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It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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Item#1

ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH: MAY 2009. U.S. Census Bureau. Web posted March 3, 2009.

In 1978, a joint congressional resolution established Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. The first 10 days of May were chosen to coincide with two important milestones in Asian/Pacific American history: the arrival in the United States of the first Japanese immigrants (May 7, 1843) and contributions of Chinese workers to the building of the transcontinental railroad, completed on May 10, 1869. In 1992, Congress expanded the observance to a monthlong celebration. Per a 1997 Office of Management and Budget directive, the Asian or Pacific Islander racial category was separated into two categories: one being Asian and the other Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.

Full Text:

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/cb09ff-06.pdf> [PDF format, 10 pages].

Item#2

CENSUS HISTORY: COUNTING EVERY PERSON ONCE, ONLY ONCE AND IN THE RIGHT PLACE. U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. May 11, 2009.

The report examines the Constitutional foundation and history of the U.S. Census and concludes that while the latest attempt by the White House to politicize the Census, though not entirely unprecedented, is unlikely to succeed. “When it comes to the Census, history demonstrates that political gamesmanship has always been the losing proposition,” the report concludes. “Dating from before the founding of the United States through the present, there have been Census debates over everything from Constitutional

issues and types of ‘estimation’ to reapportionment. In each and every debate, however, the politics of interference in and manipulation of the Census lose out to independence.”

Full Text:

<http://republicans.oversight.house.gov/media/pdfs/20090511Censusreport.pdf> [PDF format, 19 pages].

Item#3

CITIZEN’S BRIEFING BOOK: TO PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. Office of Public Engagement, The White House. May 11, 2009.

As a closing act for the Transition, Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett requested that the Office of Public Liaison create a process by which Americans outside of Washington could come together to present ideas directly to the President, a “Citizen’s Briefing Book.” 125,000 users submitted over 44,000 ideas and cast over 1.4 million votes, with the most popular ideas accumulating tens of thousands of votes each. The book contains some of the top ideas, broken into groups by issue area. Out of the tens of thousands of submissions, these ideas found the most support.

Full Text:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/Citizens_Briefing_Book_Final.pdf [PDF format, 33 pages].

Item#4

NORTH KOREA, INC. U.S. Institute of Peace. John S. Park. May 2009.

Assessing regime stability in North Korea continues to be a major challenge for analysts. By examining how the web of state trading companies affiliated to the Korean Workers’ Party, the Korean People’s Army, and the Cabinet operates, the author develops a new framework for gauging regime stability.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

<http://library.usip.org/articles/1012202.1100/1.PDF> [PDF format, 27 pages].

Item#5

THE RETURN OF THE STATE: THE NEW INVESTMENT PARADIGM. Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. Marshall Auerback. May 2009.

To save America and the global economy as a whole, the private/public sector balance has to shift, and the neoliberal economic model on which the country has been based for the past 25 years has to be modified. In the working paper, Marshall Auerback details why the role of the state needs to be reemphasized.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

http://www.levy.org/pubs/wp_561.pdf [PDF format, 15 pages].

Item#6

REVERSAL IN IRAQ. Council on Foreign Relations. Stephen Biddle. May 14, 2009.

Iraq is currently in the early stages of a negotiated end to an intense ethno sectarian war. As such, there are several contingencies in which recent, mostly positive trends in Iraq could be reversed, threatening U.S. national interests. The author assesses four interrelated scenarios in Iraq that could derail the prospects for peace and stability in the short to medium term and posits concrete policy options to limit U.S. vulnerability to the possibility of such reversals.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/CPA_contingencymemo_2.pdf [PDF format, 12 pages].

Item#7

STATE WITH HIGHER GUN OWNERSHIP AND WEAK GUN LAWS LEAD NATION IN GUN DEATH. Violence Policy Center. May 6, 2009.

States with higher gun ownership rates and weak gun laws have the highest rates of gun death according to a new analysis by the Violence Policy Center (VPC) of just-released 2006 national data (the most recent available) from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

<http://www.vpc.org/press/0905gundeath.htm> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#8

STRONG DOLLAR HAS LITTLE EFFECT ON SMALL RETAILERS, LARGER EFFECT ON WHOLESALERS. Office of Advocacy, U.S. Small Business Administration. May 1, 2009.

A strong dollar, making imports cheaper and exporting more difficult, appears to have little effect on the survival rate of small retailers, according to the study. The study covers 15 years of data, from 1990 through 2005, from the U.S. Census Bureau's Statistics of U.S. Businesses and other sources. On the other hand, the study's authors found that real exchange rate appreciation lead to increased rates of

small firm exit in the wholesale sector. In wholesale firms with more than 10 employees, a 10 percent real dollar appreciation leads to a roughly 20 percent increase in firm closures. This finding suggests that wholesalers are closely tied to domestic manufacturers, and find it hard to switch suppliers to take advantage of falling import prices.

Full Text:

<http://www.sba.gov/advo/press/09-09.html> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#9

TRANSFORMING AMERICA'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES: A FEDERAL POLICY PROPOSAL TO EXPAND OPPORTUNITY AND PROMOTE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY. Brookings Institution. Sara Goldrick-Rab et al. May 7, 2009.

To renew America's status as the world's leader in college attainment, the federal government needs to transform America's community colleges and equip them for the 21st century. The authors show that the long-overdue investment should establish national goals and a related performance measurement system; provide resources to drive college performance toward those goals; stimulate greater innovation in community college policies and practices to enhance the quality of sub-baccalaureate education; and support data systems to track student and institutional progress and performance.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2009/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/0507_community_college_goldrick_rab/0507_community_college_full_report.pdf [PDF format, 37 pages].

Item#10

WINNING THE INFORMATION WAR IN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN. Council on Foreign Relations. Greg Bruno. May 11, 2009.

With overwhelming firepower, Western armies rarely lose in combat to Taliban fighters in Afghanistan. But in the communications battle, the militants appear to hold the edge. The paper explores the U.S. efforts to mount a "strategic communications" counterattack on the Afghanistan-Pakistan front.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/19330/winning_the_information_war_in_afghanistan_and_pakistan.html?breadcrumb=%2F [HTML format, various paging].