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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- U.S. POLICY & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
 - EGYPT

- DEMOCRACY & RULE OF LAW

- U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

- ECONOMIC PROSPERITY & TRADE ISSUES

- GLOBAL & ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

- COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- TRANSLATED BOOKS

- RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH

U.S. POLICY & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

12001

2011 GLOBAL GO TO THINK TANK RANKINGS

International Relations Program, University of Pennsylvania, January 2012 (96 pages)

http://www.gotothinktank.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/2011_Global_Go_To_Think_Tanks_Report.pdf

The report's publication is the culmination of an eight-month process involving the support of think tanks and experts from every region of the world. Despite the scope of the project, the rankings are conducted without the benefit of a full time staff or budget, instead made possible with the assistance of a group of research interns from the University of Pennsylvania and other colleges in the Philadelphia area.

Below is a snapshot of the range of experts and peer institutions participating in this year's ranking process:

- 793 expert panelists for all the regional and functional research categories
- 150 journalists and scholars with expertise spanning politics, think tanks, and civil society
- 55 current and former directors of think tank programs and networks
- 40 public and private donors
- 100s of think tanks
- 25-30 intergovernmental organizations
- 120 academic institutions

12002

AMERICA'S CIVILIAN OPERATIONS ABROAD: UNDERSTANDING PAST AND FUTURE REQUIREMENTS

By Nora Bensahel and Patrick M. Cronin, Center for a New American Security, January 2012, 40 pages.

http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/CNAS_AmericasCivilianOperationsAbroad_BensahelCronin_0.pdf There is a summary at <http://www.cnas.org/civilian>

America's Civilian Operations Abroad: Understanding Past and Future Requirements, authored by Dr. Nora Bensahel, CNAS Deputy Director of Studies and Senior Fellow, and Dr. Patrick Cronin, CNAS Senior Advisor and Senior Director of the Asia-Pacific Security Program, examines the history of U.S. civilian operations abroad during the past 20 years and identifies several trends that are likely to affect future requirements.

Using data analysis provided by Caerus Associates, Bensahel and Cronin demonstrate in the report that U.S. civilian agencies have conducted dozens of operations every year, that the total number has increased over time and that there are good reasons to expect that pace will continue. Yet the costs of these operations have also grown substantially, and pressures to cut U.S. government spending will almost certainly reduce the resources available for these missions.

12003

AMERICAN JIHADIST TERRORISM: COMBATING A COMPLEX THREAT

By Jerome P. Bjelopera, Congressional Research Service updated November 15, 2011, 145 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/178218.pdf>

This report describes homegrown violent jihadists and the plots and attacks that have occurred since 9/11. For this report, “homegrown” and “domestic” are terms that describe terrorist activity or plots perpetrated within the United States or abroad by American citizens, legal permanent residents, or visitors radicalized largely within the United States. The term “jihadist” describes radicalized individuals using Islam as an ideological and/or religious justification for their belief in the establishment of a global caliphate, or jurisdiction governed by a Muslim civil and religious leader known as a caliph. The term “violent jihadist” characterizes jihadists who have made the jump to illegally supporting, plotting, or directly engaging in violent terrorist activity.

12004

ARAB LEAGUE BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL

By Martin A. Weiss, Congressional Research Service, updated December 29, 2011

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/180702.pdf>

The Arab League, an umbrella organization comprising 22 Middle Eastern and African countries and entities, has maintained an official boycott of Israeli companies and Israeli-made goods since the founding of Israel in 1948. The boycott is administered by the Damascus-based Central Boycott Office, a specialized bureau of the Arab League.

The boycott has three tiers. The primary boycott prohibits citizens of an Arab League member from buying from, selling to, or entering into a business contract with either the Israeli government or an Israeli citizen. The secondary boycott extends the primary boycott to any entity world-wide that does business in Israel. A blacklist of global firms that engage in business with Israel is maintained by the Central Boycott Office, and disseminated to Arab League members. The tertiary boycott prohibits an Arab League member and its nationals from doing business with a company that deals with companies that have been blacklisted by the Arab League.

12005

CAN SANCTIONS BRING IRAN TO THE TABLE?

Analysis brief by Jayshree Bajoria, Council on Foreign Relations, January 24, 2012

<http://www.cfr.org/iran/can-sanctions-bring-iran-table/p27167>

The European Union adopted an oil embargo against Tehran (BBC) on Monday, banning all new contracts and agreeing to freeze the assets of Iran's central bank within the EU. The move follows new sanctions from the United States on Iran's oil and financial sectors. The EU--responsible for 20 percent of Iranian oil exports--and the United States have also been trying to persuade major importers of Iranian oil in Asia--China, Japan, India, and South Korea--to reduce their purchases in order for these sanctions to bite. The efforts aim to pressure Iran to halt its controversial nuclear program.

12006

THE DEBATE OVER ANTI-PIRACY LAWS

Analysis brief by Toni Johnson, Council on Foreign Relations, January 30, 2012

<http://www.cfr.org/united-states/debate-over-anti-piracy-laws/p27208>

Congress has postponed floor votes for the [Stop Online Privacy Act \(SOPA\)](#) and the [Protect IP Act \(PIPA\)](#), bills intended to increase protections for copyrighted digital content. This marked a victory for opponents who mounted [landmark digital protests \(BBC\)](#) to call attention to what they believe was a move to give the government [sweeping powers \(PCWorld\)](#) to shut down sites accused of copyright infringement. Since the future of the bills is largely in doubt, industry and lawmakers are left looking for [a path forward \(Politico\)](#). But the debate is not confined to the United States; digital piracy is increasingly being touted as an international trade concern by music and movie industries globally.

12007

FIVE MYTHS ABOUT THE ARAB SPRING

By Fouad Ajami, Delawareonline, January 12, 2012.

<http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20120118/OPINION16/120117035/Five-myths-about-Arab-Spring>

When the Arab Spring began a year ago, the Western world was shocked. On the surface, it had seemed that liberty had bypassed the Arabs; they had seemed resigned to tyranny. But once unleashed, the upheaval knew no restraint, and there were mayhem and promise in the streets of the Arab world. Since then, the rebellions have spawned a steady stream of punditry and conventional wisdom about the Arab Spring — some of it vastly mistaken. Let's explore what really fueled the uprisings.

1. Obama's 2009 Cairo speech helped inspire the Arab Spring.
2. These are Facebook and Twitter revolutions.
3. The Obama administration threw Hosni Mubarak under the bus.
4. Saddam Hussein's fall in Iraq inspired the Arab Spring.
5. The rebellions will further damage prospects for the Arab-Israeli peace process.

12008

IN THE ARAB SPRING'S AFTERMATH, DEMOCRACY RETREATS

Author: Joshua Kurlantzick, Fellow for Southeast Asia, BusinessWeek, January 19, 2012.

<http://www.cfr.org/democracy-and-human-rights/arab-springs-aftermath-democracy-retreats/p27138>

In the year since Egypt's Tahrir Square uprising, some of the world's longest-surviving dictators have fallen from power, men who once seemed likely to die in their (very plush) beds.

The Arab Spring that spread from Tunisia to Egypt claimed Yemen's Ali Saleh and Libya's Muammar Qaddafi and is now gunning for Syria's Bashar al-Assad. Closed societies and quasi-autocracies from Myanmar to Russia to Singapore have also witnessed stirrings of democratic change. Carl Gershman, head of the National Endowment for Democracy, the leading American democracy promotion organization, wrote that we may be entering "a Fourth Wave of democratization, which could extend democracy's reach into other regions of the world that have been most resistant to democratic change."

12009

IRAN'S THREAT TO THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ

By Congressional Research Service, January 23, 2012, 23 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/183757.pdf>

Some officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have recently renewed threats to close or exercise control over the Strait of Hormuz. Iran's threats appear to have been prompted by the likely imposition of new multilateral sanctions targeting Iran's economic lifeline—the export of oil and other energy products. In the past, Iranian leaders have made similar threats and comments when the country's oil exports have been threatened. However, as in the past, the prospect of a major disruption of maritime traffic in the Strait risks damaging Iranian interests. U.S. and allied military capabilities in the region remain formidable. This makes a prolonged outright closure of the Strait appear unlikely. Nevertheless, such threats can and do raise tensions in global energy markets and leave the United States and other global oil consumers to consider the risks of another potential conflict in the Middle East. This report explains Iranian threats to the Strait of Hormuz, and analyzes the implications of some scenarios for potential U.S. or international conflict with Iran. These scenarios include (see the link)

12010

NATIONAL INTEREST: ALARMISM ON ISLAMISM

By Paul R. Pillar, National Interest, December 4, 2011

<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/paul-pillar/alarmism-islamism-6217>

National Interest's Paul R. Pillar discusses three problems with the fear of Islamist threat to democratization in Arab countries.

Results of the first round of Egypt's parliamentary elections—in which the Muslim Brotherhood came in first, followed by a Salafist party—have stimulated still more of what has been a common response to the Arab Spring ever since it began: the fear that Islamists might derail or hijack democratization in Arab countries. The response has often taken the form of a simple "Islamists dangerous, non-Islamists okay" attitude. There are three basic problems with this outlook, besides its crudeness. One is lack of clarity about exactly what is the danger that Islamists supposedly pose. A second is lack of explanation as to why Islamists in particular would pose it. The third is lack of analysis of whether Islamists could carry out feared acts even if they wanted to.

