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## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

### REPORTS

[The Future of UN Peace Operations](#). Remarks by Antony J. Blinken, Deputy Secretary of State, U.S. Institute of Peace, Washington, DC. March 10, 2015.

Hamilton, Daniel; Quinlan, Joseph. [The Transatlantic Economy 2015: Annual Survey of Jobs, Trade and Investment between the United States and Europe](#). Center for Transatlantic Relations, Johns Hopkins University; Trans-Atlantic Business Council; AmCham EU. April 2015.

[TTIP's Geostrategic Implications](#). Testimony by Daniel S. Hamilton, Executive Director, Center for Transatlantic Relations Johns Hopkins University SAIS before the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Non-Proliferation and Trade Committee on Foreign Affairs U.S. House of Representatives. March 17, 2015.

Piccone, Ted. [United States-Cuba Normalizations: Strategic Implications for U.S. National Security](#). The Brookings Institution. April 2015.

Runde, Daniel F.; Savoy, Connor M. [Private-Sector Development and U.S. Foreign Policy: Evidence of Indirect Diplomatic, Economic and Security Benefits](#). Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). April 2015.

[United States Security Policy in Europe](#). Testimony of Ian J. Brzezinski, Senior Fellow, Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security Atlantic Council before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Armed Services. April 28, 2015.

Oliker, Olga, et. al. [NATO Needs a Comprehensive Strategy for Russia](#). Rand Corporation. April 2015.

Larrabee, F. Stephen, et. al. [The Ukraine Crisis and European Security: Implications for the United States and U.S. Army](#). Rand Corporation. April 2015.

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## ARTICLES

Kerry, John; Moniz, Ernest. [How to Make Sure Iran is a Nuclear Non-Proliferator](#). *Foreign Policy*. April 27, 2015.

Mandelbaum, Michael. [Nuclear Arms Control, Then and Now](#). *The American Interest*. April 22, 2015.

Nephew, Richard. [The Grand Bargain: What Iran Conceded in the Nuclear Talks](#). *The National Interest*. April 17, 2015.

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## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

### REPORTS

#### [The Future of UN Peace Operations](#)

Remarks by Antony J. Blinken, Deputy Secretary of State, U.S. Institute of Peace, Washington, DC. March 10, 2015.

“In this world, where conflict poses a danger to all of us, peacekeeping remains a responsibility from all of us. When violence erupts or political transitions break down, UN peace operations are often the best tool we have to protect civilians, to stop the violence, to facilitate peace, and rebuild states and societies. Today, unfortunately, those involved in peace operations are in the growth industry, the demand for their services is at an all-time high, nearly 130,000 brave men and women carry out 16 missions worldwide—by far the most peacekeepers that have ever been active in history. Two-thirds of them serve in conflict areas, where they operate under robust and demanding mandates, often at great risk to themselves ... We know we have to do better—to equip UN peacekeepers with the flexibility, with the capacity, and the political backing to meet 21st century challenges. The United States is deeply invested in this effort. Since the very start of his administration, President Obama has emphasized and recognized our nation’s commitment to multilateral security initiatives.”

#### [The Transatlantic Economy 2015: Annual Survey of Jobs, Trade and Investment between the United States and Europe](#)

Hamilton, Daniel; Quinlan, Joseph. Center for Transatlantic Relations, Johns Hopkins University; Trans-Atlantic Business Council; AmCham EU. April 2015 [PDF format, 110 pages]

This annual survey offers the most up-to-date facts and figures describing the deep economic integration binding Europe and the United States. “It documents European-sourced jobs, trade and investment in each of the 50 U.S. states, and U.S.-sourced jobs, trade and investment in each member state of the European Union and other European countries. It reviews key headline trends and helps readers understand the distinctive nature of transatlantic economic relations. Key sectors of the transatlantic economy are integrating as never before... The Transatlantic Economy 2015 offers a clear picture of the ‘deep integration’ forces shaping the U.S.-European economic relationship today; explain how TTIP and transatlantic flows of investment, goods and services, people and ideas affect local communities on each side of the Atlantic; shows how these interdependencies have shifted in recent years; and suggest how decision-makers can address the accompanying opportunities and challenges.” *Daniel S. Hamilton is the Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation Professor and Director of the Center for Transatlantic Relations at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University. Joseph P. Quinlan is Senior Fellow at the Center for Transatlantic Relations.*

### [TTIP's Geostrategic Implications](#)

Testimony by Daniel S. Hamilton Executive Director, Center for Transatlantic Relations Johns Hopkins University SAIS before the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Non-Proliferation and Trade Committee on Foreign Affairs U.S. House of Representatives. March 17, 2015 [PDF format, 10 pages]

“TTIP is first and foremost an economic negotiation, but it is far more than just another trade agreement. TTIP seeks nothing less than to reposition the U.S. and its European allies and partners for a more diffuse world of intensified global competition. TTIP is important to U.S. national security and foreign policy in three ways. First, it has the potential to reinforce America's geostrategic base -- the transatlantic alliance. Second, it can enable the U.S. and its allies to be more effective when engaging third countries and addressing regional and global challenges. Third, it can help us strengthen the ground rules of the international order. Let us look at each of these elements in turn. TTIP is politically important to the transatlantic relationship itself. The transatlantic economy generates \$5.5 trillion in total commercial sales a year and employs up to 15 million workers. It is the largest and wealthiest market in the world, accounting for three-quarters of global financial markets and over half of world trade. It accounts for over 35% of world GDP in terms of purchasing power. No other commercial artery is as integrated. In many ways, the transatlantic economy is a major geostrategic base for the United States.”

### [United States-Cuba Normalizations: Strategic Implications for U.S. National Security](#)

Piccone, Ted. The Brookings Institution. April 2015 [PDF format, 11 pages]

“The breakthrough in traditionally hostile relations between the United States and Cuba at the end of 2014 heralds a new opportunity to move past the Cold War era of isolation and antagonism to a new stage of dialogue, negotiation and compromise to the benefit of both countries. Prior to the two presidents’ dramatic simultaneous announcements on December 17, 2014, Washington and Havana were stuck in an acrimonious stand-off that did more harm than good to both sides. The joint decision to embark on a new path reflects a growing recognition in both capitals that the old era of embargoes, proxy battles and migration crises no longer served either side’s interests. Now, under the supervision of two presidents determined to secure their respective legacies, the two neighbors are moving toward normalization, a goal well-received by majorities of citizens in both countries, including Cuban Americans, but strongly opposed by some factions and fraught with challenges. Such obstacles, however, are surmountable if the political will to resolve differences remains paramount. What are the strategic implications of this historic shift for the United States? To answer this question, it is important to analyze potential effects at three levels – bilateral, regional and global interests.” This paper was originally published by Florida International University as

part of the LACC/ARC/U.S. Southern Command Policy Roundtable Series, February 9, 2015. *Ted Piccone is a senior fellow with the Project on International Order and Strategy and Latin America Initiative in the Foreign Policy Program at Brookings.*

