



Foreign Policy -- Defense -- Documents on the web -- October 2010

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THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL: AN ORGANIZATIONAL ASSESSMENT

By Richard A. Best Jr. Congressional Research Service. September 23, 2010. 39 pages.
<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/150195.pdf>

WAR POWERS RESOLUTION: PRESIDENTIAL COMPLIANCE

By Richard F. Grimmett. Congressional Research Service. September 23, 2010. 21 pages.
<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/150170.pdf>

IRAN: U.S. CONCERNS AND POLICY RESPONSES

By Kenneth Katzman. Congressional Research Service. September 22, 2010. 70 pages.
<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/150171.pdf>

AMERICAN JIHADIST TERRORISM: COMBATING A COMPLEX THREAT

By Jerome P. Bjelopera, Mark A. Randol. Congressional Research Service. September 20, 2010. 128 pages.
<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/148788.pdf>

THE NEW START TREATY: CENTRAL LIMITS AND KEY PROVISIONS

By Amy F. Woolf. Congressional Research Service. September 20, 2010. 34 pages.
<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/150174.pdf>

DEFENSE: FY2011 AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATIONS

By Pat Towell. Congressional Research Service. September 17, 2010. 69 pages.
<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/150175.pdf>

U.S. FOREIGN AID TO ISRAEL

By Jeremy M. Sharp. Congressional Research Service. September 16, 2010. 32 pages.
<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/150165.pdf>

AFGHANISTAN: POLITICS, ELECTIONS, AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

By Kenneth Katzman. Congressional Research Service. September 14, 2010. 49 pages.
<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/150183.pdf>

U.S. PERIODS OF WAR

By Barbara Salazar Torreon. Congressional Research Service. September 14, 2010. 10 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/150164.pdf>

CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS TO DEVELOPING NATIONS, 2002-2009

By Richard F. Grimmett. Congressional Research Service. September 10, 2010. 89 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/147273.pdf>

U.S. INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE GLOBAL INTERNET FREEDOM: ISSUES, POLICY, AND TECHNOLOGY

By Patricia Moloney Figliola, Kennon H. Nakamura, Casey L. Addis, Thomas Lum. Congressional Research Service. September 8, 2010. 26 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/148797.pdf>

THE COST OF IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, AND OTHER GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR OPERATIONS SINCE 9/11

By Amy Belasco. Congressional Research Service. September 2, 2010. 57 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/150178.pdf>

U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON

By Casey L. Addis. Congressional Research Service. September 1, 2010. 17 pages.

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/148787.pdf>

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The opinions expressed in these publications do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government.

AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

THE STRAINED U.S.-PAKISTAN ALLIANCE

By Jayshree Bajoria. Council on Foreign Relations. October 22, 2010.

http://www.cfr.org/publication/23210/strained_ustakistan_alliance.html

Strategic dialogue meetings between senior Pakistani and U.S. officials concluded with plans to cooperate on a range of issues including agriculture, electricity, and health. The meetings came amid growing tensions in the U.S.-Pakistan relationship. Last month, Pakistan closed a strategically important border (LAT) with Afghanistan, sharply disrupting U.S. and NATO supply lines, in protest of the killing of three Pakistani paramilitary troops by attack helicopters of the international forces in Afghanistan. And the Obama administration is

frustrated with what it sees as Pakistan's unwillingness to go after the Haqqani network and the Afghan Taliban--the terrorist groups considered most dangerous to the U.S. war effort in Afghanistan.

STAYING POWER: THE U.S. MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN BEYOND 2011

By Michael E. O'Hanlon. The Brookings Institution. September 2010.

http://www.brookings.edu/articles/2010/0825_afghanistan_ohanlon.aspx

Nine years ago, the United States worked with Afghanistan's Northern Alliance to overthrow the Taliban government in Kabul. The world was united, the cause for war was clear.

Today, the war in Afghanistan is a controversial conflict. Over the years, the U.S. mission has lost much of its clarity of purpose. This article was originally published in the September/October 2010 issue of Foreign Affairs.

ASIA

THE U.S.-INDIA RELATIONSHIP

By Eswar Prasad. The Brookings Institution. November 4, 2010. 9 pages.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2010/1104_india_prasad/1104_india_prasad.pdf

There are natural alliances between the two countries on a range of economic and political issues, but the relationship still needs some careful nurturing. This visit by President Obama provides an opportunity to build trust and convince Indian leaders that the U.S. has a genuine interest in promoting a more cooperative approach on issues where the two sides agree and dealing with some irritants in the relationship. The nature of the strategic relationship between the U.S. and India could play an important role in shaping a number of international policy debates, especially as the U.S. sees India as a counterweight to China.