12011

AL-QAEDA'S NEW WAR

Ahmed Rashid, Journalist and Author, Lahore, Spectator: December 10, 2011

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/essays/all/7460188/alqaedas-new-war.shtml>

Ahmed Rashid argues that sectarian bloodshed is employed in Afghanistan and Egypt as a tool to thwart democracy and diplomacy.

From a distance, the devastating attacks on Shia Muslims in three Afghan cities this week looked like the type of sectarian religious attacks which we got used to in Iraq. The faultline between Sunni and Shia is one of the greatest and most violent in the world, and now and again it divides countries. But in Afghanistan, nothing is ever this simple. For all its woes, it hasn't seen a sectarian religious attack for ten years. And while the Taleban have had their history persecuting the Shia, it is highly unlikely they were responsible. The more likely explanation is less obvious — and even more sinister.

12012

AMERICA'S SECOND CHANCE AND THE ARAB SPRING

By Kenneth M. Pollack, Director, Saban Center for Middle East Policy, Foreign Policy, December 05, 2011

http://www.brookings.edu/articles/2011/1205_arab_spring_pollack.aspx

Egyptians went to the polls en masse on Nov. 28 and Nov. 29 to vote in the closest thing that any of them has ever seen to real elections. Although the final word is not in—either regarding the results or the integrity of the elections—early reports suggest that the vote was mostly fair and free.

Electoral workers wait for voters at a polling station during the second day of the parliamentary run-off elections in Cairo December 6, 2011.

But Egypt is still a long way from stable, functional democracy. As Iraq, Palestine, and Lebanon have demonstrated again and again, elections do not equal democracy. Egypt's Islamists—who appear to have garnered as much as 65 percent of the vote—will dominate the new parliament regardless of the role they play in the new Egyptian government, and we do not yet know whether they will wield that power responsibly. Egypt's armed forces remain the most powerful force in the country by far, and they have shown a Hamlet-like ambivalence—demonstrating an ardent desire to surrender power to a new civilian government and a similar determination to preserve their own prerogatives from the era of Egyptian autocracy.

12013

THE ARAB AWAKENING: AMERICA AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE MIDDLE EAST

The Arab Awakening and Middle East Unrest, Middle East, North Africa, Islamic World, Egypt, November 11, 2011

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/events/2011/1117_arab_awakening/20111117_arab_awning.pdf

The events of 2011 have transformed the Middle East, with even seasoned regional observers taken aback by the revolutions that engulfed Tunisia and Egypt and then washed across the rest of the Arab world. The changes set in motion in early 2011 are still reverberating through the region: more regimes have fallen, and even among those that have survived, many have been forced to adopt dramatically new policies. Taken together, these changes herald an epochal shift in the Arab world and the beginning of one of the most important developments of the 21st century. In a new book, *The Arab Awakening: America and the Transformation of the Middle East* (Brookings Press, 2011), eighteen Brookings experts examine how these historic events happened and what the ramifications will be for the United States and the rest of the world.

12014

A FORWARD STRATEGY OF FREEDOM

Author: Elliott Abrams, Senior Fellow for Middle Eastern Studies, Foreign Policy, January 23, 2012
<http://www.cfr.org/middle-east/forward-strategy-freedom/p27170>

There is a sour mood nowadays about the so-called Arab Spring. Armed gangs roam in Libya, Salafists win votes in Egypt, and minorities like the Egyptian Copts live in fear -- as does the Shiite majority in Bahrain. The whole "experiment" seems to some critics to be a foolish, if idealistic project that promises to do nothing but wreak havoc in the Middle East. These same critics cast blame at the Americans who applauded the Arab revolts of the past year: naive, ideological, ignorant, dangerous folk.

12015

THE GLOBAL REGIME FOR ARMED CONFLICT

Backgrounder, Council on Foreign Relations, updated January 23, 2012
<http://www.cfr.org/global-governance/global-regime-armed-conflict/p24180>

Preventing armed conflict, keeping peace, and rebuilding war-torn states remain among the most challenging problems for the international community. Every year, at least 250,000 people die (PDF) in armed conflicts, most of which occur within, rather than between, states. Armed conflict and its aftermath corrode virtually every aspect of society: law and order, economic development, education, healthcare, human rights, natural resource extraction, and the environment. The World Bank estimates the global economic costs for all conflicts each year to reach at least \$100 billion. Furthermore, conflict prevention, mitigation, and response are global concerns, because instability can (and often does) spill across borders and trigger piracy, drug trafficking, small-arms sales, environmental exploitation, and terrorism.

12016

IRAN: U.S. CONCERNS AND POLICY RESPONSES

By Kenneth Katzman, Congressional Research Service, updated December 15, 2011, 82 pages.
<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/179586.pdf>

The Obama Administration identifies Iran as a major threat to U.S. national security interests. This perception is generated by suspicions of Iran's intentions for its nuclear program - heightened by a November 8, 2011, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report - as well as by Iran's support for militant groups in the Middle East and in Iraq and Afghanistan. U.S. officials also accuse Iran of helping Syria's leadership try to defeat a growing popular opposition movement, and of taking advantage of Shiite majority unrest against the Sunni-led, pro-U.S. government of Bahrain. In October 2011, U.S. officials accused Iran of plotting to assassinate the Saudi Ambassador to the United States.

12017

ISLAM IS ISLAM, AND THAT'S IT

By Andrew C. McCarthy, National Review, vol LX, no. 1, January 23, 2012.

<http://www.nationalreview.com/nrd/article/?q=MTFhZjcyZmQ1Mjc0NGRmODY2ZGMyMWNmZjE2N2IyNjQ=>

Sub-titled "The Arab Spring was not hijacked," this article contends that "the most important fact in the Arab world ... is "Islam's regional hegemony and supremacist tendency." McCarthy criticizes western attempts to portray Islam as essentially moderate, when the Islamic propensity for violence, either against non-Muslims or as part of inter-Islamic rivalries is "a tradition nearly as old as Islam itself." McCarthy notes Islam's "divinely ordained mission of proselytism ... encompass(es) an all-purpose societal code prescribing rules for everything." The Arab Spring, he says constitutes not a desire for western style freedom but "an unshackling of Islam" and notes that the Arabic word for freedom, "hurriya," also connotes "perfect slavery" in the sense of total submission to Allah. He argues that the Arab Spring has not been hijacked by extremists within Islam but simply reflects "the way the Muslims of the Middle East want it."

12018

LIBYA: TRANSITION AND U.S. POLICY

By Christopher M. Blanchard, Congressional Research Service, updated December 8, 2011, 26 pages.
<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/179576.pdf>

After more than 40 years of authoritarian repression and eight months of armed conflict, fundamental political change has come to Libya. The killing of Muammar al Qadhafi on October 20 and the declaration of Libya's liberation by the interim Transitional National Council on October 23 marked the end of the Libyan people's armed revolt and the formal beginning of the country's transition to a new political order.

Overcoming the legacy of Qadhafi's rule and the effects of the recent fighting is now the principal challenge for the Libyan people, the TNC, and the international community.

The transition period may prove to be as complex and challenging for Libyans and their international counterparts as the recent conflict. Immediate tasks include establishing and maintaining security, preventing criminality and reprisals, restarting Libya's economy, and taking the first steps in a planned transition to democratic governance. In the coming weeks and months, Libyans will face key questions about basic terms for transitional justice, a new constitutional order, political participation, and Libyan foreign policy. Security challenges, significant investment needs, and vigorous political debates are now emerging.

12019

THE LONG SPRING AHEAD

By Stephen R. Grand, Director, U.S. Relations with the Islamic World, The Brookings Institution, December 08, 2011

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/1208_arab_winter_grand.aspx

Talk of the Arab Spring has turned, in some quarters, to talk of an Arab Winter. The latest cause for pessimism has been the results of the first of three rounds of Egyptian parliamentary elections, where the Muslim Brotherhood and a Salafist political party garnered, respectively, roughly 49% and 20% of the available seats, making it likely they will dominate the next parliament.

12020

MULTILATERAL POLITICAL MISSIONS AND PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY

By Richard Gowan, U.S. Institute of Peace, December 2011, 16 pages.

<http://www.usip.org/files/resources/SR299.pdf>

Multilateral political missions—teams of civilian experts deployed by international and regional organizations—play an overlooked role in preventing conflicts in fragile states. Using examples ranging from the Baltic States to West Africa and Central Asia, this report explores these missions' advantages and limitations. It argues that the United States and other powers can and should do more to help the United Nations and other organizations launch these civilian operations in the future. The report is based on Review of Political Missions, a project launched by New York University's Center on International Cooperation in 2010. The United States Institute of Peace funded this project in association with the governments of Norway and Switzerland.

12021

NOT FADE AWAY: THE MYTH OF AMERICAN DECLINE

By Robert Kagan, The New Republic, January 11, 2012

<http://www.tnr.com/article/politics/magazine/99521/america-world-power-declinism>

Note: At the State of the Union on January 26, President Barack Obama argued, "Anyone who tells you that America is in decline or that our influence has waned, doesn't know what they're talking about." According to a Foreign Policy report, the president had read and been influenced by the TNR article below, discussing it at length in an off-the-record meeting on the afternoon of the speech.

