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Reports

[Item#1](#)

Thai Coup Alienates US Giving China New Opening. YaleGlobal. Shawn W. Crispin. March 5, 2015.

After months of street protests, the Thai military ousted Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra’s elected government in May 2014, replacing her with General Prayuth Chan-ocha. Thailand has been a long-time strategic partner for the United States on many global initiatives, and U.S. diplomats criticized the coup. “As the erstwhile allies drift apart, China has moved to fill the gap with economic aid and strategic overtures aimed at countering the US pivot policy towards Asia,” reports Crispin, adding that China is

financing a north-south rail line through the country and expanding joint military exercises. “It’s not clear that Thailand, renowned for astutely calibrating its great-power relations, has decidedly swung towards China.” The Thai king is not well, and some analysts suggest that the royalist establishment wanted to ensure stability with royalist generals in charge during the anticipated royal succession. U.S. alienation of the Thai leaders during a difficult transition period could push the country into China’s waiting embrace.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/thai-coup-alienates-us-giving-china-new-opening> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#2

Why the West Is Losing the Battle Against Radical Islam. YaleGlobal. Azeem Ibrahim. February 26, 2015.

The West can no longer hold its tongue on fundamentalist religious sects that emphasize piety to the point of counting a few followers worthy while dismissing everyone else in the world. Such is the case with Wahhabism, or Salafism, the state religion in Saudi Arabia that’s exported to other Muslim nations with the help of oil dollars, according to the author. Ibrahim outlines the sect’s history, describing it isolationist, misogynist, anti-Semitic and increasingly dangerous. The ongoing war against extremism is not a battle between Islam and secularism, he argues, but rather between the most bigoted sects of Islam and the rest of the world. The world has more than a billion Muslims, of which maybe 5 million are Wahhabi. Ibrahim concludes, “This fight will be won or lost in the Muslim nations.” The West must help by initiating serious dialogue with Saudi leaders on their support of a fundamentalist sect utterly lacking in morality for an interconnected world.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/why-west-losing-battle-against-radical-islam> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

Resilience for Women Countering Violent Extremism U.S. Institute of Peace. Georgia Holmer. March 6, 2015.

What makes a young man or woman vulnerable to joining a violent extremist group? In the same way that a malnourished, exhausted, neglected, or traumatized body is more susceptible to disease or infection, a person who lacks resources, opportunity, and support is more vulnerable to engaging in violent extremism.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.usip.org/olivebranch/2015/03/06/resilience-women-countering-violent-extremism> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#4

Growing Support for Campaign Against ISIS – and Possible Use of U.S. Ground Troops. Pew Research Center. February 24, 2015.

The public has grown more supportive of the U.S. fight against ISIS, as about twice as many approve (63%) as disapprove (30%) of the military campaign against the Islamic militant group in Iraq and Syria. Last October, 57% approved and 33% disapproved. The possibility of sending U.S. ground troops to the region is more divisive, although the idea draws more support than it did four months ago. Currently, about as many favor (47%) as oppose (49%) sending U.S. ground troops to fight Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria; in October, 39% favored the idea and 55% opposed it.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/2015/02/02-24-15-ISIS-release.pdf> [PDF format, 15 pages, 438.87 KB].

Item#5

Increased Public Support for the U.S. Arming Ukraine. Pew Research Center. February 23, 2015.

As fighting continues in eastern Ukraine between government forces and Russian-backed rebels, the public has become more supportive of sending arms to the Ukrainian government and increasing sanctions on Russia. More still oppose (53%) than favor (41%) the U.S. sending arms and military supplies to the Ukrainian government, but support for arming Ukraine is up 11 points since April 2014, when opposition outweighed support by about two-to-one (30% favored, 62% opposed).

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/2015/02/2-23-15-Ukraine-release.pdf> [PDF format, 11 pages, 389.66 KB].

Item#6

More View Netanyahu Favorably Than Unfavorably; Many Unaware of Israeli Leader. Pew Research Center. February 27, 2015.

The public has a more positive than negative view of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ahead of his address to a joint session of Congress. About four-in-ten (38%) have a favorable opinion of the Israeli leader, compared with 27% who hold an unfavorable view. Roughly a third (35%) express no opinion of Netanyahu, including 23% who say they have never heard of him. Netanyahu is better known – and viewed much more favorably – among Republicans than among Democrats or independents. More than twice as many Republicans view Netanyahu favorably (53%) as unfavorably (21%); 26% have no opinion. By contrast, Democrats hold mixed views of Netanyahu (28% favorable vs. 35% unfavorable); 37% have no opinion.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/2015/02/02-27-15-Israel-Netanyahu-release.pdf> [PDF format, 11 pages, 418.36 KB].

Item#7

Patenting and Innovation in China: Incentives, Policy, and Outcomes. RAND Corporation. Eric Warner. March 6, 2015.

The report explores the drivers behind China's patent boom, the impact of patenting-promoting policies, and the innovative outcomes of Chinese firms.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/rgs_dissertations/RGSD300/RGSD347/RAND_RGSD347.pdf [PDF format, 116 pages, 1 MB].

Item#8

In U.S., Pope's Popularity Continues to Grow. Pew Research Center. March 5, 2015.

Nearly two years after becoming the leader of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis continues to grow more popular among Americans. Fully nine-in-ten U.S. Catholics now say they have a favorable view of Francis, including nearly six-in-ten who have a "very favorable" view. Francis' favorability rating among U.S. Catholics is comparable to ratings for Pope John Paul II in the 1980s and '90s, and has surpassed any favorability rating for Pope Benedict XVI in Pew Research Center surveys.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewforum.org/files/2015/03/Pope-Favorability-03-03-15-NUMBER-CHECKED.pdf> [PDF format, 11 pages, 428.30 KB].

Item#9

Death Rates for US Women Ages 15 to 54. Urban Institute. Nan Astone et al. March 5, 2015.

Recent trends in death rates among US women ages 15 to 54 reveal that rates among non-Hispanic whites are rising for many causes of death. These rising causes include accidental poisoning, suicide, and obesity- and smoking-related diseases. Specific changes in behavior might reduce some of these death rates, but the range of rising causes of death among white women suggests a need for a broader perspective on the social determinants of health. Unhealthy behaviors often arise and persist within certain social and economic contexts, and such behaviors resist improvement or are replaced by other unhealthy behaviors unless those contexts change.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/2000131-Death-Rates-for-US-Women-Ages-15-to-54.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages, 286.63 KB].

Item#10

Genetic Testing: Background and Policy Issues. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Amanda K. Sarata. March 2, 2015.

Congress has considered, at various points in time, numerous pieces of legislation that relate to genetic and genomic technology and testing. These include bills addressing genetic discrimination in health insurance and employment; precision medicine; the patenting of genetic material; and the oversight of clinical laboratory tests (in vitro diagnostics), including genetic tests. The focus on these issues signals the growing importance of public policy issues surrounding the clinical and public health implications of

new genetic technology. As genetic technologies proliferate and are increasingly used to guide clinical treatment, these public policy issues are likely to continue to garner attention. Understanding the basic scientific concepts underlying genetics and genetic testing may help facilitate the development of more effective public policy in this area.

<http://fas.org:8080/spp/crs/misc/RL33832.pdf> [PDF format, 19 pages, 338.34 KB].

Information Resource Center

Beijing American Center

Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy Beijing

Tel: (86-10) 6597-3242

Email: ircbeijing@state.gov

Web Site: <http://beijing.usembassy-china.org.cn/irc.html>