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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

REPORTS

[Remarks by President Obama to the People of Cuba](#)

Gran Teatro de la Habana, Cuba.

The White House. March 22, 2016.

[In Spanish](#)

“What the United States was doing was not working. We have to have the courage to acknowledge that truth. A policy of isolation designed for the Cold War made little sense in the 21st century. The embargo was only hurting the Cuban people instead of helping them... It's time to lift the embargo. But even if we lifted the embargo tomorrow, Cubans would not realize their potential without continued change here in Cuba.”

[FACT SHEET: United States-Cuba Relationship](#)

The White House. March 21, 2016.

[In Spanish](#)

“Normalization will be a complex, long-term process and challenges remain, but President Obama believes that engagement offers a path toward success where isolation has failed for more than 50 years. We will engage and work through challenges in order to empower the Cuban people and advance the interests of the United States.”

[Seizing a Transformational Moment in the Western Hemisphere](#)

Remarks by National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice at the Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center. The Atlantic Council, Washington DC. March 17, 2016.

“Today, the United States is more deeply engaged in Latin America than we have been in decades. In fact, the relationships between the United States and countries across the hemisphere are as good as

they have ever been. And, given our ties of trade, culture, and family, our neighbors have never been more important to the prosperity and security of the United States.”

[5 facts about U.S. relations with Cuba](#)

Pew Research Center. March 18, 2016.

“The renewal of diplomatic and economic ties has drawn widespread support in the U.S., but significant partisan differences on the future of the relationship between the two countries remain.” This survey shows five facts about the relationship between the United States and Cuba.

[Ukrainian Reforms Two Years after the Maidan Revolution and the Russian Invasion](#)

Testimony of Victoria Nuland, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. March 15, 2016 [PDF format, 5 pages]

“The ability of the United States and the international community to continue to support Ukraine depends upon the commitment of its leaders to put their people and country first. All those who call themselves reformers must rebuild consensus behind a leadership team and an IMF- and EU-compliant program of aggressive measures to clean up corruption, restore justice, and liberalize the economy.”

[How the Refugee Crisis Will Reshape the EU](#)

Stefan Lehne. Carnegie Europe. February 4, 2016.

“Developing a credible overall strategy for responding to the migration challenge, creating appropriate instruments and mobilizing the necessary resources will require political will and sustained effort. If undertaken successfully, these common efforts could reenergize European integration and have positive spillover effects in other fields.” *Stefan Lehne is a visiting scholar at Carnegie Europe in Brussels*

[New Frameworks for Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism](#)

Remarks by Antony J. Blinken, Deputy Secretary of State. Brookings Institution. Washington, DC. February 16, 2016.

“We have a comprehensive strategy that includes training, equipping, and advising our local partners; stabilizing and rebuilding liberated areas; stopping the flow of foreign fighters into and out of Iraq and Syria; cutting off Daesh’s financing and countering its propaganda; providing life-saving humanitarian assistance; and promoting political accommodations so that our military success is sustainable.”

[The Path Forward in Libya](#)

Testimony by Frederic Wehrey, Senior Associate Middle East Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. March 3, 2016 [PDF format, 5 pages]

“I have just returned from two weeks in Libya, where I saw firsthand the country’s humanitarian plight, political divisions, and growing vulnerability to the self-proclaimed Islamic State. What struck me most is that Libya’s fragmentation and the devolution of power— to armed militias, tribes, and towns—has created a power vacuum that the Islamic State is exploiting. This dissolution makes it exceptionally difficult for the United States and Western powers to intervene.”