12022

PERSIAN GULF STORM CLOUDS

Analysis brief by Robert McMahon, Council on Foreign Relations, January 4, 2012

<http://www.cfr.org/iran/persian-gulf-storm-clouds/p26961>

U.S. defense officials say they will continue to deploy warships in the Persian Gulf, despite Iranian threats to act if the U.S. Navy moved an aircraft carrier to the area. Pentagon spokesman George Little said Tuesday that authorities would not permit the closing of the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial passageway for global oil shipments. Iranian comments followed Western moves to ratchet up sanctions on Iran's central bank and oil exports (Reuters). The sanctions are tied to concerns over Iran's nuclear program, which Western states fear is cover for a weapons program. Officials in Tehran have repeatedly denied this. On Tuesday, Iran's foreign ministry said it is waiting to return to talks with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

12023

POLITICAL TRANSITION IN TUNISIA

By Alexis Arieff, Congressional Research Service updated December 16, 2011, 30 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/179579.pdf>

On January 14, 2011, Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali fled the country after weeks of mounting anti-government protests. Tunisia's mass popular uprising, dubbed the "Jasmine Revolution," sparked anti-government movements in other countries across the region. Ben Ali's departure was greeted by widespread euphoria within Tunisia. Yet disputes over reform priorities, economic crisis, labor unrest, tensions between the privileged coastal region and relatively impoverished interior, and lingering insecurity are continuing challenges. The humanitarian and security impact of events in neighboring Libya present additional difficulties.

12024

PREVENTIVE PRIORITIES SURVEY: 2012

Council on Foreign Relations, December 8, 2011

<http://www.cfr.org/conflict-prevention/preventive-priorities-survey-2012/p26686>

Editor's Note: This survey is part of the series, [Preventive Priorities Survey](#).

The Preventive Priorities Survey (PPS) is intended to help inform the U.S. policy community about the relative urgency and importance of competing conflict prevention demands. The Center for Preventive Action asked a targeted group of government officials, academics, and experts to comment confidentially on a list of contingencies that could plausibly occur in 2012.

The list of preventive priorities for the United States is grouped according to three tiers of relative importance to U.S. national interests, based on different levels or categories of risk associated with various types of instability and conflict. The preventive priorities within each tier are not listed in any order of priority or probability.

12025

REVOLUTION IN THE ARAB WORLD: THE LONG VIEW

By Laleh Khalili and others, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University, December 2011, 28 pages.

http://ccas.georgetown.edu/files/Occ_Pap_Long_View.pdf

In January and February 2011, populist uprisings toppled the authoritarian governments of Tunisia and Egypt, and similar revolts began to emerge in other Arab states, including Bahrain, Libya, Morocco, Syria, and Yemen. An article in the 18 March 2011 issue of the *Chronicle Review* by Ursula Lindsey, "The Suddenly New Study of Egypt," addressed how these events had turned the study of persistent authoritarianism in the Arab world on its head. No longer, for example, could scholars point to how Egyptians and other Arabs tend to engage in one of two extremes: political apathy or political violence. Lindsey also suggested that scholars shift their focus away from the power of elites to the strength of ordinary people and grass-roots movements, or retool their scholarship to allow for, in the case of Egypt, more emphasis on groups other than the Muslim Brotherhood as significant sources of opposition.

12026

THE SAUDI-ARABIAN RIVALRY AND THE FUTURE OF MIDDLE EAST SECURITY

By W. Andrew Terrill. Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College, December 2011, 95 pages.

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=1094>

Saudi Arabia and Iran have often behaved as serious rivals for influence in the Middle East and especially the Gulf area since at least Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution and the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War. While both nations define themselves as Islamic, the differences between their foreign policies could hardly be more dramatic.

In most respects, Saudi Arabia is a regional status quo power, while Iran often seeks revolutionary change throughout the Gulf area and the wider Middle East with varying degrees of intensity. Saudi Arabia also has strong ties with Western nations, while Iran views the United States as its most dangerous enemy. Perhaps the most important difference between the two nations is that Saudi Arabia is a conservative Sunni Muslim Arab state, while Iran is a Shi'ite state whose senior politicians often view their country as the defender and natural leader of Shi'ites throughout the region. The rivalry between Riyadh and Tehran has been reflected in the politics of a number of regional states where these two powers exercise influence including Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Bahrain and others.

12027

THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ IS THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT OIL TRANSIT CHOKEPOINT

Energy Information Administration, U.S. Dept of Energy, updated January 4, 2012

<http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=4430>

The Strait of Hormuz (shown in the oval on the map), which is located between Oman and Iran, connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. Hormuz is the world's most important oil chokepoint due to its daily oil flow of almost 17 million barrels per day (bbl/d) in 2011, up from between 15.5-16.0 million bbl/d in 2009-2010. Flows through the Strait in 2011 were roughly 35% of all seaborne traded oil, or almost 20% of oil traded worldwide.

On average, 14 crude oil tankers per day passed through the Strait in 2011, with a corresponding amount of empty tankers entering to pick up new cargos. More than 85% of these crude oil exports went to Asian markets, with Japan, India, South Korea, and China representing the largest destinations.

At its narrowest point, the Strait is 21 miles wide, but the width of the shipping lane in either direction is only two miles, separated by a two-mile buffer zone. The Strait is deep and wide enough to handle the world's largest crude oil tankers, with about two-thirds of oil shipments carried by tankers in excess of 150,000 deadweight tons.

12028

SUSTAINING U.S. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP: PRIORITIES FOR 21ST CENTURY DEFENSE

By, U.S. Dept of Defense, January 2012

http://www.defense.gov/news/Defense_Strategic_Guidance.pdf

See also “Guidance Guards against All Threats, Officials Say”, American Forces Press Service, January 5, 2012 <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=66688> which notes that “The plan drops the wording of a longstanding DOD paradigm for the military to be capable of fighting and prevailing in two land wars simultaneously.”

12029

U.S. ARMS SALES: AGREEMENTS WITH AND DELIVERIES TO MAJOR CLIENTS, 2003-2010

By Richard F. Grimmett, Congressional Research Service, December 16, 2011, 9 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/179578.pdf>

This report provides background data on U.S. arms sales agreements with and deliveries to its major purchasers during calendar years 2003-2010, made through the U.S. Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program. In a series of data tables, it lists the total dollar values of U.S. government to- government arms sales agreements with its top five purchasers, and the total dollar values of U.S. arms deliveries to those purchasers, in five specific regions of the world for three specific periods: 2003-2006, 2007-2010, and 2010 alone. In addition, the report provides data tables listing the total dollar values of U.S. government-to-government arms agreements with and deliveries to its top 10 purchasers worldwide for the periods 2003-2006, 2007-2010, and for 2010 alone.

12030

THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA IN POWER TRANSITION

By David Lai. Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College, December 2011, 284 pages.

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=1093>

The most profound change that the United States and China have experienced in their relations over the past 30 years is perhaps the onset of an apparent power transition between the two nations. This potentially titanic change was set in motion as a result of China’s genuine and phenomenal economic development, and the impact of this economic success on the United States and the U.S.-led international system has been growing steadily. This perceived power transition process will continue to be a defining factor in U.S.-China relations for the next 30 years.

As China's economic, political, cultural, and military influence continue to grow globally, what kind of a global power will China become? What kind of a relationship will evolve between China and the United States? How will the United States maintain its leadership in world affairs and develop a working relationship with China so that China can join hands with the United States to shape the world in constructive ways? In this book, Dr. David Lai offers an engaging discussion of these questions and others. His analysis addresses issues that trouble U.S. as well as Chinese leaders. Dr. Lai has taken painstaking care to put the conflicting positions in perspective, most notably presenting the origins of the conflicts, highlighting the conflicting parties' key opposing positions (by citing their primary or original sources), and pointing out the stalemates.

12031

WOMEN'S VOICES ON THE ARAB SPRING: ISOBEL COLEMAN

Author: Isobel Coleman, Senior Fellow and Director of the Civil Society, Markets, and Democracy Initiative; Director of the Women and Foreign Policy Program, Vital Voices, January 27, 2012

<http://vitalvoices.org/blog/2012/01/womens-voices-arab-spring-isobel-coleman>

Was the role of women in the Arab Spring more or less meaningful than that of men?

Women's role has been equally important to that of men, and meaningful in different ways. Their participation in the early days brought critical legitimacy and attention to opposition movements, and their ongoing activism has shone a spotlight not only on women's rights, but also on issues of minority rights and religious freedom. In Libya, women sparked the first big protests against the regime when they demonstrated outside of Abu Salim prison in Benghazi. In Yemen, women have taken to the streets in unprecedented fashion, helping to broaden and sustain the opposition movement. In Egypt, they have protested and blogged alongside men, but also fought back against humiliations such as 'virginity tests' by the military and other targeted abuses by security forces

EGYPT

12032

BACK TO THE SQUARE

By Wendell Steavenson, New Yorker, December 12, 2011

http://www.newyorker.com/talk/comment/2011/12/12/111212taco_talk_steavenson

Wendell Steavenson unpacks the current tensions in Egypt's democratic transition, highlighting the unfolding dynamic between the Muslim Brotherhood, Salafi hardliners, liberals, and the military leadership.

In Egypt, the euphoria surrounding the ouster of President Hosni Mubarak, last February, gave way, as the Arab Spring led into summer and fall, to a creeping realization that the regime had not been toppled at all.