### [Private-Sector Development and U.S. Foreign Policy: Evidence of Indirect Diplomatic, Economic and Security Benefits](#)

Runde, Daniel F.; Savoy, Connor M. Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). April 2015 [PDF format, 24 pages]

International development has fundamentally changed in the past 50 years through the rise of new donors and new sources of financing... In 1960, 70 percent of U.S. financial flows were public (some form of official development assistance) and 30 percent private. By 2012 only 10 percent of U.S. financial flows were public and 90 percent were composed of some form of private flows... "What benefits does private-sector development provide to the United States? When the government facilitates connections between the U.S. private sector and the private sectors of developing countries, what does the United States get out of it? This report seeks to answer these questions by examining two broad measures: the direct development benefits that accrue to the host country; and the indirect benefits that accrue to the donor nation. In justifying its extensive foreign aid budget to Congress and the broader public, the executive branch frequently cites the diplomatic, security, and economic benefits of such aid. This report provides some quantitative indicators for those benefits... The shift toward a greater use of the private sector has occurred when the United States has consciously raised the importance of development policy in achieving its foreign and national security policy objectives." *Daniel F. Runde is director of the Project on Prosperity and Development and holds the William A. Schreyer Chair in Global Analysis at CSIS. Connor Savoy is deputy director and fellow with the Project on U.S. Leadership in Development (USLD) at CSIS.*

### [United States Security Policy in Europe](#)

Testimony of Ian J. Brzezinski Senior Fellow, Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security Atlantic Council before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Armed Services. April 28, 2015 [PDF format, 10 pages]

"I would like today to focus on four urgent and emergent fronts before the NATO Alliance: An Eastern front driven by a Russia's provocative military actions; an emergent Arctic front driven by Moscow's militarization of the High North; A Southern front, a region stretching from Iran across the Middle East and North Africa wrought by a dangerous combination of failed states and extremist organizations; and, a global front defined by the upheaval generated by the rapidly evolving dynamics of globalization... Russia's aggression against Ukraine presents a significant challenge to the security and stability of Europe and to the credibility of NATO. As an unprovoked aggression against the territorial sovereignty of a European nation, the invasion of Ukraine disrupts the order that has kept peace in Europe since World War II. By asserting the unilateral right to redraw borders on the grounds he is protecting ethnic Russians and by promoting the concept of a "Novorossiya," Putin has reintroduced the principal of ethnic sovereignty, a principal that wrought death and destruction across Europe in the last century and those before."

### [NATO Needs a Comprehensive Strategy for Russia](#)

Oliker, Olga, et. al. Rand Corporation. April 2015 [PDF format, 20 pages]

"Russia's continuing intervention in Ukraine, including its annexation of Crimea, is more than a stark rejection of Euro-Atlantic integration. It has shattered the vision of a stable, secure, and economically healthy Europe that has guided North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and European Union (EU) policy for two decades. NATO, working closely

with the EU, needs to regain the initiative to proactively seek peace and stability on the continent and find a coherent, cohesive way forward. In this perspective, we describe two possible strategies for how NATO can respond to Russia's activities: (1) punishment and disengagement and (2) resilience and engagement. NATO's choice of a strategy comes down to whether to promote or give up on an integrated Europe and whether and how to influence Russia's behavior both politically and militarily. Our preference for the second strategy is based on its continued commitment to North Atlantic values and refusal to view Russia in adversarial zero-sum terms." *Olga Oliker is director of the Center for Russia and Eurasia and a senior international policy analyst at the RAND Corporation.*

### [The Ukraine Crisis and European Security: Implications for the United States and U.S. Army](#)

Larrabee, F. Stephen, et. al. Rand Corporation. April 2015 [PDF format, 67 pages]

"Vladimir Putin's decision to annex Crimea and attempt to destabilize eastern Ukraine have sparked widespread concern among Western policymakers that Russia has embarked on a confrontational national security policy that could have far-reaching implications for Russia's relations with the United States and for European stability. The annexation of Crimea challenges two basic assumptions underlying U.S. policy toward Europe in the post-Cold War era: (1) that Europe is essentially stable and secure, thereby freeing the United States to focus greater attention on other areas, particularly Asia and the Middle East, and (2) that Russia had become more of a partner than an adversary. The annexation of Crimea and attempt to destabilize eastern Ukraine suggests that both these assumptions need to be revisited because Russia can hardly be viewed as a partner. The requirement that NATO may now have to build a much more robust deterrence and defense posture in Eastern Europe would require the Army and the Air Force to revisit their planning assumptions that have minimized U.S. military commitments to the region since the end of the Cold War." *F. Stephen Larrabee is the RAND Corporation's distinguished chair emeritus in European Security.*

### [Revising U.S. Grand Strategy Toward China](#)

Blackwill, Robert D.; Tellis, Ashley J. Council on Foreign Relations [Council Special Report No.72] March 2015 [PDF format, 54 pages]

The authors recommend a new U.S. policy of balancing China that would in effect change the balance of current U.S. policy... A number of policy prescriptions follow, including the adoption of policies designed to produce more robust economic growth in the United States; new trade arrangements in Asia that exclude China; a stricter technology-control regime affecting exports to China; a larger, more capable, and more active U.S. air and naval presence in the Asia Pacific region; more intimate U.S. strategic ties with Japan, Australia, the Republic of Korea, India, the countries of southeast Asia, and Taiwan; and a considerably tougher set of measures to counter Chinese behavior in the cyber realm. The report also argues for an intensification of U.S.- Chinese diplomatic contacts, recommending a discourse that is "more candid, high-level, and private than current practice. "China represents and will remain the most significant competitor to the United States for decades to come. As such, the need for a more coherent U.S. response to increasing Chinese power is long overdue... Because the American effort to 'integrate' China into the liberal international order has now generated new threats to U.S. primacy in Asia—and could result in a consequential challenge to American power globally—Washington needs a new grand strategy toward China that centers on balancing the rise of Chinese power rather than continuing to assist its ascendancy." *Robert Blackwill is Henry A. Kissinger senior fellow for U.S. foreign policy at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). Ashley J. Tellis, Senior Associate, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.*

### [Conflict and Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region: A Strategic Net Assessment](#)

Swaine, Michael D., et. al. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace [Note: contains copyrighted material] April 2, 2015 [PDF format, 286 pages]

“The Asia-Pacific region is undergoing enormous change, fueled by rapid levels of economic growth and competition alongside deepening levels of regional and global integration, significant demographic and income shifts in key nations, rising nationalism, and a growing public awareness of—and assertiveness toward—many sensitive occurrences beyond national borders. In general, the region is moving away from the narrow domestic social concerns and bipolar ideological rivalries of the Cold War era, toward a far more complex security environment. This security environment is marked by the emergence of several new power centers (notably China and, to a lesser extent, India, but also a range of dynamic smaller nations such as South Korea and Indonesia), more intense and crosscutting levels of regional cooperation and rivalry, and, in many states, an increasingly close relationship among domestic nationalism, rapid (and sometimes highly disruptive) social change, and external economic, military, and political events. This rapidly changing security environment poses a major and increasingly difficult challenge for the United States, the historically dominant military, political, and economic power in maritime Asia. Efforts to enhance regional cooperation, reassure allies and friends, and deter and shape potentially destabilizing behavior are demanding a more complex mixture of U.S. skills and understanding.” *Michael D. Swaine is a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and one of the most prominent American analysts in Chinese security studies.*