[Arab Voices on the Challenges of the New Middle East](#)

Perry Cammack; Marwan Muasher. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. February 12, 2016 [PDF format, 10 pages]

“The array of challenges facing the Middle East—terrorism and extremism; civil war and foreign intervention; sectarianism, corruption, and authoritarianism—is both daunting and dismaying. With so many problems, it is difficult to know where to begin to address them and what roles outside actors, including the United States, should play. This conundrum is the starting point for the first survey of Arab experts conducted by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace’s Middle East Program.” *Perry Cammack is an associate in the Middle East Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Marwan Muasher is vice president for studies at Carnegie.*

[Strains on the European Union: Implications for American Foreign Policy](#)

Testimony by Julianne Smith, Senior Fellow and Director, Strategy and Statecraft Program Center for a New American Security before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. February 3, 2016 [PDF format, 7 pages]

#The United States needs to reinvigorate and reinvest in the EU-U.S. relationship, which has atrophied in recent years. More specifically, the United States will have to do more to help alleviate some of the external and internal challenges plaguing the EU, most notably in regards to the migration crisis.”

[An Arctic Redesign: Recommendations to Rejuvenate the Arctic Council](#)

Heather A. Conley. Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). March 14, 2016 [PDF format, 28 pages]

“The Arctic Council turns 20 years old in 2016, and it has grown larger and more complex... As the increasingly dynamic Arctic environment undergoes vast physical and geopolitical transformations, is the 20-year old Arctic Council’s organizational structure adequate and fit for its purpose? Can the Council remain at the center of Arctic-related activities under its current mandate?” *Heather A. Conley is senior vice president for Europe, Eurasia, and the Arctic and director of the Europe Program at CSIS.*

[Reviewing the Administration’s Nuclear Agenda](#)

Statement of The Honorable Thomas M. Countryman Assistant Secretary for International Security and Nonproliferation U. S. Department of State Before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. March 17, 2016 [PDF format, 5 pages]

President Obama is preparing to host the fourth Nuclear Security Summit (NSS), bringing together leaders from more than 50 countries and four international and regional organizations to strengthen the global nuclear security architecture and reduce the threat of nuclear terrorism.”

[The Future of U.S.-Russian Arms Control](#)

Steven Pifer. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and The Chicago Council on Global Affairs. February 26, 2016.

This publication is from the Task Force on U.S. Policy Toward Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia project. “The United States and Russia concluded the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty in 2010. New START entered into force in 2011... Since the conclusion of New START, however, there has been little progress

toward further nuclear arms reductions.” *Steven Pifer is director of the Brookings Institution’s Arms Control and Non-Proliferation Initiative.*

[The Economic Implications of Low Energy](#)

Testimony of Timothy D. Adams, President and CEO, Institute of International Finance (IIF) before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. March 2, 2016 [PDF format, 6 pages]

“Looking ahead, if oil prices remain subdued, as we expect, economic vulnerabilities among oil exporters are likely to accentuate. This raises the question of which oil-exporting economies would come under the greatest economic strain under such a scenario.”

ARTICLES

[The Obama Doctrine](#)

Jeffrey Goldberg. *The Atlantic*. April 2015.

“The U.S. president talks through his hardest decisions about America’s role in the world.” *Jeffrey Goldberg is a national correspondent for The Atlantic and a recipient of the National Magazine Award for Reporting.*

[2016: The State of Trade](#)

Michael Froman. *Tradewinds* blog. January 13, 2016.

“Using trade policy, the Obama Administration has made great strides in advancing the President’s economic priorities - creating jobs, promoting growth, and strengthening America’s middle class... *Here’s a look at how the Obama Administration has influenced the State of Trade in the past year.*” *Michael Froman is the U.S. Trade Representative.*

[United States Policy in the Hemisphere Influencing the State and Beyond](#)

Frank Mora; Brian Fonseca. *Prism*. Winter 2016, pp.69-87.

