [Item#2](#) Is ASEAN Losing Its Way?
- [Item#3](#) Putin's Dramatic Syria Move Raises Russian Profile – With Risks
- [Item#4](#) Limiting Regret: Building the Army We Will Need
- [Item#5](#) Turkey: Background and U.S. Relations
- [Item#6](#) Pakistan Keen to Keep Ties with Iran and Saudi Arabia
- [Item#7](#) Rise of Minority Muslim Population Poses Challenge to India's Democracy
- [Item#8](#) Canadians Satisfied with U.S. Relationship
- [Item#9](#) Corruption, Pollution, Inequality Are Top Concerns in China
- [Item#10](#) Positive Impact of Pope Francis on Views of the Church, Especially Among Democrats and Liberals
- [Item#11](#) Mixed Views of Initial U.S. Response to Europe's Migrant Crisis
- [Item#12](#) Modern Immigration Wave Brings 59 Million to U.S., Driving Population Growth and Change Through 2065
- [Item#13](#) Cybersecurity: Legislation, Hearings, and Executive Branch Documents
- [Item#14](#) Changes in the Arctic: Background and Issues for Congress
- [Item#15](#) Is There a Shortage of Marriageable Men?

Reports

Item#1

Xi-Obama Summit: Bridging the Trust Deficit in US-China Ties? YaleGlobal. Robert A. Manning. September 29, 2015.

China and the United States disagree on many issues – including claims for the South China Sea, intellectual property protections, open access to the internet and free speech. Leaders of the world’s two largest economies also have reason to cooperate on global initiatives. Xi Jinping, China’s president and general secretary of the Communist Party, visited the United States, meeting U.S. President Barack Obama and leaders in the tech industry. Success of the summit requires that agreements are indeed implemented, suggests the author. Manning concludes, “The increasingly difficult challenge is to sustain a relationship that is more cooperative than competitive – and not allow one area of disagreement or confrontation overwhelm the overall relationship.” With follow-through on contentious issues like cybersecurity, investment, climate change, Xi could increase trust and reduce antagonistic talk on China during the U.S. presidential campaign.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/xi-obama-summit-bridging-trust-deficit-us-china-ties> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#2

Is ASEAN Losing Its Way? YaleGlobal. Amitav Acharya. September 24, 2015.

The charter for the Association of Southeast Asia Nations emphasizes economic growth and principles that support cooperation, renunciation of the use of force, mutual respect for members, and rejection of external interference or coercion. ASEAN’s track record for peaceful resolution of disputes through consensus may be at risk as unity erodes, warns Amitav Acharya.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/asean-losing-its-way> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

Putin’s Dramatic Syria Move Raises Russian Profile – With Risks. YaleGlobal. Thomas Graham. October 6, 2015.

Vladimir Putin, determined to revive Russia’s status as a global power, has rapidly mobilized forces to bolster the Assad regime in Syria. He orchestrated a meeting with U.S. President Barack Obama at the September UN General Assembly meeting in New York, to give the appearance that he is taking charge of ending the Islamic State’s expansion in Iraq and Syria, explains Thomas Graham. Russian airstrikes also targeted U.S.-supported rebel groups fighting the Assad regime as well as ISIS locations. In essence, Syria is the site for another brutal proxy war in the Middle East, pitting Russia, Iraq, Iran, Hezbollah forces against the United States, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Egypt and contributing to more conflict, confusion and waves of refugees. Putin’s moves carry risks, and Russia cannot afford being embroiled in

a quagmire. He may have caught the Obama administration by surprise, but the United States still has great capacity to influence the region with its response.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/putin%E2%80%99s-dramatic-syria-move-raises-russian-profile-increases-danger> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#4

Limiting Regret: Building the Army We Will Need. RAND Corporation. Timothy M. Bonds et al. September 23, 2015.

The report makes three essential points: The world has changed following the foundational defense planning in the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review; emerging and growing threats increase the likelihood that U.S. commitments in key regions will be challenged; and planned cuts to the U.S. Army will result in too few ground forces to satisfy declared commitments. The authors consider the terror threat in North Africa, the Middle East, and Afghanistan; potential Russian aggression against NATO Baltic states; and the threats posed by North Korea, including “loose nukes.”

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR1300/RR1320/RAND_RR1320.pdf [PDF format, 26 pages, 0.5 MB].

Item#5

Turkey: Background and U.S. Relations. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Jim Zanotti. October 5, 2015.