### **[Iran: U.S. Concerns and Policy Responses](#)**

Katzman, Kenneth. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. April 14, 2015 [PDF format, 73 pages]

“A final nuclear agreement could significantly improve U.S.-Iran relations, but the framework agreement comes in the context of U.S. and allied concerns about Iranian actions in the region. The Persian Gulf states express concern that Iran has made substantial gains in recent years, for example in supporting the rebel Houthi movement in Yemen and in organizing Shiite forces to defend the embattled government of Bashar Al Assad of Syria. The war against the Islamic State organization has also given Iran additional influence over the government of Iraq as well as common interests with the United States in Iraq. On Syria, Iran supports Assad, whereas the United States asserts his departure is key to a political solution. The January 2015 fall of the government of Yemen under pressure from the Houthis has aggravated Saudi-Iranian tensions as Saudi Arabia has undertaken military action against the Houthis there. U.S. allies, particularly Israel, express concern that a lifting of sanctions will furnish Iran with additional resources with which to expand its influence further. The Gulf states express fears that a nuclear deal could cause the United States to tilt toward Iran or forfeit its role as the final guarantor of Gulf security.” *Kenneth Katzman is an Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs at the CRS.*

### **[The Recurring Rise and Fall of Political Islam](#)**

Salem, Paul. Center for Strategic and International Studies [Note: contains copyrighted material] March 25, 2015 [PDF format, 12 pages]

“In chapter 4 of the book [Rocky Harbors: Taking Stock of the Middle East in 2015](#), Paul Salem chronicles and analyzes the shifting fortunes of political Islam in the region. For political Islamic groups, the past four years have been the best of years and the worst of years. In this period, the Arab world’s oldest and largest political Islamic movement, the Muslim Brotherhood (MB), had its biggest ever victory in its homeland of Egypt, followed a year later by its biggest defeat. In the same period, a jihadi-salafi group, the Islamic State group (ISG), conquered large swaths of these two countries and announced the establishment of the Islamic State and the restoration of the caliphate in the

person of its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. This hyperradical jihadi proto-state attracted an international fringe of radical fighters. But it caused a revulsion among majorities throughout the Arab world and triggered the establishment of an international and regional military coalition against it. Other non-jihadi salafi groups formed political parties and joined the political process after the Arab uprisings and are trying to navigate the troubled waters between the MB and the jihadi radicals." *Paul Salem is vice president for policy and research at The Middle East Institute (MEI).*

### [Islamic State Financing and U.S. Policy Approaches](#)

Humud, Carla E. et al. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. April 10, 2015 [PDF format, 32 pages]

"Countering the financial resources of the Islamic State, which has seized significant territory in Iraq and Syria and threatened to conduct attacks against the United States and its citizens, has become a significant national security priority for policymakers, including Members of Congress. By undermining the financial strength of the group, also known as ISIL or ISIS, policymakers seek to reduce its capability to conduct terrorist attacks, as well as to ultimately "degrade and ultimately destroy" the group. This effort includes a comprehensive look at how the group generates revenue. While IS funding streams remain fluid, the group's largest revenue sources appear (based on open-source information) to include oil sales, taxation and extortion, and the sale of looted antiquities... Along with military strikes, the United States, in cooperation with regional allies, has implemented a series of financial measures designed to block the Islamic State's access to the international financial system... To date, the Administration has not requested new authorities specifically to counter IS financing. As the 114th Congress continues to consider and evaluate U.S. policy responses to address the Islamic State, a focus of concern may center on whether U.S. counterterrorist financing tools are capable of diminishing IS sources of funds." *Carla E. Humud is an Analyst in Middle Eastern and African Affairs at the CRS.*

### [The Rise and Decline of Ansar al-Sharia in Libya](#)

Zelin, Aaron Y. The Hudson Institute. April 6, 2015.

"Over the past two years, global attention has shifted to Syria and Iraq with the rise of Jabhat al-Nusra and the return of the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS). However, nearly one thousand miles to the west, Ansar al-Sharia in Libya (ASL) has continued its work of facilitating a future Islamic state since the spectacular attack on the American consulate in Benghazi on September 11, 2012. Initially, ASL launched a highly sophisticated program of dawa(outreach) which included the provisioning of social services both inside and outside of Libya. This has provided it with an avenue for local support. But since Libyan General Khalifa Haftar announced a major offensive against Islamist armed groups in eastern Libya in May 2014 (codenamed Operation Dignity), ASL has focused primarily on military action. ASL's fortunes have dropped dramatically in the process, further exacerbated by the death of its leader, Muhammad al-Zahawi, confirmed in January 2015, and ISIS' intensification of its efforts to create a Libyan base independent of ASL since November 2014. Set in this context, this piece will examine the ebb and flow in ASL's fortunes." *Aaron Y. Zelin is the Richard Borow Fellow at the Washington Institute.*

### [The Future of U.S. Trade Policy](#)

Mcbride, James. Council on Foreign Relations. April 10, 2015.

"The post-World War II era has seen the dramatic growth of international trade and the creation of a global trading framework based on the principles of open economies. The United States has been at the forefront of these changes, even as its reliance on trade remains near the lowest of any developed country. The global trade agenda stalled at

the beginning of the twenty-first century, leading the United States to turn to regional and bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs). Having won the passage of FTAs with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea, President Barack Obama's administration is now focused on completing two blockbuster trade deals: the Asia-centered Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) with the European Union. The effects of globalization, however, have increased resistance to further trade liberalization. Many in the U.S. labor movement, as well as some economists, argue that trade agreements in their current form hurt workers, degrade the U.S. manufacturing base, and exacerbate income inequality. Advocates counter that FTAs create jobs by opening new markets to U.S. exports and making it easier for U.S. companies to compete in foreign markets." *James McBride is an Online Writer/Editor, Economics at the CFR.*

## ARTICLES

### [How to Make Sure Iran is a Nuclear Non-Proliferator](#)

Kerry, John; Moniz, Ernest. *Foreign Policy*. April 27, 2015, var. pages.