To many, it felt as if the popular revolution, waged by millions in the streets, were being turned into a soft coup. The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces took over the running of the country, and its chairman, Field Marshal Mohamed Hussein Tantawi, who had been Mubarak's Defense Minister for twenty years, became Egypt's de-facto ruler. SCAF promised that it would serve in this role only until a new government could be formed, but it consistently placed obstacles designed to preserve the military's autonomy in the way of the transitional process, which entailed elections for a new parliament that would choose a committee to draft a new constitution, with Presidential elections to follow.

12033

EGYPT'S REVOLT AND THE AMERICAN MODEL

Author: Ed Husain, Senior Fellow for Middle Eastern Studies

Wall Street Journal, January 26, 2012

<http://www.cfr.org/egypt/egypts-revolt-american-model/p27206>

Upon landing at Cairo's international airport, I see a billboard that quotes none other than Barack Obama saying: "American young people need to grow up more like Egyptian youngsters." Thus one year after their revolution do Egyptians bolster their newfound post-Mubarak pride through association with an American president. At bookshops across Egypt I find bestselling guidebooks on how to pass entrance tests for American universities. It's a jarring contrast, then, to return to JFK airport and see such popular titles as "The Post-American World," representing the fashionable tendency among U.S. political elites to talk down American standing in the Middle East.

12034

EGYPT AND ITS DEMONS

Author: Steven A. Cook, Hasib J. Sabbagh Senior Fellow for Middle Eastern Studies, Council Of Foreign Relation. January 25, 2012.

<http://www.cfr.org/egypt/egypt-its-demons/p27227>

Ain Sukhna is stunningly beautiful. After a two-hour drive east from Cairo through the featureless desert, the road rolls toward the steel blue waters of the Gulf of Suez. Nestled beneath ocher-colored hills, the town is a string of industrial buildings, ramshackle half-built structures, and the weekend villas of Cairo's well-heeled. With its manicured lawns, pristine infinity pools, and towpaths to the beach, Ain Sukhna couldn't be more different from the threadbare and creaking Egypt that former President Hosni Mubarak bequeathed to his people. Ain Sukhna is stunningly beautiful. After a two-hour drive east from Cairo through the featureless desert, the road rolls toward the steel blue waters of the Gulf of Suez. Nestled beneath ocher-colored hills, the town is a string of industrial buildings, ramshackle half-built structures, and the weekend villas of Cairo's well-heeled. This is where the falool - the former officials, businessmen, and intellectuals who, for almost three decades, rationalized for the Mubarak regime - fled when their leader fell. With its manicured lawns, pristine infinity pools, and towpaths to the beach, Ain Sukhna couldn't be more different from the threadbare and creaking Egypt that former President Hosni Mubarak bequeathed to his people.

12035

EGYPT IN TRANSITION

By Jeremy M. Sharp, Congressional Research Service, updated November 18, 2011

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/178224.pdf>

On February 11, 2011, President Hosni Mubarak resigned from the presidency after 29 years in power. For 18 days, a popular peaceful uprising spread across Egypt and ultimately forced Mubarak to cede power to the military. In the wake of Mubarak's resignation, a Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF)—made up entirely of military officers who enjoyed leading positions under Mubarak—has exercised executive authority directly and via an interim cabinet led by Prime Minister Essam Sharaf. The SCAF oversaw a March 2011 referendum that approved amendments to Egypt's constitution, issued a constitutional declaration, and has also issued new laws on the formation of political parties and the conduct of upcoming parliamentary elections. The amended constitution lays out a transition framework in which the elected People's Assembly and Shura Council will, in conjunction with the SCAF, select members for a 100-person constituent assembly to draft a new constitution subject to a referendum in 2012 or 2013.

12036

EGYPT'S ISLAMIST ERA

By Benny Morris, the National Interest, December 2, 2011

<http://nationalinterest.org/commentary/egypts-islamic-era-6208>

The world will probably have to wait for another six months before the dust of Egypt's revolution begins to settle. Meanwhile, after the completion of the first installment of the first stage of the country's first free elections, it is clear that Islamists will probably dominate Egypt's political landscape in the coming years. This comes after the clear victories of Islamist parties in the parliamentary elections this month in Tunisia and Morocco.

12037

EGYPT'S SECULARISTS NOT SO SECULAR

By Pol O Gradaigh, Bikya Masr, November 27, 2011

http://bikyamasr.com/49682/egypts-secularists-not-so-secular/?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

Pol Gradaigh explains why Egyptian parties are cautious of the term "secular," opting instead to define themselves as a "civic" state against Islamist ideology.

CAIRO: What do Egypt's secular forces hope for in the forthcoming period? Not secularism, one might be forgiven for thinking, judging from their programs and the speeches of candidates and activists. There is no shortage of politicians and parties with an essentially secular outlook, but the word 'secularism' itself is rarely spoken.

Basem Kamel, a candidate in North Cairo for the Egyptian Social Democratic Party, part of the Egyptian Bloc electoral alliance, told Bikyamasr.com why his party doesn't use the term:

12038

THE FRANKENSTEIN OF TAHRIR SQUARE

By Steven A. Cook, Hasib J. Sabbagh, December 19, 2011, Foreign Policy

<http://www.cfr.org/egypt/frankenstein-tahrir-square/p26878>

Tahrir Square smells like piss. It is no surprise. After all, people had been living there in a tent camp for weeks. Yet the stench is also fitting for Egypt's current impasse. Egyptians -- soldiers, police, activists, soccer hooligans called "ultras," and others -- have abused this ostensibly hallowed ground at various moments since Hosni Mubarak's unexpected fall almost a year ago.

12039

IN EGYPT, THE DEVIL YOU KNOW IS THE ONE TO FEAR

Author: Thalia Beaty, Research Associate, Muftah, January 27, 2012

<http://www.cfr.org/egypt/egypt-devil-you-know-one-fear/p27211>

Much attention has been given to the success of "Islamist parties" in Egypt's recently completed parliamentary elections. The Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party (FPJ) achieved overwhelming success garnering 45 percent of the vote, while the Salafist parties came away with a combined 25 percent of the vote. Together these victories give the "Islamists" an absolute majority of 70 percent of the 498 parliamentary seats. The Salafists and Muslim Brotherhood are not, however, natural allies. In fact, the Salafists threaten the Brotherhood's seasoned social, and now political, organization by claiming the higher religious ground. While the Brotherhood would prefer to focus on economic, trade, and development policy issues, it will be forced, at some point, to address Salafist calls for the immediate applications of *Sharia* law, which would define national identity in terms of religion rather than citizenship.

12040

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EGYPT'S DOOMED REVOLUTION

By Eric Trager, the New Republic, January 25, 2011.

<http://www.tnr.com/article/world/99981/egypt-arab-spring-tahrir-obama-administration>

Exactly one year ago today, I stood in front of the Lawyers Syndicate in downtown Cairo and watched as a few thousand protesters suddenly streamed into the area from the north, overwhelmed Egypt's notoriously violent riot police, and pushed onward towards Tahrir Square. That mile-long march, which culminated with the protesters bursting through a human chain of officers and seizing the Square, was the most inspiring thing that I've ever witnessed, and it remains so. Long presumed to be politically passive, ordinary Egyptians bravely amassed with one simple demand: That decades of dictatorship had to end. When Hosni Mubarak resigned eighteen tumultuous days later, the Arab Spring had bloomed.

12041

IT'S TIME TO END U.S. AID TO EGYPT

By Malou Innocent, The Skeptics, the National interest, January 2, 2012

<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-skeptics/its-time-end-us-aid-egypt-6331>

In recent weeks, a flood of graphic videos and images have surfaced showing Egypt's military police brutally clubbing protesters. Some footage shows demonstrators lying motionless on the ground as they are savagely beaten.

"Recent events in Egypt have been particularly shocking," said Secretary of State Hillary Clinton last week. But perhaps more "shocking" than these recent events is the foreign largesse sustaining it. For FY2012, the Obama administration requested \$1.551 billion in U.S. aid to Egypt. That should be scrapped.

12042

LANDMINES IN EGYPT'S CONSTITUTIONAL ROADMAP

By Nathan Brown, Carnegie Endowment, December 17, 2011

EN: <http://egyptelections.carnegieendowment.org/2011/12/07/landmines-in-egypt%e2%80%99s-constitutional-roadmap>

Egypt's protracted series of parliamentary balloting has just begun, but it is not too soon to think about the implications of presidential elections that have yet to be scheduled. And indeed, the way those elections have been planned (or, more accurately, the way they have not been planned) should cause deep concern.

On November 23, the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) made an apparently major concession in the face of large demonstrations in Tahrir Square and severe criticism from across the political spectrum. It pledged that presidential elections would be held by the end of June 2012, following which the SCAF would hand its tremendous constitutional power over to an elected leader.

12043

THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD'S DEMOCRATIC DILEMMA

By Nathan J. Brown, the National Interest, December 1, 2011

<http://nationalinterest.org/commentary/the-muslim-brotherhoods-democratic-dilemma-6205>

For years, Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood has been taunted by its critics to demonstrate its democratic commitments. Of course, without free and fair elections in the country, it could only offer promises. But as Egyptians now go to the polls in the country's most democratic parliamentary elections in many decades, the Islamists are finally able to grasp a golden opportunity to show their democratic credentials with deeds. And that may be precisely the problem: They may be far too successful for their own good (and for Egypt's).

