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E-ALERT is compiled based on an email service we receive from the Department of State's Office of International Information Programs. We are sending it to you 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 - - 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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#### **Reports**

### Item#1

CHINA'S ROLE IN THE "NEW ERA OF ENGAGEMENT". Council on Foreign Relations. Stewart M. Patrick. November 10, 2009.

China has benefited enormously from Western-dominated global structures, writes Stewart Patrick, and Washington now expects it to contribute more significantly to world order.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://www.cfr.org/publication/20700/chinas\\_role\\_in\\_the\\_new\\_era\\_of\\_engagement.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby\\_type%2Fregion\\_issue\\_brief](http://www.cfr.org/publication/20700/chinas_role_in_the_new_era_of_engagement.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fregion_issue_brief) [HTML format, various paging].

### Item#2

CONFRONTING THE CHINA-U.S. ECONOMIC IMBALANCE. Council on Foreign Relations. Roya Wolverson. November 16, 2009.

China has stepped up its purchases of U.S. Treasuries in recent years, making it the biggest foreign holder of U.S. debt. By many expert accounts, this has fueled a relationship of dependency between the United States and China, whereby China has lent to the United States to help fuel its export industry, while U.S. consumers in turn have demanded more exports and further access to cheap credit. This relationship attracted increasing scrutiny in the aftermath of the global financial crisis as the United States' massive stimulus outlays and loose monetary and fiscal policies fueled doubts about the U.S. economy and the value of U.S. debt.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://www.cfr.org/publication/20758/confronting\\_the\\_chinaus\\_economic\\_imbalance.html](http://www.cfr.org/publication/20758/confronting_the_chinaus_economic_imbalance.html) [HTML format. various paging].

### Item#3

ENERGY NEEDS AND EFFICIENCY, NOT EMISSIONS: RE-FRAMING THE CLIMATE CHANGE NARRATIVE. Center for Global Development. Nancy Birdsall and Arvind Subramanian. November 9, 2009.

The basic narrative on climate change between the rich and poor worlds has been problematic. The focus on emissions has made industrial countries inadequately sensitive to the unmet energy needs in developing countries. And it has led developing countries to adopt the rhetoric of recrimination and focus on the legacy of historical emissions by industrial countries. The ensuing blame game has led to the current gridlock, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1423191> [HTML format with a link].

#### Item#4

FAITH-BASED PROGRAMS STILL POPULAR. Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. November 16, 2009.

More than eight years after former President George W. Bush unveiled his faith-based initiative to make it easier for religious groups to receive government funding to provide social services, the policy continues to draw broad public support. But as was the case when Bush first announced the initiative, many Americans express concerns about blurring the lines between church and state. Currently, 69% of Americans say they favor allowing churches and other houses of worship, along with other organizations, to apply for government funding to provide social services such as job training or drug treatment counseling.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1412/faith-based-programs-popular-church-state-concerns> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#5

FESTIVAL OF THINKERS: LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE. Knowledge@Wharton. November 2009.

The third Festival of Thinkers brought together an array of Nobel laureates, well-known intellectuals and students from the UAE and neighboring countries to celebrate what Shiekh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan calls “the power and importance of thinking.” The event which took place November 1-4, 2009, in Abu Dhabi, focused on nine themes that are keys to shaping the future of the Middle East and the rest of the global community.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/papers/download/20091028\\_MiddleEastSpecialReport.pdf](http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/papers/download/20091028_MiddleEastSpecialReport.pdf) [PDF format, 11 pages].

#### Item#6

IRAN, THE UNITED STATES, AND THE GULF: THE ELUSIVE REGIONAL POLICY. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Marina Ottaway. November 12, 2009.

Any effective U.S. diplomatic approach to Iran must involve other countries in the Gulf, but Washington will not succeed if it continues to strive for an anti-Iranian alliance, according to the study. While an overall security arrangement including all Gulf countries is not possible at this stage, a normalization of relations between Iran and its neighbors is an important and attainable step for reintegrating Iran into the international community, the author concludes.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/iran\\_us\\_gulf1.pdf](http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/iran_us_gulf1.pdf) [PDF format, 28 pages].

#### Item#7

ISSUES IN TRADE AND PROTECTIONISM. Center for Economic and Policy Research. Dean Baker. November 2009.

There is widespread concern that the United States and the rest of the world are descending into a round of protectionism and a trade war reminiscent of what the world experienced in the Great Depression. Such concerns are both overblown and misplaced, according to the report. In the short term, the main concern in the United States and rest of the world should be to promote an increase in demand through whatever means necessary. For the longer term, there has been an excessive fixation on protection for merchandise trade.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/trade-and-protectionism-2009-11.pdf> [PDF format, 10 pages].

#### Item#8

OBAMA IN ASIA – PART I. YaleGlobal. Francois Godement. November 16, 2009.

President Obama continues his first trip to Asia this week provoking diverse responses from different parts of the world. The talk of a “strategic partnership” between China and the U.S. making a G2 has Europe scared. But, according to China specialist François Godement, there are too many differences between China and the U.S. to warrant the type of political convergence necessary for a G2 to work. Of note, the U.S. has reconfirmed its partnership with India and has indicated little interest in reducing its defense spending, much to Beijing’s chagrin. China, on the other hand, has not changed its stance toward North Korea, even after two nuclear tests, and has continued its missile deployment across the Taiwan Straits.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/obama-asia-part-i> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#9

OBAMA POPULAR IN JAPAN, CHINA AND SOUTH KOREA. Pew Global Attitudes Project. Juliana Menasce Horowitz. November 12, 2009.

As President Barack Obama embarks on his first trip to Asia with stops in Japan, China and South Korea, he is be greeted by publics who are confident in his judgment regarding world affairs and who generally agree with his international policies.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1409/obama-asia-trip-popular-japan-china-south-korea> [HTML format, various paging].

#### Item#10

OBAMA'S AFGHANISTAN RATING DECLINES: A YEAR OUT, WIDESPREAD ANTI-INCUMBENT SENTIMENT. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. November 11, 2009.

The mood of America is glum, according to the Pew survey. Two-thirds of the public is dissatisfied with the way things are going in the country. Fully nine-in-ten say that national economic conditions are only fair or poor, and nearly two-thirds describe their own finances that way – the most since the summer of 1992. An increasing proportion of Americans say that the war in Afghanistan is not going well, and a plurality continues to oppose the health care reform proposals in Congress.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/561.pdf> [PDF format, 34 pages].

#### Item#11

RENEWING THE AMERICAN DREAM: A ROAD MAP TO ENHANCING ECONOMIC MOBILITY IN AMERICA. Economic Mobility Project, Pew Charitable Trusts. November 6, 2009.

The report, based on three years of research from Pew's Economic Mobility Project, lays out a road map of more than 25 policy ideas and practical recommendations aimed at enhancing economic mobility in America.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Economic\\_Mobility/EMP\\_Road\\_Map.pdf](http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Economic_Mobility/EMP_Road_Map.pdf) [PDF format, 28 pages].

#### Item#12

REVIEWING AND VERIFYING INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION. World Resources Institute. Paul Joffe. November 11, 2009.

Climate change is a global issue that requires action from all countries. As the U.S. Congress develops a domestic climate and energy package, the United States seeks assurance that other countries will also act and a means to track the progress of commitments by verifying that actions have been implemented.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://pdf.wri.org/countdown\\_to\\_copenhagen\\_reviewing\\_and\\_verifying.pdf](http://pdf.wri.org/countdown_to_copenhagen_reviewing_and_verifying.pdf) [PDF format, 2 pages].