"Amid the drama and promise of the negotiations, it is vital to remember that the basic goal was — and remains — preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon by bringing Iran back into compliance with its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The NPT is at the heart of the global effort to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, and it has helped keep the world safe for 45 years. We welcome the international community to today's opening of the 2015 NPT Review Conference at the United Nations in New York and encourage them as they work toward recommendations on how to strengthen this landmark accord. The NPT is elegant in its simplicity: Under the treaty, parties that do not possess nuclear weapons agree to forego them, parties that possess nuclear weapons agree to work in good faith toward nuclear disarmament, and all parties are able to access peaceful nuclear benefits like nuclear medicine and energy." *John Kerry is the U.S. Secretary of State. Ernest Moniz is the U.S. Secretary of Energy.*

### [Nuclear Arms Control, Then and Now](#)

Mandelbaum, Michael. *The American Interest*. April 22, 2015, var. pages.

"The framework agreement with Iran on its nuclear program recalls an earlier episode in the history of American foreign policy: the arms control negotiations with the Soviet Union during the 1970s and 1980s. Then as now the United States was negotiating with a hostile power about nuclear issues. Then as now the negotiations proved politically contentious in the United States. Then as now the American debate involved, among other issues, the question of whether the other party would observe the terms of the agreement and how the United States could monitor its compliance with them. The two episodes have important differences, of course—most obviously the fact that the Soviet Union already had nuclear weapons in large numbers, while the United States today is trying to prevent the Islamic Republic of Iran from obtaining any at all. Several other differences between the arms control of the Cold War and the present effort are particularly telling: the magnitude of the stakes involved, the challenges of monitoring any agreement, the relationship of the negotiations to wider political issues, and the balance of power between the two countries involved." *Michael Mandelbaum is Christian A. Herter Professor of American Foreign Policy at The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.*

### [The Grand Bargain: What Iran Conceded in the Nuclear Talks](#)

Nephew, Richard. *The National Interest*. April 17, 2015, var. pages.

“Iran had to make several compromises in order to get a satisfactory nuclear deal and, in the end, the separation between Iran’s public and private stances is far wider than those of the Obama administration. Moreover, the U.S. readiness to engage in sanctions relief is not a give-away to Iran but rather a result of a proportional exchange of concessions that, though some may wish not to hear it, is the only way that diplomacy actually works. To get this far, Iran had to make several compromises on its longstanding nuclear policy. This started in the Joint Plan of Action, in which Iran agreed to permit the P5+1 (and the United States in particular) to have a role in its nuclear program decision-making. For a country as proud of its independence as Iran, the significance of this step should not be discounted. And, a similar mindset is manifest in what emerged from Lausanne earlier this month.” *Richard Nephew is a nonresident senior fellow in the Foreign Policy Program and affiliated with the Arms Control and Non-Proliferation Initiative housed within the Center for 21st Century Security and Intelligence. He is also a research scholar and program director at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University.*

### [ISIS vs. Al Qaeda: Jihadism’s Global Civil War](#)

Byman, Daniel; Williams, Jennifer. *The National Interest*. February 24, 2015, var. pages.

“Al Qaeda and its rogue stepchild, the Islamic State, are locked in mortal combat. The two are now competing for more than the leadership of the jihadist movement—they are competing for its soul... The United States and its allies should try to exploit the fight between the Islamic State and Al Qaeda and, ideally, diminish them both. The infighting goes against what either organization claims to want, and it diminishes the appeal of jihad if volunteers believe they’ll be fighting the jihadist down the block rather than the Assad regime, Americans, Shia or other enemies. Efforts to stop foreign fighters should stress this infighting. The Islamic State’s social-media strategy is also a propaganda weakness: because the organization allows bottom-up efforts, it risks allowing the most foolish or horrific low-level member to define the group. Playing up its atrocities, especially against other Sunni Muslims, will steadily discredit the group.” *Daniel Byman is a professor in the Security Studies Program at Georgetown University and the research director of the Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution. Jennifer Williams is a research assistant at the Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution.*

### **Consequences of a New Cold War**

Carap, Samuel; Shapiro, Jeremy. *Survival*. April/May 2015, pp. 37-46.

“The Ukraine crisis poses vexing policy challenges for Washington. President Barack Obama has sought to strike a balance between the imperative of responding to Russian actions and the equally important need to avoid an all-out confrontation with Moscow. As he put it in July 2014, ‘it’s not a new Cold War ... [It] is a very specific issue related to Russia’s unwillingness to recognize that Ukraine can chart its own path.’ The problem is that the administration’s balancing act cannot last long. As the deterioration of conditions in Ukraine in recent weeks has demonstrated, forces beyond the president’s control are pushing him toward the very new Cold War that he wants to avoid. Obama’s instinct to avoid a new Cold War is clearly the right one. Gratuitously seeking confrontation with Russia could lead to Armageddon, after all. More to the point, the US needs Russian cooperation on any number of global priorities: particularly Iran’s nuclear program, but also the Syrian civil war, the Middle East peace process, the stability of Afghanistan and counter-terrorism. As long as Russia is willing to play ball on those issues, the US has every reason to continue to do so as well.” *Samuel Charap is Senior Fellow for Russia and Eurasia at the IISS. Jeremy Shapiro is a Fellow in Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institution.*

### [Europe’s Tragic Political Economy](#)

Jones, Erik. *Current History*. March 2015, pp. 83-88.

“The argument over consensus and solidarity dominates the monetary side of the EU macroeconomic policy dilemma. To understand the fiscal side, it is more useful to focus on the tension between principle and the logic of interdependence. Europeans have long recognized that the close connections between their economies make it impossible for them to ignore the impact of policy changes in one country on economic conditions in all the rest. Since 1991, the various iterations of the European treaties have included a requirement that all member states—whether or not they participate in the single currency— regard their macroeconomic policy as a matter of common interest. So the question is not so much whether it makes sense for Europeans to conduct macroeconomic policy as a matter of consensus; it is whether the macroeconomic policy they adopt makes any sense in the context of interdependence that all European heads of state and government have acknowledged repeatedly. This is where the principles of sound finances, balanced budgeting, and other forms of economic virtue that dominate European policy making become important. These are simple rules of thumb like “redistribution should be avoided,” “debt is bad,” “current account surpluses are evidence of competitiveness,” and “national governments should be responsible for whatever happens in their own economies.” *Erik Jones is director of European and Eurasian Studies at the School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University and a senior research fellow at the University of Oxford’s Nuffield College.*

### **Turkey’s Continuing Role as a Pivotal Ally in a Rapidly Changing Region**

Cyr, Arthur I. *Orbis*. Spring 2015, pp. 215-232.

“Turkey’s recent history has placed it at odds with Europe and the United States, leading some to suggest that Ankara has become an unreliable ally. Such a view is short-sighted. Turkey remains geo-strategically important for a variety of reasons arising from both its pivotal location and its history. This article seeks to take the long view, placing recent developments in their historical context. Turkey’s distinctive and long history is key to both analysis of the current situation, and evaluation of appropriate foreign policies toward Europe, the Middle East, the United States and the wider international system... Turkey’s strategic advantages will continue to be important for the United States and a significant, though indirect, source of leverage for Israel’s long-term goal of national security defined in regional terms. Especially given that Turkey has now been governed by the Islamic AKP for some time, and the difficult and unpredictable nature of Erdogan’s leadership, Western leaders must craft their specific policy statements and actions carefully, defining and placing them in the wider strategic context. The past history of cooperation between Washington, D.C. and Ankara should be used to reinforce recognition of Turkey’s continuing strategic importance.” *Arthur I. Cyr is the A.W. and Mary Margaret Clausen Distinguished Professor of Political Economy and World Business, and Director of the Clausen Center for World Business, at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute.*

### **The Convergence of Terrorism and Transnational Crime in Central Asia**

Reyes, Liana Eustacia; Dinar, Shlomi. *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*. May 2015, pp. 380-393.