12044

THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD'S NEW POWER IN EGYPT'S PARLIAMENT

By Shadi Hamid, Director of Research, Brookings Doha Center, Foreign Affairs, December 23, 2011

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/1223_muslim_brotherhood_hamid.aspx

The question of what Islamists want has acquired new urgency, thanks to Egypt's ongoing elections -- which appear poised to hand the Muslim Brotherhood's political party, Freedom and Justice (FJP), more than 40 percent of the seats in parliament. But despite the perception of the Brotherhood as rigid and hard-line, the fact is that even Islamists themselves are not entirely sure what they want.

Women walk past electoral posters of different candidates and a Muslim Brotherhood slogan "Islam is the solution" spray-painted near a polling station during the second day of parliamentary elections in Egypt.

Western observers have placed undue focus on the Muslim Brotherhood's ideology. Yet for most Egyptian political parties, FJP included, beliefs rarely accurately predict behavior. As I argued in the May/June 2011 issue of *Foreign Affairs* ("The Rise of the Islamists"), the Brotherhood -- far from being ideologically inflexible -- is a thoroughly political actor, routinely compromising on ideals to pursue organizational interests. That makes it far more fluid and prepared to change than many now assume.

12045

NO NEED TO FEAR THE RISE OF THE BROTHERHOOD

By ED Husain, Senior Fellow for Middle Eastern Studies, The Times (London) December 15, 2011

<http://www.cfr.org/egypt/no-need-fear-rise-brotherhood/p26812>

I was in Egypt last week to witness the rise of Islam as a political force in the Arab world's most populous country. In the past when I visited Cairo people would only whisper the name of the then-banned Muslim Brotherhood for fear of unwanted attention from the authorities. Not anymore. The movement now stands on the point of sharing power in Egypt and shaping the future of the country and the wider region. The mothership of all Islamist movements, its political offspring have already won office in Gaza, Turkey, Morocco, and Tunisia.

In many ways, the elections in Egypt — the second phase of voting continues today — is a referendum on Islamism. Egyptians told me that they had either voted against the Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party or for it. The Brotherhood has taken to Twitter and other media, and its leaders have done walkabouts at the Pyramids to reassure Egypt and the West that it can be trusted.

12046

PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION SCENARIOS IN EGYPT AND THEIR IMPACT ON U.S.-EGYPTIAN STRATEGIC RELATIONS

By Gregory Aftandilian, Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College, December 2011, 62 pages.

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?PubID=1084>

Although this monograph was written before the pro-democracy demonstrations in Egypt in January 2011, it examines the important question as to who might succeed President Hosni Mubarak by analyzing several possible scenarios and what they would mean for U.S. strategic relations with Egypt. The monograph first describes the importance of Egypt in the Middle East region and gives an overview of the U.S.-Egyptian strategic relationship. It then examines the power structure in Egypt to include the presidency, the military, and the ruling party. The monograph next explores various succession scenarios. Although some of the scenarios outlined in this monograph are no longer viable--for example, President Mubarak is now on trial for complicity in the deaths of protestors during the uprising that resulted in his ouster from power--other scenarios remain plausible, particularly given what we see as the more prominent role of the Egyptian military in this fluid political situation. In addition, some of the possible presidential successors that the author mentions have now risen to higher positions in the Egyptian government. The author also discusses the sensitive issue of the Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's most organized opposition group that is opposed to many U.S. policies. He examines a scenario of a Muslim Brotherhood-dominated government, but notes that this is unlikely to occur unless both the Brotherhood and the Egyptian military split apart.

12047

THOUGHT THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD WAS BAD? MEET EGYPT'S OTHER ISLAMIST PARTY.

By Eric Trager, the New Republic, December 2, 2011.

<http://www.tnr.com/article/politics/98036/egypt-salifist-nour-muslim-brotherhood>

Fayoum, Egypt—The big story from Egypt's parliamentary elections, the first round of which concluded on Tuesday, will likely be the Muslim Brotherhood's impressive victory. But the Brotherhood's anticipated rise from outlawed organization to parliamentary power won't be surprising: the Brotherhood's strong mobilizing capabilities are well known, and Hosni Mubarak often warned the West that its choice was between his autocracy or the Brotherhood's theocracy.

12048

U.S-Egypt Ties on Shifting Sands

Interview with Steven A. Cook, Council on Foreign Relations, February 10, 2012

<http://www.cfr.org/egypt/us-egypt-ties-shifting-sands/p27346>

The Egyptian government's decision to press criminal charges against U.S. citizens working for pro-democracy nongovernmental organizations is threatening to undermine the decades-old U.S.-Egypt relationship. "The deterioration of the relationship between the United States and Egypt was inevitable" after a popular uprising ousted President Hosni Mubarak from power a year ago on February 11, says CFR Senior Fellow Steven A. Cook. The crisis over the U.S. NGOs in Egypt, he says, "suggests that Egyptian military officers, politicians, and others have a domestic political interest in having this fight with the United States."

Cook says the post-Mubarak Egypt wants a different kind of relationship with the United States, one that is free of aid, and recommends that Washington wind down its aid to the country. The Egyptian military's action against the NGOs aimed at promoting democracy also raises questions over the military's intentions and its commitment to a democratic Egypt, Cook notes.

12049

WHY AN UNDEMOCRATIC PARTY IS GOING TO WIN EGYPT'S FIRST DEMOCRATIC ELECTION

By Eric Trager, the New Republic, November 29, 2011.

<http://www.tnr.com/article/world/97879/muslim-brotherhood-democracy-egypt-elections>

Cairo—As expected, many things went wrong on the first day of Egypt's first post-Mubarak parliamentary elections. Ballots arrived late at approximately 900 polling stations and, in a few cases, angry voters held judicial monitors hostage after their ballots failed to arrive. Meanwhile, candidates nationwide scrambled to correct their campaign literature when they found that their numerical ballot placements did not match the numberings that had been announced prior to the election. "His ballot number was supposed to be 127, but in the polling place it's 126!" the nephew of one candidate told me. "Please report this." (Done.) And in many places, lines were incredibly long—including a seven-hour wait for women voters in the relatively wealthy, northern Cairo neighborhood of Heliopolis.

DEMOCRACY & RULE OF LAW

12050

GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION

By William J. Krouse, Congressional Research Service, updated November 7, 2011

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL32842.pdf>

Congress has debated the efficacy and constitutionality of federal regulation of firearms and ammunition, with strong advocates arguing for and against greater gun control. Since March 2011, much of the gun control debate in the 112th Congress has swirled around allegations that the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) mishandled a Phoenix, AZ-based gun trafficking investigation known as “Operation Fast and Furious.” Senator Charles Grassley, ranking minority Member on the Committee on the Judiciary, and Representative Darrell Issa, chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, have issued two joint staff reports on Operation Fast and Furious, and the House committee has held three related hearings. On November 1, 2011, a high-ranking DOJ official testified before the Senate Judiciary’s Crime and Terrorism Subcommittee that he had identified “gun walking” as a potentially risk laden investigative technique in April 2010 in connection with another ATF investigation, Operation Wide Receiver, but failed to inform the Attorney General about the potential risks.

12051

IDENTITY THEFT REPORTED BY HOUSEHOLDS, 2005-2010

Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Dept of Justice, November 2011, 11 pages.

<http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/itrh0510.pdf>

In 2010, 7.0% of households in the United States, or about 8.6 million households, had at least one member age 12 or older who experienced one or more types of identity theft victimization (figure1). This percentage was similar to the 7.3% of households that experienced identity theft in 2009. However, it represented an increase from the 5.5% of households, or 6.4 million households, that were victims of one or more types of identity theft in 2005.

The increase in identity theft victimization from 2005 to 2010 was largely attributable to an increase in the misuse or attempted misuse of existing credit card accounts. During this period, the percentage of households that experienced the misuse of an existing credit card account increased by about 50%, from 2.5% to 3.8%. The percentage of households that experienced the misuse of personal information to open a new account or for another fraudulent purpose declined by about 30%, from 0.9% in 2005 to 0.6% in 2010.

12052

IS THE ARAB SPRING BAD FOR WOMEN?

By Isobel Coleman, Council on Foreign Relations, Foreign Policy, December 20, 2011

<http://www.cfr.org/middle-east/arab-spring-bad-women/p26886>

In many ways, 2011 has been the Year of the Arab Woman. From the earliest days of upheaval that started in Tunisia last December, women have been on the front lines of protest, leading public demonstrations, blogging passionately, covering the unrest as journalists, launching social media campaigns, smuggling munitions, and caring for the wounded. This month, when Tawakkol Karman became the first Arab woman to accept the Nobel Peace Prize, she gave an enthusiastic shout-out to her many Arab sisters who have struggled "to win their rights in a society dominated by the supremacy of men."