INDIA'S FLAWED NUCLEAR LEGISLATION LEAVES U.S.-INDIA PARTNERSHIP SHORT

By Lisa Curtis. The Heritage Foundation. August 31, 2010. 2 pages.

http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2010/pdf/wm2997.pdf

India's parliament passed a flawed civil nuclear liability law --one that threatens to cast a pall over the historic U.S.-- India civil nuclear deal. The deal, which involved the U.S. spearheading a contentious international push to provide India access to nuclear fuel and technology for the first time in 35 years, is seen as the bedrock for the developing strategic partnership between the U.S. and India.

CHINA

CHINA'S VIEW OF SOUTH ASIA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN

By Dean Cheng. The Heritage Foundation. August 31, 2010. 11 pages.

http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2010/pdf/hl1163.pdf

The Indian Ocean is becoming increasingly important to China's economic and security interests. China appears to be pursuing what has been widely characterized as a "string of pearls" strategy of cultivating India's neighbors as friendly states, both to protect its economic and security interests and to balance a "rising India." With Chinese influence in the region growing, it is essential that the U.S. not fall behind in the Indian Ocean, but maintain a steady presence in the region, both to signal its resolve to stay engaged and to avoid the difficulties of reentering a region.

CHES ON THE HIGH SEAS: DANGEROUS TIMES FOR U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

By Michael Mazza. American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. August 2010. 8 pages.

<http://www.aei.org/docLib/AO-Mazza-Aug-2010-g.pdf>

The Obama administration's hopes that its warmer approach to Beijing would yield a more fruitful Sino-American relationship have been disappointed. Rather than adopting a more cooperative bearing, Beijing has become increasingly assertive over the past year. Recognizing the resulting detriment to U.S. interests and Asia-Pacific peace and security, the Obama administration is now pushing back. This new direction may convince Beijing to reconsider its recent assertive policies, but for now, the United States and China have entered a period of tense relations, raising the odds of a true crisis.

DEFENSE

THE UNCERTAIN COST OF WAR(S): PROBLEMS FOR NATIONAL SECURITY SPENDING, COST CALCULATION, AND FUTURE PLANS

By Anthony H. Cordesman. Center for Strategic and International Studies. October 12, 2010. 110 pages.

http://csis.org/files/publication/101011_FY2011.UncertCostofWar.pdf

The U.S. must make hard choices over the coming year. One will be whether to try turn largely tactical victories in the Iraq War into lasting grand strategic gains by supporting an enduring strategic partnership with Iraq after US forces withdraw at the end of 2011. The other will be whether to fund the full-scale effort necessary to succeed in Afghanistan and Pakistan could double the current level of casualties and raise the total operating cost of these efforts from some \$455 billion through FY2010 to some \$937 billion through FY2020. This briefing is not designed to support any given viewpoint about the wars. It is designed as a reference aid to help show the costs to date and to provide a range of guesstimates of the costs of pursuing each conflict.

STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE: HOW TO REDUCE MILITARY SPENDING WHILE KEEPING OUR NATION SAFE

By Lawrence J. Korb, Laura Conley. Center for American Progress. September 23, 2010. 30 pages.

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/09/pdf/defensecuts.pdf>

President Barack Obama has made it clear in his speeches and in his own national security strategy that this nation's ability to protect its interests around the world depends upon a healthy economy at home. The president noted in a speech to the graduating class at West Point earlier this year that "our strength and influence abroad begins with the steps we take at home ... Simply put, American innovation must be a foundation of American power -- because at no time in human history has a nation of diminished economic vitality maintained its military and political primacy."

EUROPE

THE U.S. TAKES "NEW EUROPE" FOR GRANTED AT ITS OWN PERIL

By Helle Dale and Ariel Cohen. The Heritage Foundation. October 21, 2010. 13 pages.

http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2010/pdf/bg2478.pdf

The nations of "New Europe" have been staunch allies of the United States in the aftermath of 9/11, and have sacrificed resources and soldiers' lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. Again and again, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) have shown their steadfastness and commitment to the United States. Yet America has not always returned the favor. CEE citizens have taken note, and public support for the U.S. and its policies has begun to waver. The U.S. must not take support from New Europe for granted. They must act now to preserve the crucial relationship with Central and Eastern Europe.

IRAN

PARIAHS IN TEHRAN

By Kenneth M. Pollack. Saban Center for Middle East Policy. The Brookings Institution.

October 28, 2010. 44 pages.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/articles/2010/11_iran_pollack/11_iran_pollack.pdf

The most interesting thing about the Obama administration's Iran policy is that it is working, but it probably isn't going to work. The United States has achieved some truly remarkable feats in pursuit of the White House's Iran policy over the course of the past twelve months, achievements many critics from left, right and center all thought impossible. With perseverance and perspicacity, and some help from the stupidity of the Islamic Republic's leadership, Washington has secured widespread backing in Europe, East Asia and the Middle East for imposing various new sanctions on the country.

