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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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Reports

Item#1

CLIMATE RIGHT FOR U.S. JOINING LAW OF SEA CONVENTION. Council on Foreign Relations. Scott G. Borgerson and Thomas R. Pickering. December 23, 2009.

According to the authors, the time is ripe for President Obama to press for Senate passage of the Law of the Sea Convention and expand U.S. influence on oceans governance.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/21041/climate_right_for_us_joining_law_of_sea_convention.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fregion_issue_brief [HTML format, various paging].

Item#2

CLIMATE SHAME: GET BACK TO THE TABLE. Oxfam International. December 21, 2009.

Copenhagen was a unique opportunity to turn the world's course away from climate disaster, towards a safe future for all of us on this small planet. Massive global public mobilisation demanded it. But leaders of the major powers negotiated for their national interests, instead of safeguarding our shared destiny, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/briefing-note-climate-shame-get-back-to-the-table.pdf> [PDF format, 13 pages].

Item#3

CLINTON EDGES OUT PALIN AS MOST ADMIRER WOMAN. Gallup. Jeffrey M. Jones. December 30, 2009.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton continues her reign as the Most Admired Woman in the eyes of Americans, but barely edges out former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin this year, 16% to 15%. Talk show host Oprah Winfrey and first lady Michelle Obama finish third and fourth, with former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Queen Elizabeth II, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and poet Maya Angelou, all regulars on the list, joined by newcomers German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Elin Woods in the top 10.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/124895/Clinton-Edges-Palin-Admired-Woman.aspx?CSTS=alert> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#4

COMMON STANDARDS: THE TIME IS NOW. Alliance for Excellent Education. Bob Rothman. December 2009.

After years of debate, the nation is now taking a bold step toward ensuring that all students graduate ready for college and careers. Under the leadership of the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, a panel has drafted a set of Common Core State Standards for college and career readiness. These standards will raise expectations for all students and will be the same no matter where students happen to live. The brief outlines the need for common standards that are rigorous, clear, and focused and suggests ways that common standards will help lay the foundation for a stronger education system that will prepare all students for college and careers.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.all4ed.org/files/TheTimelsNow.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages].

Item#5

CURRENT DECADE RATES AS WORST IN 50 YEARS: INTERNAT, CELL PHONES ARE CHANGES FOR BETTER. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. December 21, 2009.

According to the survey, as the current decade draws to a close, relatively few Americans have positive things to say about it. By roughly two-to-one, more say they have a generally negative (50%) rather than a generally positive (27%) impression of the past 10 years. This stands in stark contrast to the public's recollection of other decades in the past half-century. When asked to look back on the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, positive feelings outweigh negative in all cases.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://people-press.org/report/573/> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#6

THE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL IMPACTS OF THE 2009-H1N1 INFLUENZA A PANDEMIC: GLOBAL CHALLENGES, GLOBAL SOLUTIONS. Institute of Medicine. David A. Relman et al. December 29, 2009.

In March 2009, a new H1N1 influenza A virus emerged in Mexico and the United States. On June 11, 2009, the World Health Organization declared a pandemic in response to the sustained global spread of the virus. President Obama, on October 24, 2009, signed an official proclamation declaring the 2009-H1N1 influenza A swine flu outbreak a national emergency in the United States. While the 2009 H1N1 pandemic appears to be the mildest pandemic of the past century, many scientific and policy questions related to this virus remain unanswered.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://books.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=12799 [HTML format with a link].

Item#7

FALLOUT FROM COPENHAGEN: HAS THE EU LOST ITS GLOBAL RELEVANCE? YaleGlobal. Jean-Pierre Lehmann. January 5, 2010.

The first decade of the 21st century is still garnering many monikers. But the author believes that it may soon be considered Europe's swan song as a global power. From a storied constitution to lack of a consistent trade policy to a failure to effect global policy on climate change, the EU demonstrated throughout the decade that it cannot act in a coherent fashion and that its relevance on the global stage has eroded. But the most telling of examples are divisions over support for the war in Iraq and lack of representation at the Copenhagen Climate Summit.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/fallout-copenhagen-has-eu-lost-its-global-relevance> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#8

THE NORTHERN DISTRIBUTION NETWORK AND THE MODERN SILK ROAD. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Andrew C. Kuchins et al. December 2009.

As the U.S. presence in Afghanistan increases, so too will its demand for nonmilitary supplies. To accommodate this growth and address ongoing concerns with Pakistani supply lines, U.S. planners have opened the Northern Distribution Network (NDN), a commercially-based logistical corridor connecting Baltic and Black Sea ports with Afghanistan via Russia, the Caucasus, and Central Asia.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://csis.org/files/publication/091217_Kuchins_NorthernDistNet_Web.pdf [PDF format, 45 pages].

Item#9

PAYING FOR THE TROOP ESCALATION IN AFGHANISTAN. Center for American Progress. Lawrence J. Korb et al. December 2009.

The 30,000 additional U.S. soldiers and Marines that President Barack Obama ordered to deploy to Afghanistan earlier this month are already beginning to depart for the region. The authors believe this troop escalation must be only one part of an overall strategy to reverse the deteriorating security

situation in that country if the United States is to achieve its long-term objectives of preventing Afghanistan from once again becoming a launching pad for international terrorism and preventing a power vacuum in that country from destabilizing the region.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/12/pdf/afghan_funding.pdf [PDF format, 25 pages].

Item#10

PREPARING AND TRAINING FOR THE FULL SPECTRUM OF MILITARY CHALLENGES: INSIGHTS FROM THE EXPERIENCES OF CHINA, FRANCE, THE UNITED KINGDOM, INDIA, AND ISRAEL. Office of the Secretary of Defense and RAND Corporation. David E. Johnson et al. December 29, 2009.

The authors examine the militaries of China, France, the UK, India, and Israel to identify different approaches to readiness, adaptability, and operational issues in the context of full-spectrum operations and deployments.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG836.pdf [PDF format, 315 pages].

Item#11

SHARING THE LOAD: A MULTI-COUNTRY SURVEY OF THE WILLINGNESS TO PAY FOR SLOWING CLIMATE CHANGE. Resources for the Future. December 2009.

The results show that significant majorities of the public in the United States and, particularly, Sweden are willing to shoulder the cost burdens of climate mitigation, about 2 to 3 percent of their per-capita income (or analogously, GDP), to prevent a warming of more than 2°F. Furthermore, while the burden-sharing principles favorable to one's own country are preferred, the WTP for such a principle over others is small.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.rff.org/RFF/Documents/RFF-Krupnick.pdf> [PDF format, 2 pages].