12053

LOBBYING THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH: CURRENT PRACTICES AND OPTIONS FOR CHANGE

By Jacob R. Straus, Congressional Research Service updated October 31, 2011, 19 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/178261.pdf>

Under the Lobbying Disclosure Act (LDA) of 1995, as amended, individuals are required to register with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate if they lobby either legislative or executive branch officials. In January 2009, Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner placed further restrictions on the ability of lobbyists to contact executive branch officials responsible for dispersing Emergency Economic Stabilization Act (EESA, P.L. 110-343) funds. Subsequently, President Barack Obama and Peter Orszag, Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), issued a series of memoranda between March and July 2009 that govern communication between federally registered lobbyists and executive branch employees administering American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5) funds. Most recently, in October 2011, OMB published final guidance on the appointment of federally registered lobbyists to federal advisory bodies and committees. The guidance stipulates that federally registered lobbyists be prohibited from serving on advisory committees governed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

12054

PRESIDENTIAL SIGNING STATEMENTS: CONSTITUTIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL IMPLICATIONS

By Todd Garvey, Congressional Research Service, updated January 4, 2012

<https://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/RL33667.pdf>

Presidential signing statements are official pronouncements issued by the President contemporaneously to the signing of a bill into law that, in addition to commenting on the law generally, have been used to forward the President's interpretation of the statutory language; to assert constitutional objections to the provisions contained therein; and, concordantly, to announce that the provisions of the law will be administered in a manner that comports with the administration's conception of the President's constitutional prerogatives.

However, in analyzing the constitutional basis for, and legal effect of, presidential signing statements, it becomes apparent that no constitutional or legal deficiencies adhere to the issuance of such statements in and of themselves. Rather, it appears that the appropriate focus of inquiry in this context is on the assertions of presidential authority contained therein, coupled with an examination of substantive executive action taken or forborne with regard to the provisions of law implicated in a presidential signing statement. Applying this analytical rubric, it seems evident that the issues involved center not on the simple issue of signing statements, but rather on the view of presidential authority that governs the substantive actions of the administration in question. This report focuses on the use of signing statements by recent administrations, with particular emphasis on the Administrations of George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

12055

QUALIFICATIONS FOR PRESIDENT AND THE "NATURAL BORN" ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

By Jack Maskell, Congressional Research Service, November 14, 2011

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42097.pdf>

The Constitution sets out three eligibility requirements to be President: one must be 35 years of age, a resident "within the United States" for 14 years, and a "natural born Citizen." There is no Supreme Court case which has ruled specifically on the presidential eligibility requirements (although several cases have addressed the term "natural born" citizen), and this clause has been the subject of several legal and historical treatises over the years, as well as more recent litigation.

U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES

12056

MAKING THEIR MARK: BLACK WOMEN LEADERS

By eJournal USA, January 2012, 27 pages.

[http://photos.state.gov/libraries/amgov/30145/publications-english/Black Women Leaders eJ.pdf](http://photos.state.gov/libraries/amgov/30145/publications-english/Black_Women_Leaders_eJ.pdf)

This issue of eJournal USA profiles African-American women of the 20th and 21st centuries who have made significant contributions to many spheres of American life. It also offers insights into how earlier generations of African-American women serve as touchstones for the present generation.

12057

THE MUSLIM-AMERICAN MUDDLE

By Peter Skerry, National Affairs, no. 9, Fall 2011.

<http://nationalaffairs.com/publications/detail/the-muslim-american-muddle>

Skerry looks at Muslims in the United States and how Islam has both affected America and how America has affected Islam, especially in terms of political participation. The “muddle” he describes comes from the competing tugs on an individual Muslim’s loyalties to country and to faith, a problem which is greater or smaller depending on that individual’s “denomination” within Islam as well as his ethnicity and national origin. Skerry also examines the histories and roles of various Muslim and Muslim-American organizations.

12058

NOT YOUR GRANDFATHER’S CIVIL WAR COMMEMORATION

By Kevin Levin, The Atlantic, December 13, 2011.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2011/12/not-your-grandfathers-civil-war-commemoration/249920/>

At the conclusion of 2011, the sesquicentennial of the outbreak of the American Civil War, historian Kevin Levin took a close look at how the recent commemoration differed from the centennial commemoration of 1961-65. It is no small indication of what has been called “American exceptionalism” that men whose ancestors fought each other to the death 150 years ago can today sit down in peace to discuss, even argue about, the causes, hold joint memorial services, and recreate the battles, without rancor and in a spirit of historical remembrance of a joint heritage. Few nations are so blessed as to be able and willing to do this.

12059

POLITICAL JOURNALISM: PICKING THE WINNER WHILE THE GAME'S STILL GOING ON

By Rem Rieder, American Journalism Review, December 2011/January 2012.

<http://www.ajr.org/Article.asp?id=5240>

“Overreacting to the momentum of the moment is hardly a new phenomenon,” says Rieder as he discusses the tendency among political journalists, one they share with sportswriters, to emphasize the story of the frontrunner but change directions as soon as something unexpected happens, like the sudden surge of Newt Gingrich as a serious challenger to Mitt Romney after months of a near-consensus among journalists that Romney would be the 2012 Republican nominee. Part of the problem is the 24/7 news coverage available on cable TV. Rieder argues that citizens should resist the steady drumbeat “because the constant stream of premature if not erroneous conclusions, the dizzying whipsawing, does nothing but diminish the already sagging credibility of the news media.”

12060

THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM

By eJournal USA, January 2012, 21 pages.

http://photos.state.gov/libraries/amgov/30145/publications-english/The_Spirit_of_Volunteerism_eJ.pdf

Americans have a long history of helping others for no financial gain. Devoting one's time and energy for the greater good is seen in countless ways across America daily. This issue illustrates some of the ways that Americans volunteer, such as firefighters, health workers and computer experts. eJournal USA is an electronic journal of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of International Information Programs.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY & TRADE ISSUES

12061

BEHIND THE DECLINE IN LABOR'S SHARE OF INCOME

By Margaret Jacobson and Filippo Occhino. Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Economic Trends, February 3, 2012

<http://www.clevelandfed.org/research/trends/2012/0212/01gropro.cfm>

Labor income, which includes wages, salaries, and benefits, has been declining as a share of total income earned in the U.S. Here, we look at the cyclical and long-run factors behind this development.

Labor and capital both contribute to the production of goods and services in the economy, and each gets compensated with income in return. The share of total income accruing to labor, the labor income share, is a closely watched indicator because it can affect a wide range of other important macroeconomic variables, such as income distribution, human capital accumulation, the composition of aggregate demand, and tax revenue.

12062

THE CHANGING TIDE OF U.S.-INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER TRADE: DIFFERENCES AMONG THE U.S. ATLANTIC, GULF, AND PACIFIC COASTS

Bureau of Transportation Statistics, U.S. Dept of Transportation, December 2011, 6 pages.

http://www.bts.gov/publications/special_reports_and_issue_briefs/special_report/2011_12_32/pdf/entire.pdf

This BTS special report examines historical U.S. maritime trends, changes in U.S. trading partners, and current U.S. marine trade patterns. More specifically, it compares container vessel calls, container vessel capacity, and the average deadweight tonnage of vessels calling at U.S. Pacific Coast seaports¹ and, increasingly, along the U.S. Atlantic² and Gulf Coasts.³

The report highlights the typical container port and terminal construction projects recently completed along the Pacific Coast by the United States, China, and other U.S. trading partners. In addition, the report shows the U.S. population center, which has a historical relationship with the location and cargo flow of major U.S. seaports.

12063

FIVE ECONOMIC TRENDS TO WATCH IN 2012

Views of five experts, Council on Foreign Relations, December 27, 2011

<http://www.cfr.org/economics/five-economic-trends-watch-2012/p26903>

Amid an uncertain global economic climate, six economics experts identify the most important trends to watch in 2012, with uncertainty being a recurrent theme.

The Brookings Institution's Gary Burtless identifies U.S. political polarization and the subsequent lack of a strong and coherent policy response to the current economic slump. CFR's Michael Spence pinpoints global volatility, with the center of risk in Europe. The Carnegie Endowment's Yukon Huang says China's growth trajectory would be lower in 2012, and its economic policies tested when a new generation of leaders takes power.

12064

THE GLOBAL FINANCE REGIME

Backgrounder, Council on Foreign Relations, updated January 23, 2012

<http://www.cfr.org/us-strategy-and-politics/global-finance-regime/p20177>

For twenty-five years, globalization produced unprecedented levels of both economic growth and economic risk. Financial markets became more open, which allowed firms and governments to invest more freely. But as global finance grew bigger, it also grew more complex. Faster-flowing capital became more volatile, and economic risk became harder to track. Domestic regulators struggled to keep up with evolving financial practices, many of which they did not fully understand. To make matters worse, most national governments refused to cede regulatory authority to a global system, limiting the extent of international oversight over global markets. International cooperation was based on a patchwork of often ad hoc arrangements with limited scope and coercive power. One result was an explosion of systemic banking crises, with more than 120 (PDF) taking place between 1970 and 2007. By the spring of 2008, policymakers who were disheartened by the severe impact of these crises began expressing anxiety about the lack of effective regulation of the global financial system, which former U.S. Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers said had generated "over one major crisis every three years."

12065

JOB CREATION BY SMALL AND LARGE FIRMS OVER THE BUSINESS CYCLE

By Murat Tasci and Emily Burgen. Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Economic Trends, February 6, 2012

<http://www.clevelandfed.org/research/trends/2012/0212/01labmar.cfm>

The Great Recession caused establishments of all sizes to make significant cuts in their employment. To get a picture of those losses, we turn to the Business Employment Dynamics (BED) data collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the best data to look at for employment gains and losses at the establishment level. BED data provides gross job gains and losses at the establishment level going back to the early 1990s and breaks down the data to several size categories. We aggregate those categories into three classes to simplify our analysis: small firms (1-49 employees), medium size firms (50-499), and large firms (500 and more employees).