“This article examines the convergence among ethnic groups, narco-traffickers, insurgents, and terror organizations in Central Asia. It analyzes the lucrative business of drug trafficking and the diffusion of globalization, which have undoubtedly brought these once disparate groups together. It will explore how the increasing movement of illicit goods and people, proliferation of transportation technology, growing infrastructure, cooperative ethnicities, as well as a shared need for funding, have provided these groups with an opportunity to consolidate their efforts in ways that were not possible in the past... Drug trafficking has provided once disparate groups with a financial opportunity that facilitates the development of strategic relationships where funding tactics, logistics, and organizational structures are

shared, merged, and/or emulated. But Central Asian countries are important transit countries due to the dominance of opiate production that Afghanistan globally asserts, the opiate consumption that Russia globally boasts, and the precursor chemical production that China, Pakistan, Turkey, and Russia globally maintain, which has made the diffusion of globalization a facilitating factor in the route's increasing dominance." *Liana Eustacia Reyes is a research coordinator for IBI Consultants, a national security consulting firm. Shlomi Dinar is Associate Director School of International and Public Affairs, Florida International University.*

#### **40 Years After Exit From Saigon: Vietnam and US Find Strategic Common Ground**

Hiebert, Murray. *YaleGlobal*. April 30, 2015, var. pages.

"Since the United States and Vietnam restored diplomatic ties in 1995, their relations have deepened in almost every area from economic to military relations and political to cultural cooperation. When Vietnamese president Truong Tan San visited Washington in July 2013, he and Obama announced an agreement to launch a comprehensive partnership, signaling a decision by both governments to boost strategic ties. Bilateral economic relations have flourished since 1994 when the United States lifted the embargo against Vietnam. Two-way trade reached \$36.3 billion in 2014, up more than tenfold since the two countries signed a bilateral trade agreement 13 years ago. Vietnam estimates that US companies have invested \$11 billion, making the United States the country's seventh largest investor. The biggest US investor is Intel Corp., which built a \$1 billion wafer testing plant in Ho Chi Minh City... Despite Vietnam's growing trade ties with the rest of the world, China remains the country's top trading partner with two-way trade expected to reach \$60 billion this year, almost twice that with the United States. But Vietnam's economic dependence runs even deeper. The country relies on China for much of its electricity in the northern part of the country, and many of the inputs for its critical exports of garments to the United States and Europe come from China." *Murray Hiebert is senior fellow and deputy director of the Sumitro Chair for Southeast Asian Studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, DC.*

#### **The Impact of China on Cybersecurity: Fiction and Friction**

Lindsay, Jon R. *International Security*. Winter 2014/2015, pp.7-47.

"The ubiquity and interconnectedness of computers in global commerce, civil society, and military affairs create crosscutting challenges for policy and conceptual confusion for theory. The challenges and confusion in cyber security are particularly acute in the case of China, which has one of the world's fastest growing internet economies and one of its most active cyber operations programs... The modern intelligence-counterintelligence contest plays out in a complicated sociotechnical space where states take advantage of economic cooperation and hedge against security competition. Exaggeration of the cyber threat feeds spirals of mistrust, which make this undesirable outcome slightly more likely. The United States and China should discuss the interaction of cyber security and traditional military force in depth and take steps to limit misunderstandings about the other's intentions. They might even learn to interpret chronic cyber friction as a sign that more truly dangerous threats have been constrained. Contrary to conventional wisdom, the emergence of complex cyber threats may be a positive development in the tragic history of international politics: the bad news about cybersecurity is good news for global security." *Jon R. Lindsay is an assistant research scientist at the University of California Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation and an assistant adjunct professor at the University of California, San Diego School of International Relations and Pacific Studies.*

#### **The Bursting of the BRICs Bubble**

Jones, Bruce. *The American Interest*. April 2015, var. pages.

"After two decades of explosive growth and nearly a decade of rising geopolitical clout, the BRICs now face a number of grim economic indicators. For much of the past decade, the seemingly inexorable growth of the BRICs led many experts to argue that the post-American world was at hand. This was always an exaggeration, but the narrative stuck... Turn the clock back 15 years, and it is easy to see why the international financial community became transfixed by the BRICs' potential. Between Brazil, India and China, more than two billion people were living at low to low-middle income levels, and all three capitals had been taking the necessary policy steps to unleash their growth potential. And grow they did—massively. Russia grew rapidly too. It was always a bizarre conceptual error to lump Russia in with the other three countries, but it is true that roughly between 1999 and 2009 Russia grew rapidly. This should never have been thought of as dynamic growth, however; this was an oil-driven recovery from the near-total collapse of the country's economy at the end of the Soviet era, a 90 percent contraction. Still, Russia rode the global growth wave and the commodity super-cycle to recover from that nadir." *Bruce D. Jones is interim vice president for foreign policy at the Brookings Institution.*

### [Getting Serious About the Arctic: US Interests in the North](#)

Roughead, Gary. *Harvard International Review*. April 15, 2015, var. pages.

"Most images of the opening Arctic portray calm seas, brilliant sunshine, and distressed wildlife. However, the Arctic is big, formidable, and profoundly different from the southern polar region. Canada's Arctic region alone adds up to around the same area as all of Europe. Including other Arctic landmasses, the terrestrial space of the Arctic is massive. Oftentimes, Arctic policy encourages the adoption of time-tested Antarctic arrangements and protocols. However, the two poles could not be more different – the Antarctic is a continent surrounded by ocean, while the Arctic is an ocean surrounded by continents... It is best to think about the Arctic in terms of energy and mineral resources, shipping, security, and governance. While it may be convenient to approach each issue independently, they are all inextricably linked. Furthermore, it is also significant that the region is opening at a time of significant technological change. To simply replicate protocols and policies of other geographic areas, without thoughtfully and aggressively applying new technology to this extraordinarily rare event, would be shortsighted. No longer are we at a point where we can just talk about climate change or the dramatic physical changes taking place. The United States must begin to make informed investments that best position it for a fruitful Arctic future." *Admiral Gary Roughead is an Annenberg Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. Prior to retiring from the US Navy, he was the US Navy Chief of Naval Operations and a member of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff.*

### [Diplomacy: An Open-Source Alternative](#)

MacDermott, Siobhan. *The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs*. Winter 2015, pp. 99-104.