STATE SPONSORS: IRAN

By Greg Bruno. Council on Foreign Relations. October 7, 2010.

http://www.cfr.org/publication/9362/state_sponsors.html

The U.S. State Department considers Iran the world's "most active state sponsor of terrorism." U.S. officials say Iran provides funding, weapons, training, and sanctuary to numerous terrorist groups, posing a security concern to the international community. Iran's

declarations that it has successfully enriched uranium and developed new missile technology have heightened alarm in the United States and other countries that the Islamic Republic might transfer weapons of mass destruction (PDF) to militants or armed groups. Iran's leaders, who deny allegations they support terrorism (DerSpiegel), assert their rights under an international treaty to pursue nuclear power and insist their efforts are for peaceful purposes. But the international community remains unconvinced, imposing a growing list of sanctions against Tehran.

IRAQ

SADR'S ACT II AS IRAQ'S KINGMAKER

By Mohamad Bazzi. Council on Foreign Relations. October 29, 2010.

http://www.cfr.org/publication/23291/sadrs_act_ii_as_iraq_kingmaker.html

The bad boy of Iraqi politics, anti-American Shi'ite cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr, is once again positioning himself as kingmaker -- this time in forming a government and the selection of a new prime minister.

THE U.S. TRANSITION IN IRAQ: IRAQI FORCES AND U.S. MILITARY AID

By Anthony H. Cordesman. Center for Strategic and International Studies. October 20, 2010. 61 pages.

http://csis.org/files/publication/101019_IraqiForcesMilAid.pdf

The U.S. and Iraq both face critical decisions in shaping their strategic partnership in the Gulf. Iraq is making major progress in creating effective security forces, but it faces serious problems that will delay its development of effective counterinsurgency and counterterrorism forces, its ability to transition to effective civil police capabilities, and the creation of the kind of conventional forces that can deter and defend against foreign threats.

MIDDLE EAST

A WAY PAST MIDDLE EAST DEADLOCK

Interview with Sari Nusseibeh, President, Al-Quds University, Jerusalem. Council on Foreign Relations. October 29, 2010.

http://www.cfr.org/publication/23276/way_past_middle_east_deadlock.html

With the renewal of settlement building in Israel's West Bank and Palestinian refusal to acknowledge Israel as a "Jewish state," negotiations between the two sides seem to be at a stalemate. Al Quds University President Sari Nusseibeh, a longtime proponent of a two-state solution, says he recommended to President Barack Obama that the United States introduce a "vision" for a deal that would be put to a plebiscite vote for Israelis and an electoral vote for Palestinians.

NAVIGATING POLITICAL CURRENTS TO ACHIEVE MIDDLE EAST PEACE

By David Halperin, Matthew Duss. Center for American Progress. September 24, 2010. 22 pages.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/09/pdf/israel_trip_report.pdf

Israelis and Palestinians launched direct negotiations on September 1 after more than a year of U.S. efforts to bring them to the negotiating table. The fate of the direct talks between Israelis and Palestinians will be significantly determined by the extent to which the leaders on each side are able and willing to navigate the constraints of their respective domestic politics. It is also clear that the renewed Israeli-Palestinian negotiations will require sustained and determined U.S. involvement from the onset even though the United States is in the thick of its own mid-term elections.

MISCELLANEOUS

WIKILEAKS AND THE REAL FACE OF MODERN WAR

By Anthony H. Cordesman. Center for Strategic and International Studies. October 24, 2010. 15 pages.

http://csis.org/files/publication/101025_Wikileaks.pdf

There is no easy way to put the flood of information Wikileaks has released in context. The fact is that asymmetric warfare is inherently horrible, causes numerous civilian casualties, leads to inevitable abuses on both sides, and presents constant dilemmas in dealing with local allies that are not subject to U.S. command and discipline. There also will always be rogue and inexperienced units and soldiers in the U.S. and all other armies that commit crimes and push military engagement to extremes that cause unnecessary casualties. One can legislate the laws of war, and investigate human rights abuses until hell freezes over, and this will still be the reality of war.

A CASH-STRAPPED US FACES DIMINISHED POLITICAL CLOUD: THE U.S. CAN NO LONGER AFFORD GRAND FOREIGN-POLICY INITIATIVES

By Michael Mandelbaum. YaleGlobal Online. A Publication of Yale Center for the Study of Globalization. August 31, 2010.