Several Turkish domestic and foreign policy issues have significant relevance for U.S. interests, and Congress plays an active role in shaping and overseeing U.S. relations with Turkey. The report provides background information on Turkey and discusses possible policy questions and considerations for Members of Congress. U.S. relations with Turkey—a longtime North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ally – have evolved over time. Turkey’s economic dynamism and geopolitical importance have increased its influence regionally and globally. Although Turkey still depends on the United States and other NATO allies for political and strategic support, and has close economic links with the European Union, its increased economic and military self-reliance since the Cold War allows Turkey relatively greater opportunity for an assertive role in foreign policy. The record of U.S.-Turkey cooperation during the Obama Administration has been mixed. To some extent it mirrors the complexities that past U.S. administrations faced with Turkey in reconciling alignment on general foreign policy objectives with substantive points of disagreement.

<http://www.fas.org:8080/sgp/crs/mideast/R41368.pdf> [PDF format, 48 pages, 1.58 MB].

Item#6

Pakistan Keen to Keep Ties with Iran and Saudi Arabia. YaleGlobal. Debalina Ghoshal. October 1, 2015.

Diplomacy in Asia is complicated by religious conflict and sets of regional rivalries including Iran and Saudi Arabia, along with Pakistan and India. A deal on Iran’s nuclear program negotiated by the

permanent members of the U.N. Security Council plus Germany, could test strategic relations in Asia and trigger a series of recalculations. In particular, strengthening Indian-Iranian ties could fray Iranian-Pakistani relations, notes Ghoshal. Oil-rich Iran offers opportunities for investment and trade. India has been a leading trade partner for imports and exports with both Iran and Saudi Arabia, and Ghoshal concludes that “Pakistan is in no mood to jeopardize relations with Iran and is keen to continue cordial ties with Saudi Arabia.” In dealing with their own or other rivalries, countries may move cautiously on security issues to seek balance.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/pakistan-keen-keep-ties-iran-and-saudi-arabia-0> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#7

Rise of Minority Muslim Population Poses Challenge to India’s Democracy. YaleGlobal. Riaz Hasan. October 8, 2015.

If current demographic trends continue, the ranks of religious believers in the world could rise through 2050, reports the report. Islam would show the fastest rate of growth, and the unaffiliated would decline in proportion to other religious categories. Hassan analyzes the data for India and points out that Muslims could represent nearly one out of five Indians by 2050 as compared with one out of seven today. “The population increase will present additional and more complex challenges for the nation’s democratic political system grounded in its secular constitution that envisions justice, liberty, equality and fraternity for all Indian citizens – but is increasingly contested,” he writes. India is poised to be the world’s most populous nation by 2050. Uneven opportunities for a major minority group increase the risks of resentment, instability and security threats.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/rise-minority-muslim-population-poses-challenge-india%E2%80%99s-democracy> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#8

Canadians Satisfied with U.S. Relationship. Pew Research Center. Jacob Poushter. October 6, 2015.

As Canadians head to the polls for a historically close federal election, a new survey finds that people in Canada are generally satisfied with their country’s current relationship with the United States. More than half (54%) say that Canada should remain about as close to the U.S. as it has been in recent years, with another 27% saying Canada should be even closer and only 16% saying they should be less close. Furthermore, 68% of Canadians have a favorable view of their southern neighbor, a figure that has stayed fairly consistent since President Barack Obama took office in 2009. About three-quarters (76%) have confidence in the U.S. president.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2015/10/Pew-Research-Center-Canada-Report-FINAL-October-6-2015.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages, 325.47 MB].

Item#9

Corruption, Pollution, Inequality Are Top Concerns in China. Pew Research Center. Richard Wike and Bridget Parker. September 24, 2015.

China's economic growth rate may be slowing, but the Chinese public overwhelmingly recognizes the economic progress their country has made over time. Most say they are better off financially than they were five years ago, and with near unanimity they believe they enjoy a higher standard of living than their parents did. However, they also believe their country is facing a variety of challenges. In particular, corruption, remains a serious concern.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2015/09/Pew-Research-Center-China-Report-FINAL-September-24-2015.pdf> [PDF format, 14 pages, 370.42 KB].

Item#10

Positive Impact of Pope Francis on Views of the Church, Especially Among Democrats and Liberals. Pew Research Center. October 7, 2015.