“Deepening democratic principles, improving human security, and creating opportunities for economic growth and integration continue to be central to ensuring regional stability and advancing our interests in the hemisphere. This is not a departure from the national interests articulated by previous U.S. administrations, nor should it be. The difference lies in our capacity to expand influence in the increasingly interconnected global context in which U.S.-LAC relations take place.” *Dr. Frank Mora is the Director of the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center and a Professor in the Steven J. Green School of Public and International Affairs at Florida International University. Mr. Brian Fonseca is the Director of the Jack D. Gordon Institute for Public Policy and Citizenship Studies at the Florida International University.*

[The Islamic State's Money Problems](#)

Patrick B. Johnston. *USA Today*. March 4, 2016.

“Coalition successes in countering ISIL financing owe primarily to two main efforts. The first is an air campaign against the group’s oil revenue named Operation Tidal Wave II... The second effort has targeted ISIL’s cash directly, going after the banks where the group stores its cash in Iraq.” *Patrick Johnston is a political scientist at the RAND Corporation.*

[The Islamic State's Lone-Wolf Era is Over](#)

Matthew Levitt. *Foreign Policy*. March 24, 2016.

“The Brussels bombings have made it plain that the scale of the threat posed by the Islamic State to the West is far larger than most Westerners had previously thought.” *Matthew Levitt is the Fromer-Wexler Fellow and Director of the Stein Program on Counterterrorism & Intelligence at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.*

[How to Crowdfund the Syrian Cease-Fire](#)

Colum Lynch. *Foreign Policy*. March 23, 2016.

“The wizards of Silicon Valley develop a set of killer apps to monitor the fragile Syria cease-fire without putting foreign boots on the ground in one of the world’s most dangerous countries?.. The emerging solution: using crowdsourcing, drones, satellite imaging, and other high-tech tools.” *Colum Lynch is Foreign Policy's award-winning U.N.-based senior diplomatic reporter.*

[The Three Challenges of Countering ISIS in Libya](#)

Christopher S. Chivvis. *The Rand Blog*. February 5, 2016.

“ISIS has been entrenched in Libya for more than a year. Unlike its other affiliates outside Iraq and Syria, ISIS in Libya numbers in the thousands and maintains clear links to the group's leadership in Syria. Most likely that leadership sees Libya as a valuable second front in its global campaign.” *Chris Chivvis is associate director of the International Security and Defense Policy Center and a senior political scientist at the RAND Corporation.*

[Democracy in the Arab World: Still a Mirage](#)

Seth Jones. *Foreign Affairs*. March 17, 2016.

“More than five years after the Arab Spring began, the euphoria that accompanied the region's early uprisings has been replaced by a dogged realism... Across the region, according to the World Bank, the quality of governance today is lower than it was before the Arab Spring in nearly every category.” *Seth G. Jones is director of the International Security and Defense Policy Center at the RAND Corporation, as well as an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins University's School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS).*

[The case for a regional reconstruction strategy for the Middle East](#)

Sultan Barakat. *Markaz* blog. March 4, 2016.

“It is high time to pull together to establish a "Regional Reconstruction Strategy" that can address all sorts of violence, not just Islamist-related conflict. The region needs an ever-evolving strategy that maintains a holistic, problem-solving outlook while drawing on various forms of intervention (e.g. community driven development, inter-regional development projects, targeted counterinsurgency operations, stabilization, statebuilding, etc.)” *Sultan Barakat is the director of research at the Brookings Doha Center and a senior fellow in the Center for Middle East Policy.*

[The Iran Deal Is Working: What Now?](#)

Dalia Dassa Kaye. *The National Interest*. March 9, 2016.

“U.S. policy will likely continue to balance the tensions between containing and deterring Iran with regional allies, while testing areas where engagement with Iran might either be unavoidable (as in Syria) or desirable (such as in counternarcotics cooperation or efforts to stabilize Afghanistan).” *Dalia Dassa Kaye is the director of the Center for Middle East Public Policy and a senior political scientist at the RAND Corporation.*

Eurasia's Coming Anarchy

Robert D. Kaplan. *Foreign Affairs*. March/April 2016.