"Before the news out of the Middle East turned almost universally distressing, many Westerners were wide-eyed over what some called the Arab Spring and others, the Arab Awakening. Technologists, especially those in and around Silicon Valley, were quick to attribute the Middle Eastern uprisings that began in 2010 to a combination of social media and mobile phones... The early successes of the Arab Spring notwithstanding, the ensuing years show that the legal, coercive, and technological power of nationstates limits the capacity of the Internet to transcend governments and create a genuinely global community, let alone a digital super state. Tis admitted, I nevertheless believe the Internet does offer an alternative source of global governance, one that is largely untapped and potentially paradigm shifting. Call it open-source cyberdiplomacy." *Siobhan MacDermott is an expert on the future of the Internet, cybersecurity, privacy, and business-government relations globally.*

## U.S. DOMESTIC POLICY AND TRENDS

### REPORTS

#### [The Economic Benefits of U.S. Trade](#)

The Executive Office of the President of the United States. May 2015 [PDF format, 52 pages]

“President Obama’s top priority is to make sure the United States builds on its economic momentum by continuing to grow businesses, create jobs, and expand the middle class. That is why the President is committed to free and fair trade agreements that level the playing field and benefit American businesses and workers. This report presents original empirical evidence, alongside a summary of the extensive economic literature, on a broad range of effects of enhanced U.S. trade and U.S. free trade agreements (FTAs)... Since the middle of the last century, declining policy barriers, transportation costs, and communication costs have driven a swift rise in world trade and foreign investment, far outpacing the growth in world output. Even so, the potential economic gains from trade for the United States are far from exhausted. U.S. businesses must overcome an average tariff hurdle near 6.8 percent and countless non-tariff measures to serve the roughly three-quarters of world purchasing power and more than 95 percent of world population that resides outside America's borders. Expanding trade allows production inputs such as labor and capital to be used more efficiently, which raises overall productivity. U.S. businesses that grow in response to increased market access abroad support additional job opportunities. These firms are more productive and rely more on capital and skilled workers, on average, than similar non-exporting firms.”

#### [United States of Trade: 50 Stories in 50 States that Show the Impact of Trade Across the Nation](#)

Executive office of the President of the United States; U.S. Department of Commerce. April 2015.

This new report shows that the number of jobs supported by goods exports continues to rise in states across the U.S. The report also includes individual success stories, in all 50 states, of small and medium sized businesses that are using exports to expand their businesses and support well-paying American jobs... The United States of Trade report includes the most current data for all 50 states on the overall value of goods exports and on exports to countries involved in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), as well as data on the number of exporters and the percent of exporters that are small- or medium-sized businesses.

“Currently, around 300,000 small- and medium sized businesses across the 50 states export goods to foreign destinations, supporting millions of American jobs through direct exports and participation in supply chains... With 95 percent of the world’s customers living outside of U.S. borders, there is enormous potential for our businesses – and small businesses in particular – to grow their exports, hire more American workers, and expand their bottom lines.”

#### [FACT SHEET: Administration Announces New Agenda To Modernize Energy Infrastructure](#)

The White House. April 21, 2015.

“The Obama Administration is committed to taking responsible steps to modernize our energy infrastructure, create a clean energy economy built to last, combat climate change, and increase reliance on domestic energy resources... The United States has the most advanced energy systems in the world, supplying the reliable, affordable and increasingly clean power and fuels that underpin every facet of our nation’s economy. But our energy landscape is changing dramatically. Solar electricity generation has increased 20-fold since 2008, and electricity generation from wind energy has more than tripled. During that period, the United States has also become the world’s leading

producer of oil and natural gas combined. The country is less dependent on foreign oil, as a percentage of national oil consumption, than it has been in more than 40 years. Today's new cars can go farther on a gallon of gasoline than ever before. Between 2005 and 2014, U.S. consumption of motor gasoline fell more than two percent despite population growth, while the economy grew 13 percent. And policies to promote energy efficiency have contributed to keeping U.S. electricity consumption flat over that 10-year period, while total energy use declined nearly two percent."

### [Strengthening Communities by Welcoming All Residents: A Federal Strategic Action Plan on Immigrant & Refugee Integration](#)

The White House Task Force on New Americans. April 15, 2015 [PDF format, 70 pages]

"The Task Force aims to further strengthen the federal government's integration efforts by making them more strategic and deliberate... The Task Force identified goals to strengthen our civic, economic, and linguistic integration and to build strong and welcoming communities. Achieving these goals will require action by all Task Force members, state and local governments, the private and philanthropic sectors, and immigrants and refugees themselves. The Task Force will implement the recommended actions contained in this report, and identify additional activities to further expand immigrant and refugee integration efforts and build welcoming communities... As a part of its internal assessment process, the Task Force identified 58 current immigrant integration programs administered by 10 federal agencies that are Task Force members. Of these integration programs, 33 primarily emphasize civic integration, 16 primarily focus on linguistic integration, and 9 focus on economic integration. While programs supporting economic integration are fewer in number, they tend to be funded on a larger scale than comparable civic- or linguistic-focused programs. By contrast, linguistically focused programs are more numerous but account for a smaller amount of funding... Creating this national strategy has been an all-hands-on-deck effort that has brought together individuals, communities, civic and faith leaders, philanthropy, and the private sector to identify innovative solutions to integrating immigrants and refugees in communities across the country."

### [The Changing Face of the Heartland: Preparing America's Diverse Workforce for Tomorrow](#)

Bradley, Jennifer. The Brookings Institution. March 2015.

"This newest Brookings essay examines efforts in U.S. metropolitan areas to prepare a more diverse workforce, with a particular focus on Minneapolis-St. Paul. "Minnesota and the surrounding states of the upper Midwest are experiencing a demographic revolution. Yet that fact and its significance are just beginning to sink in, which is why many residents of the greater Minneapolis-St. Paul area, whatever their own ethnicity, still refer to their community matter-of-factly as "lily white." And while it's true that with a 78 percent Caucasian population the Twin Cities are still far less ethnically diverse than other parts of the United States — among them the far West and Southeast as well as gateway cities and multicultural hubs like New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, San Francisco, and Miami — it's also becoming less true with every passing year. One big reason: immigration." *Jennifer Bradley is the founding director of the Center for Urban Innovation at the Aspen Institute.*

### [The Growing Distance between People and Jobs in Metropolitan America](#)

Kneebone, Elisabeth; Holmes, Natalie. Metropolitan Policy Program, The Brookings Institution. April 2015.