In the wake of Pope Francis' visit to the United States, a new survey finds that the pope has generated goodwill toward the Roman Catholic Church among many people across the political spectrum. Ideological liberals and moderates, along with Democrats, are especially likely to say Francis has given them a more positive view of the Catholic Church. At the same time, the popular pope's own favorability rating remains about where it was in early 2015. And most Americans say their view of the Catholic Church has not changed because of Pope Francis.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewforum.org/files/2015/10/Post-Papal-Visit-Report-10-07-for-web.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages, 437.21 KB].

Item#11

Mixed Views of Initial U.S. Response to Europe's Migrant Crisis. Pew Research Center. September 28, 2015.

The public has mixed reactions to the U.S. response to the influx of hundreds of thousands of migrants arriving in Europe in recent weeks. By a narrow 51%-45% margin, more approve than disapprove of the U.S. decision to increase the number of refugees it accepts to help deal with this situation. When asked to assess the United States' response to the refugee situation more generally, 44% say the U.S. should be doing more, while 19% say it should be doing less; 31% say the U.S. is doing about what it should.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/2015/09/09-29-2015-European-migrants-release.pdf> [PDF format, 11 pages, 392.24 KB].

Item#12

Modern Immigration Wave Brings 59 Million to U.S., Driving Population Growth and Change Through 2065. Pew Research Center. September 28, 2015.

Fifty years after passage of the landmark law that rewrote U.S. immigration policy, nearly 59 million immigrants have arrived in the United States, pushing the country's foreign-born share to a near record 14%. For the past half-century, these modern-era immigrants and their descendants have accounted for just over half the nation's population growth and have reshaped its racial and ethnic composition. The report's U.S. population projections show that if current demographic trends continue, future immigrants and their descendants will be an even bigger source of population growth. Between 2015 and 2065, they are projected to account for 88% of the U.S. population increase, or 103 million people, as the nation grows to 441 million.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.pewhispanic.org/files/2015/09/2015-09-28_modern-immigration-wave_REPORT.pdf [PDF format, 128 pages, 2.46 MB].

Item#13

Cybersecurity: Legislation, Hearings, and Executive Branch Documents. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Rita Tehan. October 2, 2015.

Cybersecurity vulnerabilities challenge governments, businesses, and individuals worldwide. Attacks have been initiated against individuals, corporations, and countries. Targets have included government networks, companies, and political organizations, depending upon whether the attacker was seeking military intelligence, conducting diplomatic or industrial espionage, engaging in cybercrime, or intimidating political activists. In addition, national borders mean little or nothing to cyberattackers, and attributing an attack to a specific location can be difficult, which may make responding problematic.

<http://www.fas.org:8080/sgp/crs/misc/R43317.pdf> [PDF format, 50 pages, 947.88 KB].

Item#14

Changes in the Arctic: Background and Issues for Congress. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Ronald O'Rourke. October 2, 2015.

The diminishment of Arctic sea ice has led to increased human activities in the Arctic, and has heightened interest in, and concerns about, the region's future. The United States, by virtue of Alaska, is an Arctic country and has substantial interests in the region. On January 21, 2015, President Obama issued an executive order for enhancing coordination of national efforts in the Arctic. The United States assumed the chairmanship of the Arctic Council on April 24, 2015, and will serve in that capacity for two years. Record low extents of Arctic sea ice over the past decade have focused scientific and policy attention on links to global climate change and projected ice-free seasons in the Arctic within decades. These changes have potential consequences for weather in the United States, access to mineral and biological resources in the Arctic, the economies and cultures of peoples in the region, and national security.

<http://www.fas.org:8080/sgp/crs/misc/R41153.pdf> [PDF format, 109 pages, 1.98 MB].

Item#15

Is There a Shortage of Marriageable Men? Brookings Institution. September 23, 2015.

In the last half century, marriage rates have fallen dramatically. The paper explores possible drivers of this trend, including declining economic prospects among men, an increase in unwed births that constrain women's later marriageability, rising rates of incarceration, and a reversal of the education gap that once favored men and now favors women. The authors estimate that the decline in male earnings since 1970 among both black and less-educated white men can explain a portion of the decline in marriage, but that cultural factors have played an important role as well. They argue that the ratio of marriageable men to women depends critically on how one defines "marriageable."

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2015/09/ccf-policy-breif/marriagble-men-release.pdf> Summary [PDF format, 2 pages, 148 KB].

<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2015/09/ccf-policy-breif/56-shortage-of-marriageable-men.pdf> [PDF format, 9 pages, 1.4 MB].

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