12066

RESTORING U.S. COMPETITIVENESS: CREATING JOBS AND UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL OF SMALL BUSINESSES THROUGH TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

By Center for Public Policy Innovation, February 2012, 12 pages.

http://www.cppionline.org/images/CPPI_2012_FINAL.pdf

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and they are responsible for two-thirds of the 40 million jobs created in the United States over the past 30 years. Small businesses are also our nation's greatest source of innovation; and they are vital to maintaining our economic competitiveness, especially as nations worldwide have developed their own economic might by emulating America's entrepreneurial culture.

While the United States does not lack great ideas, the innovative spirit that enabled us to become a well-respected case study for economic success in the twentieth century now faces an uncertain future. The environment for the American entrepreneurial ethos is increasingly stifled and the consequences of simply adhering to the status quo are far reaching.

12067

U.S. TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA: OVERVIEW AND ISSUES FOR CONGRESS

By Rebecca M. Nelson, Congressional Research Service, January 20, 2012, 41 pages.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42153.pdf>

In order to support democratic political transitions and stability in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), policymakers in Congress and elsewhere are discussing potentially using U.S. trade and investment to bolster long-term economic growth in the region. For example, President Obama has called for the creation of a "Trade and Investment Partnership Initiative" in the MENA region and some Members of Congress have called for deeper economic ties with Arab countries undergoing profound change. This report analyzes policy approaches that the Congress might consider concerning U.S.-MENA trade and investment.

12068

U.S. TRADE POLICY

Backgrounder by Christopher Alessi and Robert McMahon, Council on Foreign Relations, February 3, 2012

<http://www.cfr.org/trade/us-trade-policy/p17859>

While trade accounts for an increasing percentage of U.S. economic output--at 25 percent--U.S. trade as a percentage of GDP is lower than that of every other developed country in the world besides Japan. As the forces of globalization have reshaped the global economy, there has been increasing resistance to trade liberalization within the United States.

Many in the American labor movement argue that free trade, which they view as unregulated, disenfranchises U.S. workers by outsourcing jobs overseas. Advocates say that expanding free trade will create new U.S. jobs by opening up U.S. exports to a range of foreign markets, boosting competitiveness. While President Barack Obama has sympathized with U.S. labor concerns, his administration has also increasingly turned to trade liberalization to boost U.S. economic recovery in the wake of the Great Recession. Late in 2011, the administration ratified stalled free trade agreements (FTAs) negotiated by the Bush administration while placing fresh emphasis on negotiating a multilateral free trade agreement in the Pacific region.

12069

WHAT DO FINANCIAL MARKET INDICATORS TELL US?

Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis, Liber8 Economic Information Newsletter, January 2012, 3 pages.

<http://liber8.stlouisfed.org/newsletter/2012/Lib0112.pdf>

Financial market data are reported daily in the news—usually as prices, indexes, or interest rates. While these data provide direct information (e.g., a Treasury bill pays 2 percent interest), they also give some indication of future economic growth, inflation, and financial market stability. Changes in these data can also affect decisions about consumer spending, educational loans, and retirement plans. Financial markets are important in everyday life because making good business decisions is difficult without understanding how key financial indicators behave. Popular financial indicators usually fall into four categories: commodity prices, stock indexes, interest rates, and yield spreads (the difference between two interest rates).

12070

WHY IS THE U.S. SHARE OF WORLD MERCHANDISE EXPORTS SHRINKING?

By Benjamin R. Mandel. Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Current Issues in Economics and Finance, Volume 18, Number 1, 2012, 11 pages.

http://www.newyorkfed.org/research/current_issues/ci18-1.pdf

There is a short summary at http://www.newyorkfed.org/research/current_issues/ci18-1.html and a press release, “Down, but Not Out: U.S. Remains Competitive in Global Trade”, February 7, 2012, at

<http://www.newyorkfed.org/newsevents/news/research/2012/rp120207.html>

As the U.S. share of the world goods trade slips from its level in the 1980s and 1990s, concerns have arisen that the productivity of U.S. exporters has not been growing as fast as that of foreign firms selling similar products. However, an analysis of industry-level trade data suggests that two other factors explain much of the drop in export share: the changing composition of the products traded internationally and the diminished share of U.S. GDP in global output. Declining relative productivity may have played a role in the early 2000s, but it has not been a large factor across industries over the longer term. Overall, there is little evidence of a broad-based decline in the nation's ability to compete in global markets.

GLOBAL & ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

12071

GLOBAL NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION DOUBLED BETWEEN 1980 AND 2010

Energy Information Administration, U.S. Dept of Energy, January 31, 2012

<http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=4790>

Global dry natural gas production increased 110% between 1980 and 2010, from 53 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) in 1980 to 112 Tcf in 2010. The combined share of North America and the Former Soviet Union—the top two producing regions during the time period—fell from 72% in 1980 to 49% in 2010. While all regions increased natural gas production between 1980 and 2010, the Middle East grew most rapidly, increasing more than eleven-fold.

12072

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

By Curt Tarnoff, Congressional Research Service, updated January 10, 2012, 46 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/183727.pdf>

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) provides economic assistance through a competitive selection process to developing nations that demonstrate positive performance in three areas: ruling justly, investing in people, and fostering economic freedom. Established in 2004, the MCC differs in several respects from past and current U.S. aid practices:

- The competitive process that rewards countries for past actions measured by objective performance indicators;
- The pledge to segregate the funds from U.S. strategic foreign policy objectives that often strongly influence where U.S. aid is spent;
- Its mandate to seek poverty reduction through economic growth not encumbered with multiple sector objectives;
- The requirement to solicit program proposals developed solely by qualifying countries with broad-based civil society involvement;
- The responsibility of recipient countries to implement their own MCC-funded programs, known as compacts;
 - a compact duration limited to five years, with funding committed up front;
 - The expectation that compact projects will have measurable impact;
 - An emphasis on public transparency in every aspect of agency operations.

12073

NUCLEAR POWER PLANT DESIGN AND SEISMIC SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

By Anthony Andrews and Peter Folger, Congressional Research Service, January 12, 2012, 42 pages.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41805.pdf>

The earthquake and subsequent tsunami that devastated Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station and the earthquake that forced the North Anna, VA, nuclear power plant's temporary shutdown have focused attention on the seismic criteria applied to siting and designing commercial nuclear power plants. Some Members of Congress have questioned whether U.S. nuclear plants are more vulnerable to seismic threats than previously assessed, particularly given the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) ongoing reassessment of seismic risks at certain plant sites.

The design and operation of commercial nuclear power plants operating in the United States vary considerably because most were custom-designed and custom-built. Boiling water reactors (BWRs) directly generate steam inside the reactor vessel. Pressurized water reactors (PWRs) use heat exchangers to convert the heat generated by the reactor core into steam outside of the reactor vessel. U.S. utilities currently operate 104 nuclear power reactors at 65 sites in 31 states; 69 are PWR designs and the 35 are BWR designs.

12074

RESOLVING THE FOOD CRISIS: ASSESSING GLOBAL POLICY REFORMS SINCE

2007

By Sophia Murphy and Timothy A. Wise, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, January 2012, 39 pages.

<http://iatp.org/documents/resolving-the-food-crisis-assessing-global-policy-reforms-since-2007>

See the IATP blog at <http://iatp.org/blog/201201/resolving-the-food-crisis-global-leaders-fail-to-make-crucial-reforms>

The recent spikes in global food-prices in 2007-08 served as a wake-up call to the global community on the inadequacies of our global food system. Commodity prices doubled, the estimated number of hungry people topped one billion and food riots spread through the developing world. A second price spike in 2010-11, which is expected to drive the global food import bill for 2011 to an astonishing \$1.3 trillion, only deepened the sense that the policies and principles guiding agricultural development and food security were deeply flawed.

12075

UNITED NATIONS REFORM: U.S. POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

By Luisa Blanchfield, Congressional Research Service, updated December 21, 2011, 33 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/180688.pdf>

Since its establishment in 1945, the United Nations (U.N.) has been in a constant state of transition as various international stakeholders seek ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the U.N. system. Controversies such as corruption in the Iraq Oil-For-Food Program; allegations of sexual abuse by U.N. peacekeepers; and instances of waste, fraud, and abuse by U.N. staff have focused renewed attention on the need for change and improvement of the United Nations.

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

12076

CYBER-SECURITY: THE VEXED QUESTION OF GLOBAL RULES: AN INDEPENDENT REPORT ON CYBER-PREPAREDNESS AROUND THE WORLD

Security & Defence Agenda, Brussels, 2012, 108 pages.

http://www.securitydefenceagenda.org/Portals/14/Documents/Publications/SDA_Cyber_report_FINAL.pdf

This report is published as part of the Security & Defence Agenda's (SDA) cyber-security initiative. It is intended as a snapshot of current thinking around the world on the policy issues still to be resolved, and will form the basis of SDA debates and future research during 2012.

This report is made up of a survey of some 250 leading authorities worldwide and of interviews carried out in late 2011 and early 2012 with over 80 cyber-security experts in government, companies, international organizations and academia. It offers a global snapshot of current thinking about the cyber-threat and the measures that should be taken to defend against it, and assesses the way ahead. It is aimed at the influential layperson, and deliberately avoids specialized language.