"The 2000s ushered in significant demographic and economic changes that have redrawn the map of economic opportunity in metropolitan America. Two economic downturns and the weak recoveries that followed left the nation with fewer jobs in 2010 than in 2000. As jobs declined, they continued to push farther outward within the nation's

largest metro areas. Almost every major metro area saw jobs shift away from the urban core during the 2000s. The outward shift of both people and jobs in the 2000s changed their proximity to each other, and often not for the better. This study takes a new approach to determine how many jobs people live near, or what we term job proximity, throughout the United States. Proximity can influence a range of outcomes, from the fiscal health of a community to employment opportunities for residents. Differences across people and places in job proximity, and trends over time, illustrate how economic and demographic shifts in the 2000s reshaped the map of economic opportunity for different communities and populations.” According to the authors, there’s a need to understand how regional economic and demographic trends intersect at the local level to shape access to employment opportunities, particularly for disadvantaged populations and neighborhoods. And they point to the need for more integrated and collaborative regional strategies around economic development, housing, transportation, and workforce decisions that take job proximity into account.” *Elizabeth Kneebone is a fellow at the Brookings Institution’s Metropolitan Policy Program. Natalie Holmes is a senior research assistant at the Metropolitan Policy Program.*

### [The Internet of Things: Exploring the Next Technology Frontier](#)

Testimony by Daniel Castro, Vice President, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation Director, Center for Data Innovation Before the Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade. March 24, 2015 [PDF format, 11 pages]

“In my testimony today, I would like to describe the opportunity presented by the Internet of Things to address important economic and societal issues, its unique impact on manufacturing, and the opportunity Congress has to incentivize better privacy and security practices while not stifling innovation. The Internet of Things encapsulates the idea that ordinary objects—from thermostats and shoes to cars and lamp posts—will be embedded with sensors and connected to the Internet. These devices will then send and receive data that can be analyzed and acted upon. As the technology becomes cheaper and more robust, an increasing number of devices will join the Internet of Things. By 2020, industry analysts expect that the total worldwide count of connected devices to exceed 40 billion... The success of the Internet of Things will depend in part on the actions of Congress. Not only should policymakers avoid heavy-handed rules that would impose costs, limit innovation, and slow adoption, they should actively support accelerating the development and deployment of the Internet of Things, such as by creating pilot projects for smart cities, encouraging smart infrastructure projects, and designing an efficient regulatory review process for wearable health technologies. Just as the success of the Internet today can be credited in part to policymakers actively taking a role to ensure its growth, a similar approach should be applied to building the Internet of Things. Congress should help pave the road for innovation by asking the Department of Commerce to develop a national strategy to guide the deployment and adoption of the Internet of Things.”

### [State of the News Media 2015](#)

Mitchell, Amy. Pew Research Center’s Journalism Project. April 2015.

The State of the News Media 2015 is the twelfth edition of an annual report that examines the landscape of American journalism. This year’s study includes 13 data-filled fact sheets, each of which provides the latest audience, economic, news investment and ownership trends for key sectors of news media, from cable TV to African-American media to news magazines. At the start of 2015, 39 of the top 50 digital news websites have more traffic to their sites and associated applications coming from mobile devices than from desktop computers, according to this report. “Even as mobile and social news habits evolve, legacy platforms have by no means been abandoned, though some are faring better than others. Local TV continues to capture broadcast viewers, with slight increases for evening (3%) and morning (2%) newscasts and larger ones for early morning and midday in 2014. Network television news saw a

second straight year of audience growth (5% in evening and 2% in morning), for a combined average evening viewership of roughly 24 million.” *Amy Mitchell is director of journalism research for the Pew Research Center.*

### [Campaign 2016: Modest Interest, High Stakes](#)

Pew Research Center [Note: contains copyrighted material] April 2, 2015 [PDF format, 33 pages]

“The 2016 presidential campaign has gotten off to a slow start with voters. A majority of registered voters (58%) say they have given at least some thought to candidates who may run for president in 2016, but that is 10 points lower than at a comparable point in the 2008 campaign – the last time both parties had contested nominations. Yet, even at this early stage, the vast majority of voters (87%) say they care a good deal about who wins the presidency, and 72% say they care which party prevails. The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted March 25-29 among 1,500 adults, including 1,097 registered voters, finds stark differences in the way the possible Democratic and Republican fields are shaping up. Among the potential set of Democratic candidates, Hillary Clinton has a wide lead over other possible contenders, with fully 59% of Democratic and Democratic-leaning registered voters saying there is a good chance they would vote for her (86% say there is at least some chance they would). By contrast, no Republican stands out among the party’s crowded field: Of 10 possible GOP contenders asked about in the current survey, no candidate garners solid support from more than a quarter of Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters.”

### [2015 Brown Center Report on American Education: How Well Are American Students Learning?](#)

LoveLess, Tom. The Brookings Institution [Note: contains copyrighted material] March 2015 [PDF format, 40 pages]

“The 2015 Brown Center Report (BCR) represents the 14th edition of the series since the first issue was published in 2000. It includes three studies. Like all previous BCRs, the studies explore independent topics but share two characteristics: they are empirical and based on the best evidence available. The studies in this edition are on the gender gap in reading, the impact of the Common Core State Standards — English Language Arts on reading achievement, and student engagement. Part one examines the gender gap in reading. Girls outscore boys on practically every reading test given to a large population... Part two is about reading achievement, too. More specifically, it’s about reading and the English Language Arts standards of the Common Core (CCSS-ELA). It’s also about an important decision that policy analysts must make when evaluating public policies—the determination of when a policy begins... Part three is on student engagement... Provides secondary analysis of several dimensions of engagement found in the PISA report. Intrinsic motivation, the internal rewards that encourage students to learn, is an important component of student engagement.” *Tom Loveless is a Nonresident Senior Fellow, The Brown Center on Education Policy, The Brookings Institution.*

### [Profiles: The State of Early Childhood Programs](#)

Center for American Progress [Note: contains copyrighted material] April 10, 2015 [HTML format, various paging]

The social and economic benefits of high-quality early childhood programs have created substantial momentum for increased investment. As more and more states have acknowledged the importance of such programs, they have answered this call. Despite these efforts, states must make additional investments in early childhood programs in order to increase accessibility and improve or maintain quality. The following fact sheets provide insight into what states are doing to ensure that high-quality education is accessible to all children and how they can improve on that success.

### [Dropping Out and Clocking In: A Portrait of Teens Who Leave School Early and Work](#)

Scott, Molly M., et. al. Urban Institute [Note: contains copyrighted material] April 15, 2015 [PDF format, 13 pages]

"Much of the current policy conversation around helping youth stay the course focuses on disconnected youth who are not in school or employed, but there is another group: youth who drop out and work. The brief uses data from the American Community Survey on 16- to 18-year-old youth to describe trends in early employment. The analyses show that young workers contribute substantially to their households, raising important questions about the economic role of youth and future approaches to dropout prevention. "Understanding young people's role in their families' economic support system is important to designing effective programs and policies. Current cutting-edge dropout prevention strategies employ earlywarning systems to target students who are behind academically and chronically absent from school and apply intensive school-based academic and behavioral interventions to keep these students on track. Many of the youth identified through these systems may be at risk of trading off their high school education to help meet their families' short-term economic needs." *Molly M. Scott is a senior research associate in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute.*

### [Beyond College Rankings: A Value-Added Approach to Assessing Two- and Four-Year Schools](#)

Rothwell, Jonathan; Kulkarni, Siddharth. The Brookings Institution. April 2015.

