
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

APPLYING 21st-CENTURY ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT METHODS TO NATIONAL HEALTH CARE REFORM. Urban Institute. Stan Dorn. December 1, 2009.

Many past health coverage expansions experienced low participation levels by the uninsured who qualified for help. To avoid similar pitfalls with national health reform, policymakers need to incorporate 21st-century approaches to eligibility determination, enrollment, and retention. According to the report, one such approach qualifies individuals for subsidies based on reliable data in government hands rather than consumers' completion of traditional application forms. Federal income tax data could thus establish eligibility for subsidies, since more than 6 out of 7 uninsured, 86.3 percent, file such returns. Such data-driven eligibility may also lower administrative costs and error rates.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.urban.org/uploadedpdf/411985_national_health_care_reform.pdf [PDF format, 24 pages].

Item#2

ASSESSING CHINA'S CARBON-CUTTING PROPOSAL. Council on Foreign Relations. Michael A. Levi. November 30, 2009.

China's newly announced goal for cutting carbon intensity reflects important Chinese policy shifts of recent years, but fails to offer significant new measures to cut emissions, writes Michael Levi.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/20862/assessing_chinas_carboncutting_proposal.html?breadcrumb=%2F [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

CHINA'S EXPANDING ROLE IN PEACEKEEPING: PROSPECTS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Bates Gill and Chin-Hao Huang. November 2009.

China has dramatically increased its participation in United Nations peace operations in recent years. China now provides more uniformed personnel than any other permanent member of the U.N. Security Council. The paper offers new insights into the development of China's engagement in multilateral peacekeeping and the factors and debates that underlie it.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://books.sipri.org/files/PP/SIPRIPP25.pdf> [PDF format, 52 pages].

Item#4

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

Sizeable trade and currency imbalances between China and the United States have fueled tensions over China's exchange-rate policies vis-à-vis the dollar and intensified debate over the proposed remedies to the problem, says the author.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/20758/confronting_the_chinaus_economic_imbalance.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fbackgrounder [HTML format, various paging].

Item#5

THE COST OF WAR: AFGHAN EXPERIENCES OF CONFLICT, 1978-2009. Oxfam International. November 17, 2009.

To better understand how Afghans have experienced and understand the devastating conflict of the last thirty years, eight nongovernmental organizations operating in Afghanistan conducted research in 14 provinces across the country. The research focused on individual experiences of the past thirty years of conflict, perceptions of the current conflict and recommendations for alleviating the violence and addressing its root causes.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/afghanistan-the-cost-of-war.pdf> [PDF format, 55 pages].

Item#6

THE EURO AND ITS GUARDIAN OF STABILITY: THE FICTION AND REALITY OF THE 10th ANNIVERSARY BLAST. The Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. Jorg Bibow. November 2009.

The paper investigates why Europe fared particularly poorly in the global economic crisis that began in August 2007. It questions the self-portrait of Europe as the victim of external shocks, pushed off track by reckless policies pursued elsewhere. It argues instead that Europe had not only contributed handsomely to the buildup of global imbalances since the 1990s and experienced their implosive unwinding as an internal crisis from the beginning, but that it had also nourished its own homemade intra-Euroland and intra-EU imbalances, the simultaneous implosion of which has further aggravated Europe's predicament.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.levy.org/pubs/wp_583.pdf [PDF format, 44 pages].

Item#7

EUROPE: INTEGRATING ISLAM. Council on Foreign Relations. Toni Johnson. November 18, 2009.

The report says that the Western Europe's burgeoning Islamic population continues to spark concerns about Muslim assimilation and a cultural divide.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/8252/europe.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fbackground [HTML format, various paging].

Item#8

GETTING GOOD JOBS TO AMERICA'S PEOPLE OF COLOR. Economic Policy Institute. Algernon Austin. November 12, 2009.

The lack of good jobs that pay decent wages and provide health care and retirement benefits is a serious problem for all Americans and an especially dire problem for America's people of color. The author examines the rate of employment in so-called "good jobs" for different demographic groups.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://epi.3cdn.net/ab1272dc3f134dbb29_7pm6bhl8g.pdf [PDF format, 18 pages].

Item#9

IMPACT OF GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS ON REMITTANCES FLOWS TO AFRICA. African Development Bank Group. Subha Nagarajan. November 17, 2009.

According to official statistics, the recorded migrant remittances to Africa in 2007 were USD36.9 billion. The amount was expected to increase to USD 40.1 billion in 2008. Despite the scarcity of information and the fact that most statements on migration and remittances to Africa still need to be qualified, studies indicate that remittances play an important role in reducing the level and severity of poverty.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Financial-Information/Impact%20of%20Global%20Financial%20Crisis%20on%20Remittances%20Flows%20to%20Africa.pdf> [PDF format, 4 pages].

Item#10

MITIGATING THE NUTRITIONAL IMPACTS OF THE GLOBAL FOOD PRICE CRISIS. Institute of Medicine. Elizabeth Haytmanek and Katherine McClure. December 1, 2009.

In 2007 and 2008, the world witnessed a dramatic increase in food prices. The global financial crisis that began in 2008 compounded the burden of high food prices, exacerbating the problems of hunger and malnutrition in developing countries. The report discusses the technological, agricultural, and economic circumstances contributing to the rise in food prices.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://books.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=12698&page=R1 [HTML format with a link].

Item#11

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER: FORGING A STRATEGIC U.S.-EU PARTNERSHIP. Atlantic Council. Daniel S. Hamilton and Frances G. Burwell. December 1, 2009.

The report outlines a comprehensive plan for renewing U.S.-EU relations. According to the report, the world that created the transatlantic partnership is fading fast. The United States and Europe must urgently reposition and recast their relationship as a more effective and strategic partnership. It is a moment of opportunity, to use or to lose.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.acus.org/files/publication_pdfs/65/US-EUPartnership.pdf [PDF format, 96 pages].

Item#12

TELLING THE NARRATIVE OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS: NOT JUST A HOUSING BUBBLE. Brookings Institution. Douglas J. Elliott and Martin Neil Baily. November 23, 2009.

Major crises, such as the recent financial crisis, usually end up being understood by the public in terms of some simple narrative, which then heavily influences the choices politicians make. The authors believe there are three major story lines still vying for acceptance by the public and that whichever one comes to dominate could strongly affect public policy.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/1123_narrative_elliott_baily/1123_narrative_elliott_baily.pdf [PDF format, 21 pages].

Item#13

TOP TEN ENERGY MYTHS. Pacific Research Institute. Thomas Tanton. November 29, 2009.

The author confronts ten popular myths about America's energy sources, uses, and risks. The report challenges conventional discourse about energy propagated by politicians, celebrities, and the media. Using data from the U.S. Department of Energy and the Energy Information Administration, outlines the types of fuel most used in the U.S., where they come from, the risks involved, and the potential for alternative technologies.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://liberty.pacificresearch.org/docLib/20091102_Top_Ten_Energy_Myths.pdf [PDF format, 19 pages].