
E-ALERT is compiled based on a service we receive from the Department of State's Office of International Information Programs. We are sending it to alert you of the latest issues and debates in the United States.

It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks; (3) major reports from professional associations; and (4) articles.

Please contact the Information Resource Center if you have problem retrieving any of the documents listed. To cancel this service, please reply to the present message and type "unsubscribe" as the text of your message.

Title Index

- [Item#1](#) The Trans-Pacific Partnership: Lessons from Negotiations
- [Item#2](#) The U.S. Army in Asia, 2030-2040
- [Item#3](#) Iran and the P5+1: Getting to "Yes."
- [Item#4](#) The Role of Health Care Transformation for the Chinese Dream
- [Item#5](#) As New Dangers Loom, More Think the U.S. Does 'Too Little' to Solve World Problems
- [Item#6](#) The 2014 Ebola Outbreak: International and U.S. Responses
- [Item#7](#) Republicans Open Up Wider 'Expectations Gap' Ahead of Midterms
- [Item#8](#) Few Say Police Forces Nationally Do Well in Treating Races Equally
- [Item#9](#) The Competitiveness of Cities
- [Item#10](#) Social Media and the 'Spiral of Silence' Pew Research Internet Project
- [Item#11](#) Washington's Marijuana Legalization Grows Knowledge, Not Just Pot
- [Item#12](#) Preventing Suicide: a Global Imperative

Reports

- [Item#1](#)
The Trans-Pacific Partnership: Lessons from Negotiations. National Bureau of Asian Research. Richard Katz. September 4, 2014.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) encompassing twelve nations in Asia and the Americas, was intended to be the most far-reaching and comprehensive FTA yet negotiated. It goes beyond traditional market access issues to deal with the thorny problems in intellectual property rights, investment codes, and state-owned enterprises, in ways far beyond the World Trade Organization (WTO) or past FTAs negotiated by the United States. According to the report, unless a TPP agreement is signed by the first few months of 2015, the entire venture could go the way of the Doha Round of WTO talks, with unending negotiations that never reach agreement.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.nbr.org/publications/analysis/pdf/brief/090414_Katz_TPP.pdf [PDF format, 2 pages, 233.42 KB].

Item#2

The U.S. Army in Asia, 2030-2040. RAND Corporation. Terrence K. Kelly et al. September 2, 2014.

For the next 20 or more years, the U.S. relationship with China will be the fulcrum on which the East Asian security order balances. Looking to the 2030-2040 time frame, the U.S. Army will play an important role in helping U.S. policy and military strategy strike a balance between cooperating with China and deterring potential Chinese expansionism, according to the authors.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR400/RR474/RAND_RR474.pdf [PDF format, 177 pages, 936.73 KB].

Item#3

Iran and the P5+1: Getting to "Yes." International Crisis Group. August 27, 2014.

That nuclear negotiations between Iran and the P5+1 (China, France, Russia, the UK, U.S. and Germany) were extended beyond the 20 July 2014 deadline was neither unexpected nor unwelcome. The parties had made enough headway to justify the extension, which was envisioned in the Joint Plan of Action (JPOA) that was signed in November 2013 and came into force in January, but given the political and technical complexity, they remain far apart on fundamental issues. Unless they learn the lessons of the last six months and change their approach for the next four, they will lose the opportunity for a resolution not just by the new 24 November deadline but for the foreseeable future. Both sides need to retreat from maximalist positions, particularly on Iran's enrichment program, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/Middle%20East%20North%20Africa/Iran%20Gulf/Iran/b040-iran-and-the-p5-plus-1-getting-to-yes.pdf> [PDF format, 28 pages, 373.94 KB].

Item#4

The Role of Health Care Transformation for the Chinese Dream. RAND Corporation. Soren Mattke et al. August 29, 2014.

The report recommends that China should create an innovative health care delivery model based on population health management principles and sophisticated health information technology, rather than copy existing Western models.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR600/RR600-1/RAND_RR600-1.pdf
[PDF format, 70 pages, 2.6 MB].

Item#5

As New Dangers Loom, More Think the U.S. Does 'Too Little' to Solve World Problems. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. August 28, 2014.

A large majority of Americans think the world is a more dangerous place than it was several years ago. And a terrorist group that was not even on the public's radar a year ago, the Islamic militants known as ISIS or ISIL, today ranks near the top of its list of U.S. security threats. As the public's views of global threats have changed, so too have opinions about America's role in solving world problems. On balance, more continue to think the United States does too much, rather than too little, to help solve world problems. But the share saying the U.S. does too little to address global problems has nearly doubled - from 17% to 31% - since last November, while the percentage saying it is doing too much has fallen from 51% to 39%.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/2014/08/8-28-14-Obama-and-Foreign-Affairs-release.pdf> [PDF format, 22 pages, 520.08 KB].

Item#6

The 2014 Ebola Outbreak: International and U.S. Responses. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Tiaji Salaam-Blyther. August 26, 2014.