“China and Russia may forge a tactical alliance based on their compatible authoritarian systems and aimed at managing their frontier areas and standing up to the West.” Robert D. Kaplan is a Senior Fellow at the Center for a New American Security and the author of *In Europe's Shadow: Two Cold Wars and a Thirty-Year Journey Through Romania and Beyond* (Random House, 2016).

[With Russia overextended elsewhere, Arctic cooperation gets a new chance](#)

Pavel K. Baev and Tim Boersma. *Order from Chaos* blog. February 18, 2016.

“Can the United States and Russia actually cooperate in the Arctic?... The current economic climate (i.e. falling oil prices, which makes additional energy resource extraction in most of the Arctic a distant-future scenario), geopolitical climate (sanctions on Russia targeting, amongst others, Arctic energy extraction), and budget constraints on both ends urge us to prioritize realistically.” *Pavel K. Baev is a research professor at the Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO) and nonresident senior fellow in the Center on the United States and Europe at Brookings. Tim Boersma is a fellow and acting director in the Energy Security and Climate Initiative, part of the Foreign Policy program at Brookings.*

[Foreign Policy Challenges on the Campaign Trail](#)

James Dobbins. *U.S. News and World Report*. February 4, 2016.

“Foreign and security policy will play a significant role in the run-up to the November presidential election.” *James Dobbins, a veteran diplomat who most recently served as the State Department's special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, is a senior fellow at the nonprofit, nonpartisan RAND Corporation.*

U.S. DOMESTIC POLICIES AND TRENDS

REPORTS

[Technology and the Future of Cities](#)

Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, Executive Office of the President. February 2016 [PDF format, 99 pages]

“This report drew from a working group composed of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology members and additional experts familiar with both key technologies and the evolution of cities and urban policy... The urban ecosystem can benefit from the integration of a wide array of technologies that have been evolving rapidly, including systems to increase energy efficiency, renewable

energy technologies, connected and autonomous vehicles, water and wastewater management systems, communications technologies to enhance connectivity, and new ways to do farming and manufacturing.”

[Fact Sheet: The White House Launches The Opportunity Project,” Utilizing Open Data to Build Stronger Ladders of Opportunity for All](#)

The White House. March 7, 2016.

“The Opportunity Project will put data and tools in the hands of civic leaders, community organizations, and families to help them navigate information about critical resources such as access to jobs, housing, transportation, schools, and other neighborhood amenities.”

[FACT SHEET: President Obama’s 21st Century Clean Transportation System](#)

The White House. February 4, 2016.

“President Obama’s budget lays out a bold new plan for building a 21st Century Clean Transportation System funded by a new fee paid by oil companies. The President’s plan would increase American investments in clean transportation infrastructure by roughly 50 percent.”

[FACT SHEET: Cybersecurity National Action Plan](#)

The White House. February 9, 2016.

“The President is directing his Administration to implement a Cybersecurity National Action Plan (CNAP) that takes near-term actions and puts in place a long-term strategy to enhance cybersecurity awareness and protections, protect privacy, maintain public safety as well as economic and national security, and empower Americans to take better control of their digital security.”

[Accelerating growth: Startup accelerator programs in the United States](#)

Ian Hathaway. The Brookings Institution. February 17, 2016.

“While well-established regions such as San Francisco-Silicon Valley, Boston-Cambridge, and New York account for the lion’s share of startup activity and funding, significant evidence suggests that a non-trivial amount of [early stage capital is dispersing geographically](#) throughout the United States.” *Ian Hathaway is a nonresident senior fellow in the Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institution.*

[Leadership by U.S. Cities: Innovations in Climate Action](#)

Bloomberg Philanthropies. March 8, 2016. [PDF format, 56 pages]

“This report highlights developments in climate action — insights and innovations — produced by cities across the United States. Five patterns have emerged among the 26 leading cities spotlighted here.”

