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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 SHOCKS AND EXPORTS. National Bureau of Economic Research. Benjamin F. Jones and Benjamin A. Olken. Web posted February 1, 2010.

The paper uses international trade data to examine the effects of climate shocks on economic activity. It examines panel models relating the annual growth rate of a country's exports in a particular product category to the country's weather in that year. The paper finds that a poor country being 1 degree Celsius warmer in a given year reduces the growth rate of that country's exports by between 2.0 and 5.7 percentage points, with no detectable effects in rich countries. It also finds negative effects of temperature on exports of both agricultural products and light manufacturing products, with little apparent effects on heavy industry or raw materials.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w15711.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages].

Item#2

FIVE YEARS OF KYOTO. Brookings Institution. Nathan Hultman. February 9, 2010.

On February 16th, the Kyoto Protocol will reach the fifth anniversary of its entry into force, the date at which it received enough ratifications to become legally active. While technically not a "birthday," the Protocol was negotiated in December 1997, this milestone provides an opportunity to reflect on the wider meaning and significance of this instrument into which perhaps too many expectations were invested.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/0209_kyoto_hultman.aspx [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

THE GLOBAL CRISIS AND THE FUTURE OF THE DOLLAR: TOWARD BRETTON WOODS III? Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. Jorg Bibow. February 2010.

The paper investigates the United States dollar's role as the international currency of choice as a key contributing factor in critical global developments that led to the crisis of 2007–09, and considers the future role of the dollar as the global economy emerges from that crisis. It is argued that the dollar is likely to retain its hegemonic status for a few more decades, but that United States spending powered by public rather than private debt would provide a more sustainable motor for global growth. In the process, the "Bretton Woods II" regime depicted by Dooley, Folkerts-Landau, and Garber (2003) as sustainable despite featuring persistent U.S. current account deficits may turn into a "Bretton Woods III"

regime that sees U.S. fiscal policy and public debt as “minding the store” in maintaining U.S. and global growth.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.levy.org/pubs/wp_584.pdf [PDF format, 20 pages].

Item#4

GLOBALIZATION: CURSE OR CURE? The Cato Institute. Jagadeesh Gokhale. February 1, 2010.

Globalization holds tremendous promise to improve human welfare but can also cause conflicts and crises as witnessed during 2007–09. How will competition for resources, employment, and growth shape economic policies among developed nations as they attempt to maintain productivity growth, social protections, and extensive political and cultural freedoms? The author strives to answer these questions.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa659.pdf> [PDF format, 24 pages].

Item#5

IMPROVING CHINA’S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Richard Herd et al. February 1, 2010.

Overall, health outcomes in China have improved tremendously over the past three decades, especially thanks to the reduction in some traditional infectious diseases.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

[http://www.oalis.oecd.org/oalis/2010doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00000B02/\\$FILE/JT03277817.PDF](http://www.oalis.oecd.org/oalis/2010doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00000B02/$FILE/JT03277817.PDF) [PDF format, 32 pages].

Item#6

KEEPING FOREIGN CORRUPTION OUT OF THE UNITED STATES: FOUR CASE HISTORIES. U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs. February 4, 2010.

The Subcommittee hearing examines how some politically powerful foreign officials, their relatives, or close associates, referred to in international agreements as “Politically Exposed Persons” or PEPs, have used the services of U.S. professionals and U.S. financial institutions to bring millions of dollars in suspect funds into the United States to advance their interests. Four case histories illustrate how some

PEPs have used U.S. lawyers, realtors, escrow agents, lobbyists, bankers, and others to circumvent U.S. anti-money laundering and anti-corruption safeguards.

Full Text:

http://hsgac.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Hearing&Hearing_ID=dd873712-eb12-4ff7-ae1a-cbbc99b19b52

[HTML format with links to testimonies].

Item#7

PARENTING THE PLANET. University of Colorado Law School. Sarah Karkoff. February 10, 2010.

Climate change and other environmental problems of global scale indicate that we have entered, as Nobel prize winner Paul Crutzen has described it, the “Anthropocene,” the era of pervasive human influence on the earth’s natural systems. Further, the collective action features of climate change render it a commons problem of global and intergenerational proportions. The author suggests that the metaphor of parenting, while not perfect, captures the aspects of control, care, and inherent tragedy that characterize the stage that humans now occupy with respect to their relationship with the planet

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1548658 [HTML format with a link].

Item#8

SUBMARINE ARMS RACE IN THE PACIFIC: THE CHINESE CHALLENGE TO U.S. UNDERSEA SUPREMACY. The Heritage Foundation. Mackenzie Eaglen and Jon Rodeback. February 2, 2010.

Since the end of the Cold War, China has dramatically expanded its navy, especially its submarine fleet, adding dozens of attack submarines since 1995. During the same period, the U.S. attack submarine fleet has shrunk to 53, and is projected to fall to 41 in 2028. Australia, India, and other Pacific countries have taken note of the shifting balance and have responded with their own naval buildups, particularly of their submarine fleets. Unless the U.S. stops and reverses the decline of its own fleet, U.S. military superiority in the Pacific will continue to wane, severely limiting the Navy's ability to operate in the region, to protect U.S. interests, and to support U.S. friends and allies, says the brief.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://s3.amazonaws.com/thf_media/2010/pdf/bg_2367.pdf [PDF format, 13 pages].

Item#9

THE THINK TANKS AND CIVIL SOCIETIES PROGRAM 2009: THE GLOBAL “GO-TO THINK TANKS.” University of Pennsylvania. James G. McGann. January 31, 2010.

The rankings are based on a global survey of hundreds of scholars and experts, according to the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program at the University of Pennsylvania. The index evaluates a total of 6305 think tanks worldwide. Close to 400 organizations were nominated and ranked by a global panel of 300 experts.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.sas.upenn.edu/irp/documents/2009GlobalGoToReportThinkTankIndex_1.31.2010.02.01_000.pdf [PDF format, 72 pages].

Item#10

TRIP REPORT TAIWAN & HONG KONG, INTERNAL POLITICS AND THE BEIJING PARTNERSHIP. Brookings Institution. Richard C. Bush. Web posted February 10, 2010.

Taiwan is in the middle of an effort to stabilize its relationship with China, and the process remains controversial. Prior to the presidential election of 2008, Taiwan and China were locked in a downward spiral of mutual fear, where each side feared that the other was about to challenge its fundamental interests. According to the report, each took counter-measures that only made the situation worse. The election of Ma Ying-jeou, the leader of the more conservative Nationalist party (KMT) created the possibility of reversing that spiral. Ma campaigned on the idea that Taiwan could better assure its prosperity, dignity and security by engaging and reassuring China rather than provoking it.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2010/01_taiwan_hong_kong_bush.aspx [HTML format, various paging].

Item#11

UNDERSTANDING THE PRESIDENT'S FY 2011 BUDGET. Economic Policy Institute. John S. Irons. February 2, 2010.

Now that President Obama has released his budget, Irons offers further analysis.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

<http://www.epi.org/publications/entry/ib273/> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#12

VISION MEETS REALITY: 2010 QDR AND 2011 DEFENSE BUDGET. Center for a New American Security. Travis Sharp. February 2010.

The brief provides an analysis of the FY 2011 defense budget request, places it in the context of the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) and historical budgetary trends, and outlines the uncertain budgetary future that looms ahead.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

Full Text:

http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/2011DefenseBudget_Sharp_Feb2010_code904_policybrf_0.pdf [PDF format, 8 pages].