<http://www.yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/us-faces-diminished-political-cloud>

The U.S. continues to confront record budget deficits, high unemployment rates, stagnant revenues and global recession -- with no clear end in sight. Individual citizens, worried about rising taxes and health-care costs as well as cuts to traditional programs for the elderly, want to cut spending. Such a bleak economic outlook results in reduced U.S. expenditures on foreign products or support for foreign-policy initiatives that drain the budget. Other nations can no longer expect the U.S. to serve as a global policeman, providing a check against historical or emerging hostilities, warns author Michael Mandelbaum. No other country stands ready to step into the U.S. role. Some leaders and nations may take advantage of the vacuum; others could rally as a group, cooperating on security or assistance priorities. Willingness to prepare for such global action has yet to be seen.

NATO

THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION MUST PUSH FOR MACEDONIA'S ACCESSION TO NATO AT THE LISBON SUMMIT

By Sally McNamara and Morgan Roach. The Heritage Foundation. October 14, 2010. 3 pages.

http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2010/pdf/wm3037.pdf

On November 19, NATO leaders will meet in Lisbon for a formal heads-of-state summit. The dominant issue for the United States will be the adoption of NATO's new Strategic Concept, the first of the new millennium. However, the Obama Administration should also throw its weight behind further expansion of the alliance, especially Macedonia's accession.

NUCLEAR

AN ALTERNATIVE TO NEW START

By Baker Spring. The Heritage Foundation. September 21, 2010. 11 pages.

http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2010/pdf/bg2471.pdf

Finding an effective alternative to New START should begin by recognizing that today's world of emerging new independent nuclear weapons powers demands a different concept of strategic deterrence than the retaliation-based deterrence of the Cold War. An effective alternative could be negotiated as a follow-on treaty to the Moscow Treaty. The new treaty should be based on the protect and defend strategy, which will make arms control more effective and more relevant to today's and tomorrow's security challenges.

RATIFY NEW START: SENSELESS OPPOSITION AND DELAY TO NEW START CARRIES REAL RISKS

By Max Bergmann. Center for American Progress. September 15, 2010.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/09/conservatives_newstart.html

After more than 20 Senate hearings and endless discussion and debate over the specifics of New START, no concerns are legitimate enough to justify a vote in opposition to the treaty. And every day that goes by without a new treaty, the United States loses valuable intelligence on Russia's nuclear forces due to the lack of any verification and monitoring measures. This harms U.S. security and creates an incredibly uncertain and dangerous nuclear environment.

HOW BARACK OBAMA'S VISION OF A NUCLEAR-FREE WORLD WEAKENS AMERICA'S SECURITY: RUSSIA, DETERRENCE, AND MISSILE DEFENSE

By Dan Gouré. Heritage Foundation. September 10, 2010. 5 pages.

http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2010/pdf/hl1165.pdf

Barack Obama's vision of a nuclear-free world assumes not that nations arm because they fear one another, but that they fear one another because they arm. In fact, who has the

bomb is much more important than what bombs they have. The notion that the weapons are the problem flies in the face of the evidence of the way nations actually behave. Ridding the world of nuclear weapons presupposes ridding it of alliances and security commitments to deal with the threats. In the end, the Obama vision cannot coexist with robust missile defenses and makes the perfect, the end state, the enemy of the good enough, to include perhaps a smaller but robust, modernized, and even tested strategic nuclear posture.

TERRORISM - COUNTERTERRORISM

AQAP IN YEMEN

By Jon B. Alterman, Rick "Ozzie" Nelson. Center for Strategic and International Studies. November 5, 2010.

<http://csis.org/publication/aqap-yemen>

CSIS' critical questions after two suspicious packages were discovered aboard cargo and passenger flights originating in Yemen and bound for the United States.

AL QAEDA'S POST-9/11 SURGE

By Bruce Riedel. Saban Center for Middle East Policy. The Brookings Institution. September 9, 2010.

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/0909_terrorism_riedel.aspx

Nine years after the most devastating attack on the American homeland by a foreign power since the British army burned Washington in 1814, al Qaeda remains alive and deadly. President Obama has placed considerable pressure on Osama bin Laden and his gang but they are a remarkably adaptive and resilient foe.

TURKEY

THE UNIQUE IMPORTANCE OF THE TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP

By John Podesta. Center for American Progress. October 19, 2010.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/10/podesta_turkey.html

As a sign of the unique importance of the Turkish-American relationship, President Obama has expressed his intent to build what he calls a "model partnership" -- one in which, in the president's words, "a Western nation and a nation that straddles two continents can create a modern international community that is respectful, that is secure, and that is prosperous" -- and proves that lasting tensions between countries of different cultures can be overcome.

Previous issues of Foreign Policy -- Defense -- Documents on the Web are available at:

<http://france.usembassy.gov/web-alert.html>