12077

MAPPING THE MAL WEB: THE WORLD'S RISKIEST DOMAINS

McAfee, November 2011

http://us.mcafee.com/en-us/local/docs/MTMW_Report.pdf

Bonanza or botnet? Next time you search for a celebrity photo or “how to” hint, pay special attention to the top-level domains (TLDs), the last few characters at the end of the URL in the search results. In this year's Mapping the Mal Web study, McAfee found that web risk climbed to a record 6.2% of more than 27 million live domains we evaluated for this report. If users don't click with care, simply viewing a page can return much more than they bargained for. This year, more websites contain malicious code that steals passwords and identity information, takes advantage of security holes in browsers, or secretly installs the ingredients that turn computers into zombies.

In this fourth annual analysis of the relative risk of TLDs, McAfee has found overall web risk is up from last year. We saw increasing risk in some already risky portions of the web, such as .INFO; some significant reductions in risk within last year's riskiest TLDs, especially Singapore (.SG) and Venezuela (.VE); and some new areas of concern, including Vietnam (.VN), Armenia (.AM), and Poland (.PL).

12078

MADE IN HEAVEN OR MARRIAGE FROM HELL? SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE FINANCE SECTOR

Cicero Consulting, January 2012, 28 pages.

http://www.cicero-group.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/Cicero_SoMe_Report_200112_Web.pdf

While many businesses have embraced social media, the relationship between the finance sector and social media holds many similarities to teenagers and sex. Many people are talking about it, a few are doing it and those that are, aren't doing it that well, with one or two exceptions.

While many businesses have embraced social media, the relationship between the financial sector and social media holds many similarities to that between teenagers and sex; many people are talking about it, a few are doing it and those that are, aren't doing it that well (with one or two exceptions).

Many say the financial sector is different to other sectors and this is why it is reluctant to engage in social media - the marketing of financial products is strictly regulated, while the financial crisis has exacerbated industry concern about a potential consumer backlash online. But these arguments can no longer be used as an excuse to curtail the activities of the financial sector in utilizing social media. In other sectors, businesses are successfully and creatively utilizing social media and it is fast becoming part of their communications armory.

12079

TECH TRENDS 2012: ELEVATE IT FOR DIGITAL BUSINESS

Deloitte, February 2012, 79 pages.

http://www.deloitte.com/assets/Dcom-UnitedStates/Local%20Assets/Documents/us_cons_techtrends2012_013112.pdf

Even today, business leaders may dismiss the potential of social business, either relegating it to the realm of Internet marketing or ignoring the buzz as a passing fad. But that's changing as boomers evolve into digital natives, millennials permeate the workforce and social media becomes a part of daily life. The doors are now open for social business.

Leading enterprises today are applying social technologies like collaboration, communication and content management to social networks - the connected web of people and assets that impact on a given business goal or outcome - amplified by social media from blogs to social networking sites to content communities. Yet it's more than tools and technology. Businesses are being fundamentally changed as leaders rethink their core processes and capabilities with a social mindset to find new ways to create more value, faster.

12080

TEXTING, SOCIAL NETWORKING POPULAR WORLDWIDE

By Pew Global Attitudes Project, December 20, 2011

<http://www.pewglobal.org/2011/12/20/global-digital-communication-texting-social-networking-popular-worldwide/>

Two kinds of digital communication that have grown increasingly popular in the United States -- texting with cell phones and use of social networks -- are also popular in many places around the world.

Text messaging is a global phenomenon. Across the 21 countries surveyed by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project, a median of 75% of cell phone owners say they text. Texting is widespread in both wealthy nations and the developing world. In fact, it is most common among cell phone owners in two of the poorest nations surveyed: Indonesia and Kenya.

The survey, conducted March 21 to May 15, also finds that social networking is popular in many nations around the globe. This is especially true in Israel (53%) and the U.S. (50%), where half or more say they use social networking websites. More than four-in-ten use these sites in Britain (43%), Russia (43%) and Spain (42%). Social networking is generally more common in higher income nations largely due to the fact that wealthier countries have higher rates of internet access.

Read the full report for more about how the use of digital communications varies by a population's wealth, age distribution and education.

12081

U.S. GOVERNMENT CLOUD COMPUTING TECHNOLOGY ROADMAP, VOLUME I:

http://www.nist.gov/itl/cloud/upload/SP_500_293_volumeI-2.pdf

U.S. GOVERNMENT CLOUD COMPUTING TECHNOLOGY ROADMAP, VOLUME II: USEFUL INFORMATION FOR CLOUD ADOPTERS

http://www.nist.gov/itl/cloud/upload/SP_500_293_volumeII.pdf

By National Institute of Standards and Technology, November 2011.

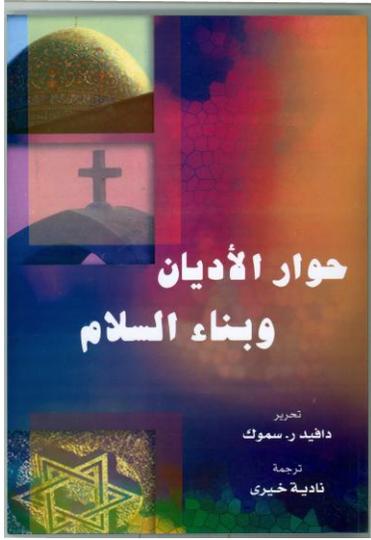
The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), consistent with its mission,¹ has a technology leadership role in support of United States Government (USG) secure and effective adoption of the Cloud Computing model² to reduce costs and improve services. This role is described in the 2011 Federal Cloud Computing Strategy³ as "... a central one in defining and advancing standards, and collaborating with USG Agency CIOs, private sector experts, and international bodies to identify and reach consensus on cloud computing technology & standardization priorities.||

This NIST Cloud Computing program and initiative to develop a USG Cloud Computing Technology Roadmap is one of several complementary and parallel USG initiatives defined in the broader Federal Cloud Computing Strategy referenced above.

The Federal Cloud Computing Strategy characterizes cloud computing as a —profound economic and technical shift (with) great potential to reduce the cost of federal Information Technology (IT) systems while ... improving IT capabilities and stimulating innovation in IT solutions.||

In the technology vision of Federal Cloud Computing Strategy success, USG agencies will be able to easily locate desired IT services in a mature and competitive marketplace, rapidly procure access to these services, and use them to deliver innovative mission solutions. Cloud services will be secure, interoperable, and reliable. Agencies will be able to switch between providers easily and with minimal cost, and receive equal or superior services.

TRANSLATED BOOKS



حوار الأديان وبناء السلام

تحرير : دافيد ر. سموك

ترجمة : نادية خيري

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE AND PEACEBUILDING

David R. Smock, Editor

Translated by: Nadia Khairy

اكتشف المشاركون في هذا الكتاب من المسيحيين والمسلمين واليهود بأنفسهم أن أفضل دور يؤديه الدين هو تعزيز السلام وليس ايقاد نار الحرب وتوصل الكتاب إلى أنه نادراً ما يكون الدين السبب الرئيسي للصراع الدولي بالرغم من أن بعض المعارضين قد يذكرون ما هو مخالف لذلك، ولكن كثيراً ما يكون الدين لا يقدر بثمن في تنمية التفاهم والمصالحة و أصبح الاحتياج لاستغلال هذه الإمكانيات أعظم من أي وقت مضى. إن الرسالة الجوهرية لهذا الكتاب هي التأكيد على أن حوار الإديان يمكن استخدامه كوسيلة فعالة لدفع بناء السلام قدماً ، إلا أن من يخرط في حوار الإديان خلال المواقف التي تشهد نزاعات خطيرة يدرك مدى الصعوبات التي تتعلق بتنظيم وإدارة حوار مثمر للأديان. والحقيقة أننا واجهنا العديد من جلسات حوار الأديان تدهور فيها الموقف إلى مباريات في الصياح مما دعانا لكتابة هذا الكتاب الذي يتضمن التوصيات التي يمكن من خلالها جعل جلسات حوار الأديان أكثر إثماراً.

وبالتنظيم الجيد لحوار الأديان يمكن أن يغذى التزام عميق على كافة مستويات القيادات الدينية بما في ذلك المستوى المجتمعي، ويستمد القوة من التقاليد الرامية للسلام والتي تشترك فيها عقائد كثيرة.

RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH

- **THE ANWAR SADAT CHAIR FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT**
<http://sadat.umd.edu/index.htm>
- **Competitive Intelligence: A Selective Resource Guide** , LLRX.com, updated December 2011
<http://www.llrx.com/features/ciguide.htm>
- **NextGov: The Feed – “what government is twittering now”**
<http://www.nextgov.com/thefeed/?page=2>
- **Competitive Intelligence: A Selective Resource Guide** , LLRX.com, updated December 2011
<http://www.llrx.com/features/ciguide.htm>
- **Commemorating 150 Years of Foreign Relations** , Office of the Historian, U.S. Dept of State, 2011
<http://history.state.gov/frus150> (about the series *Foreign Relations of the United States*)
- **2012 Presidential election campaign – home page for The Green Papers material on the 2012 campaign, candidates, dates, etc**
<http://www.thegreenpapers.com/P12/>



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