[Remaking Economic Development: The Markets and Civics of Continuous Growth and Prosperity](#)

Amy Liu. The Brookings Institution. March 2016 [PDF format, 36 pages]

The author calls on state and local leaders across the United States to adopt a broader vision of economic development that can deliver continuous growth, prosperity, and inclusion. *Amy Liu is the director of the Metro Program at Brookings.*

[Immigrants and Billion Dollars Startups](#)

Stuart Anderson. National Foundation for American Policy. March 2016 [PDF format, 33 pages]

“Immigrants have started more than half (44 of 87) of America’s startup companies valued at \$1 billion dollars or more and are key members of management or product development teams in over 70 percent (62 of 87) of these companies. The research finds that among the billion dollar startup companies, immigrant founders have created an average of approximately 760 jobs per company in the United States.” *Stuart Anderson is Executive Director of the National Foundation for American Policy, a non-profit, non-partisan public policy research organization in Arlington, Virginia.*

[Young Children of Refugees in the United States: Integration Successes and Challenges](#)

Michael Fix, et. at. Migration Policy Institute. March 2016 [PDF format, 45 pages]

“In an attempt to fill the knowledge gap on integration outcomes for children of refugees, this report presents a demographic and socioeconomic data profile of the 941,000 children ages 10 and younger with refugee parents living in the United States in 2009-2013. The report finds that compared to children in other immigrant groups, children of refugees benefit from several protective factors, including strong family structures, high parental employment, and high parental education, all of which facilitate their successful integration.” *Michael Fix is President of the Migration Policy Institute.*

[61 Million Immigrants and Their Young Children Now Live in the United States](#)

Steve Camarota. Center for Immigration Studies. March 2016 [PDF format, 7 pages]

“A new analysis of government data from December 2015 indicates that more than 61 million immigrants and their American-born children under age 18 now live in the United States; roughly three-fourths (45.3 million) are legal immigrants and their children. While the national debate has focused on illegal immigration, the enormous impact of immigration is largely the result of those brought in legally.” *Dr. Steven Camarota serves as the Director of Research for the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) in Washington DC.*

[U.S. Immigration Policy: Chart Book of Key Trends](#)

William A. Kandel; Ruth Ellen Wasem. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. March 14, 2016 [PDF format, 32 pages]

“This report is a chart book of selected immigration trends. Key immigration issues that Congress has considered in recent years include increased border security and immigration enforcement, expanded employment eligibility verification, reforms to the system for legal temporary and permanent immigration, and options to address the millions of unauthorized aliens residing in the country.” *William A. Kandel is an Analyst in Immigration Policy at the CRS. Ruth Ellen Wasem is a Specialist in Immigration Policy at the CRS.*

[USA Elections in Brief](#)

Bureau of International Information Programs. U.S. Department of State. February 2016. [PDF format, 60 pages]

This is a basic guide on the U.S. Electoral process developed by the U.S. Department of State.

[2016 electorate will be the most diverse in U.S. history](#)

Jens Manuel Krogstad. Pew Research Center. February 3, 2016.

“The U.S. electorate this year will be the country’s most racially and ethnically diverse ever. Nearly one-in-three eligible voters on Election Day (31%) will be Hispanic, black, Asian or another racial or ethnic minority, up from 29% in 2012.” *Jens Manuel Krogstad is a writer and editor at Pew Research Center.*

[Lifelong Learning and Technology](#)

Pew Research Center. March 22, 2016.

“A large majority of Americans seek extra knowledge for personal and work-related reasons. Digital technology plays a notable role in these knowledge pursuits... The survey shows the extent to which America is a nation of ongoing learners.”

ARTICLES

[Computer Science For All](#)

Megan Smith. *The White House blog*. January 30, 2016.

“Computer Science for All is the President’s bold new initiative to empower all American students from kindergarten through high school to learn computer science and be equipped with the computational thinking skills they need to be creators in the digital economy, not just consumers.” *Megan Smith is the United States Chief Technology Officer (CTO) in the Office of Science and Technology Policy at the White House.*

[Putting Cities at the Center of American Innovation](#)

Richard Florida. *CityLabs*. March 30, 2016.