In July 2014, two U.S. citizen health workers contracted Ebola in Liberia and were first provided medication that had shown promise in animal studies but that had not yet been tested in humans. They were evacuated to the United States to receive additional care. Debate in the United States has ensued regarding entry and exit rights of people infected with communicable diseases; whether the international community (including the United States) had responded early and effectively enough to contain the virus; the appropriate use of experimental drugs that had not yet been tested for human safety and effectiveness, including how to choose recipients of scarce and sometimes costly drug supplies and how to arrange dispensing to allow analysis of safety and effectiveness; and feasible approaches to accelerating drug and vaccine development and the scale-up of manufacturing capacity for investigational products.

<http://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R43697.pdf> [PDF format, 26 pages, 625.27 KB].

Item#7

Republicans Open Up Wider 'Expectations Gap' Ahead of Midterms. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. August 26, 2014.

With just over two months before the midterm elections, Republican voters are widening the "expectations gap" with the Democrats. About six-in-ten (61%) Republican and GOP-leaning registered voters think their party will do better than in recent elections, roughly double the share of Democrats (32%) who feel similarly about their party's chances. This gap has not reached the same levels of the GOP's margin before their large 2010 gains or the Democrats' expectations in their 2006 sweep of both houses of Congress.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/2014/08/8-26-14-2014-Midterms-Release.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages, 354.63 KB].

Item#8

Few Say Police Forces Nationally Do Well in Treating Races Equally. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. August 25, 2014.

Amid continuing tensions over the police shooting of an unarmed teen in Ferguson, Mo., most Americans give relatively low marks to police departments around the country for holding officers accountable for misconduct, using the appropriate amount of force, and treating racial and ethnic groups equally. However, most also continue to express at least a fair amount of confidence in their local police forces to avoid using excessive force and to treat blacks and whites equally, though there are large racial gaps in opinion here as well as in views of police performance nationally. Public confidence in community police in these areas has not changed substantially since 2009.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/2014/08/8-25-14-Police-and-Race-Release.pdf> [PDF format, 14 pages, 504.00 KB].

Item#9

The Competitiveness of Cities. World Economic Forum. August 13, 2014.

Cities have been the engines of productivity and growth throughout history, and will be essential to the future growth and competitiveness of nations and regions. This is especially true at a time of massive and rapid urbanisation in emerging markets; hence, the focus on the competitiveness of cities. In the report, a four-part taxonomy of city competitiveness was developed, including (1) institutions, (2) policies and regulation of the business environment, (3) "hard connectivity", and (4) "soft connectivity". This has been applied to a "big basket" of 26 cities, with a mini case study on each; and to a "small basket" of seven cities, each of those with a full case study.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GAC/2014/WEF_GAC_CompetitivenessOfCities_Report_2014.pdf [PDF format, 60 pages, 1 MB].

Item#10

Social Media and the 'Spiral of Silence' Pew Research Internet Project. Keith Hampton et al. August 26, 2014.

A major insight into human behavior from pre-internet era studies of communication is the tendency of people not to speak up about policy issues in public, or among their family, friends, and work colleagues, when they believe their own point of view is not widely shared. This tendency is called the "spiral of silence." Some social media creators and supporters have hoped that social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter might produce different enough discussion venues that those with minority views might feel freer to express their opinions, thus broadening public discourse and adding new perspectives to everyday discussion of political issues.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.pewinternet.org/files/2014/08/PI_Social-networks-and-debate_082614.pdf [PDF format, 44 pages, 724.72 KB].

Item#11

Washington's Marijuana Legalization Grows Knowledge, Not Just Pot. Brookings Institution, Philip A. Wallach. August 25, 2014.

Voters in Washington state decided in November 2012 to legalize marijuana in their state, inspired by a campaign that emphasized minimizing the drug's social costs and tightly controlling the legal recreational market. Joined to this drug policy experiment is a second innovative experiment that emphasizes knowledge: the state will fund and develop tools necessary to understand the impact of legalization on Washington's law enforcement officials, communities, and public health.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/reports/2014/08/25%20washington%20marijuana%20legalization%20knowledge%20experiment%20wallach/cepmmjwallach.pdf> [PDF format, 21 pages, 270.90 KB].

Item#12

Preventing Suicide: a Global Imperative. World Health Organization. 2014.

Suicides are preventable. Even so, every 40 seconds a person dies by suicide somewhere in the world and many more attempt suicide. Suicides occur in all regions of the world and throughout the lifespan. Notably, among young people 15-29 years of age, suicide is the second leading cause of death globally. This report is the first WHO publication of its kind and brings together what is known in a convenient form so that immediate actions can be taken. The report aims to increase the awareness of the public health significance of suicide and suicide attempts and to make suicide prevention a higher priority on the global public health agenda.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.who.int/mental_health/suicide-prevention/exe_summary_english.pdf?ua=1 Summary [PDF format, 4 pages, 173.87 KB].

http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/131056/1/9789241564779_eng.pdf?ua=1&ua=1 Full Text [PDF format, 92 pages, 3.66 MB].