“A new [report](#) from Obama’s science and tech advisors outlines the case for an urban-focused technology policy.” *Richard Florida is the co-founder and editor at large of CityLab and a senior editor at The Atlantic.*

[The Miracle of Minneapolis](#)

Derek Thompson. *The Atlantic*. March 2015.

“Minneapolis–St. Paul is the headquarters for 19 *Fortune* 500 companies—more than any other metro its size—spanning retail (Target), health care (UnitedHealth), and food (General Mills). In the past 60 years, 40 Minneapolis-based businesses have made it onto *Fortune*’s list.” *Derek Thompson is a senior editor at The Atlantic.*

[How to boost startups if you’re not San Francisco](#)

Scott Andes, et. al. *The Avenue* blog. February 4, 2016.

“Are San Francisco and Silicon Valley good models for most cities to imitate? And with the answer being “no,” what strategies should cities employ to bolster local capital networks? . *Scott Andes is a Senior Policy Analyst of the Centennial Scholar Initiative at the Brookings Institution.*

[Inside Silicon Valley's Big Pitch Day](#)

Ana Wiener. *The Atlantic*. March 29, 2016.

“Y Combinator (YC) is a prestigious Silicon Valley startup accelerator. Since 2005, it has helped fund, connect, and launch a slew of tech companies, some of which have gone on to become highly valued and culturally influential—Airbnb, Dropbox, Reddit, and Stripe all matriculated at YC.” *Anna Wiener is a writer based in San Francisco. Her work has appeared in The New Republic, Pacific Standard, and The Paris Review.*

[The 'New Look' of the Post-Obama Electorate](#)

Teodore R. Johnson. *The Atlantic*. February 14, 2016.

“African Americans are converging around an abundance of issues, wanting to be heard and employing new strategies to achieve it. To combat institutional lethargy, this wave of young people is employing a variety of tactics—from protest to pop culture—to influence the political agenda.” *Theodore R. Johnson is a writer and former naval officer, professor at the Naval War College, and White House Fellow.*

[America Needs More Skilled Immigrant Workers, Study Says](#)

Andrew Soergel. *U.S. News & World Report*. March 29, 2016.

“Rigid policies restricting skilled immigration are hurting U.S. job growth while costing domestic companies thousands of dollars per worker, a new report from a Dartmouth College professor shows.” *Andrew Soergel is an Economy Reporter at U.S. News.*

[The Promise of Integrated Schools](#)

Melinda D. Anderson. *The Atlantic*. February 16, 2016.

“The new research builds on established findings dating back 50 years, and confirms the wide-ranging benefits for students in racially and socioeconomically integrated schools, including stronger test scores, increased college attendance, and improved critical-thinking skills.” *Melinda d. Anderson is a contributing writer for The Atlantic and is based in Washington, D.C.*

[How America's Mayors Are Taking the Lead on Income Inequality](#)

Bob Annibale. *Governing*. March 24, 2016.

“Earlier this year, Boston University's Initiative on Cities published its inaugural [Menino Survey of Mayors](#)... The nonpartisan survey, conducted in partnership with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, took the pulse of nearly 90 mayors on many of today's most pressing urban issues.” *Bob Annibale leads Citi's partnerships with global, national and local organizations to support inclusive finance and community development.*

[Inside the FBI's Secret Muslim Network](#)

Michael Hirsh. *Politico magazine*. March 24, 2016.

“While candidates stoke fears of Islam, a little-known counterterrorism program has been going exactly the other way... The U.S. approach to its Muslim communities is overall more nuanced than what is going on

in France, where police are surveilling thousands of Muslims who may have nothing to do with terror plots.” *Michael Hirsh is a senior national editor for Politico Magazine.*

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