In this report the author explores the "value-added" of 2- and 4-year colleges in the United States. Unlike many previous measures of college performance, Rothwell's "value-added" measure accounts for the difference in the expected economic success of alumni and the actual outcomes of graduates. Rothwell measures the expected success of alumni from each school based on factors like academic performance, student body demographics, and the types of courses offered at each school. He then compares these measures against the actual performance of graduates from each school based on mid-career earnings levels, the value of job skills, and ability to repay student loans. Within the report, you will find an interactive that allows you to sort nearly 7,000 U.S. colleges based on these measures of alumni performance. *Jonathan Rothwell is a fellow at the Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings. Siddharth Kulkarni is a Senior Research Assistant at the Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings.*

## ARTICLES

### [Why Detroit could be the next Silicon Valley \(and vice versa\)](#)

Katz, Bruce. The Brookings Institution. April 8, 2015.

"Historically, the economies of Detroit and Silicon Valley couldn't look more different: the Motor City has long been known as a hub for manufacturing and the auto industry, while innovations in technology have dominated Silicon Valley. Despite their differences, these cities are actually more similar than most think. Increasingly, manufacturing has gone high-tech in Detroit, while the Silicon Valley/San Jose region has seen an uptick in manufacturing... It would surprise no one that San Jose and Silicon Valley have the highest concentration of advanced industries workers in the country, with 30% of all jobs in the metro area in one of these R&D and STEM-intensive industries. While some might think Facebook FB 0.57% and Twitter TWTR dominate the Valley, manufacturing actually employs nearly half (46.1%) of workers. These 134,000 workers produce everything from semiconductors to computer equipment to aerospace parts and pharmaceuticals. The reverse dynamic is at play in Detroit. While the automotive industry accounts for over one-third of all advanced industry employment, services still employ almost half. Over 32,000 professionals in the Detroit metro area are employed in the computer systems design sector alone—many of which feed into the larger

automotive supply chain. Still, even this data obscures just how much the business of innovation is changing —and how firms are responding. General Motors GM -1.94% remains one of the largest employers in Detroit, mostly within automotive manufacturing. But increasingly, the automaker has also been getting into the software space, according to patenting data, which shows that GM filed 592 software patents over the past five years, accounting for over 15% of their patenting activity.” *Bruce Katz is vice president and founding director of the Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institution.*

### [Excellence and Equity](#)

*The Economist.* March 28, 2015, var. pages.

“The American-style research university is the gold standard, and competition among nations to create world-class research universities as good as America’s is intensifying. Spending on higher education is rising: across the OECD, from 1.3% of GDP in 2000 to 1.6% in 2011. Provision, financing and control everywhere is moving away from the European model, where everything is done by the state, towards the American one, in which the private sector provides a large part of the education and individuals pay for most of their tuition. But just as the American model is spreading around the world, it is struggling at home. America’s best universities still do more top-class research than any other country’s; the problem lies in getting value for money on the teaching side. Tests suggest that many students do not learn enough these days. They work less than they used to. The average performance of America’s graduates, compared with those of other countries, is low and slipping. Higher education does not increase social mobility but reinforces existing barriers. At the same time costs have nearly doubled in real terms in the past 20 years.”

### [M.B.A. Programs That Get You Where You Want to Go](#)

McDonald, Duff. *The New York Times.* April 7, 2015.

“With some 13,000 graduate schools of business across the globe, the M.B.A. degree has clearly become a commodity. Even among elite schools, courses and case studies are pretty much water from the same well (i.e., finance, operations, marketing, accounting). So how do you choose? By using the rankings? Which ones? The Economist’s? Business Week’s? The Financial Times’s? And if you do, how do you tell the difference between a school ranked No. 6 and a school ranked No. 7? Conventional wisdom will tell you that Harvard is for Fortune 500 jobs, Wharton for Wall Street, Kellogg for marketing and Insead for multinational entities. There’s truth to some of it, but times change, and so do employers’ recruiting preferences. The smartest move might be to choose your business school by focusing on a very specific outcome and, assuming a good fit personally, going to the one with an impressive record of helping students achieve the same.” *Duff McDonald is author of “The Firm: The Story of McKinsey and Its Secret Influence on American Business” (Simon & Schuster, 2014). He is writing a book about Harvard Business School.*

### [The Upwardly Mobile Barista](#)

Ripley, Amanda. *The Atlantic.* May 2015, var. pages.

“When it comes to college, the central challenge for most Americans in the 21st century is not going; it’s finishing. Thirty-five million Americans now have some college experience but no degree. More Americans than live in Texas, in other words, have spent enough time at college to glimpse the promised land—but not enough to reap the financial bounty. Some are worse off than if they’d never enrolled at all, carrying tens of thousands of dollars in debt, not to mention the scar tissue of regret and self-doubt. President Obama’s recent proposal to have the federal government

and states pay for two years of community college is elegantly simple, and would surely prompt more students to enroll. But community college is already close to free for most low-income students, and still only 4 percent of all community-college students earn a two-year degree in two years. (Yes, 4 percent.) Money is just part of the problem.” *Amanda Ripley is an investigative journalist for Time, The Atlantic and other magazines. She is the author, most recently, of Smartest Kids in the World –and How They Got That Way (Simon & Schuster, 2014).*

### [How Makerspaces Help Local Economies](#)

Tierney, John. *The Atlantic*. April 17, 2015, var. pages.

“New technologies like 3-D printers and laser cutters have boosted entrepreneurial activity in American communities... We've noticed the remarkable number of "makerspaces," "fab labs," tech incubators, and similar facilities dedicated to helping makers, designers, creators, and entrepreneurs bring their vision of a new product to fruition, translating an idea into a tangible, manufactured item. We've come across these spaces in Greenville, South Carolina; Columbus, Ohio; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and many other places. And Deb Fallows has explored the way other civic institutions, particularly public libraries, are getting on-board, providing space and equipment for such endeavors.” *John Tierney is a contributing writer for The Atlantic and a former professor of American government at Boston College.*

### [Women Are Owning More and More Small Businesses](#)

White, Gillian B. *CityLab*. April 17, 2015, var. pages.

“A report from the Institute of Women's Policy Research (IWPR) shows that women are steadily increasing their presence in the world of small-business ownership. About 29 percent of America's business owners are women, that's up from 26 percent in 1997. The number of women-owned firms has grown 68 percent since 2007, compared with 47 percent for all businesses... Why have minority women had such an apparent breakthrough in the world of entrepreneurship? It's partially a numbers game—in 1997 minority women represented such a small number of owners—less than one million—that even moderate growth would have likely helped them outpace the growth of the broader field of women-owners. But Jessica Milli, a senior research associate at IWPR, says that the characteristics of minority women who opt to open businesses may also play a role in the runaway growth.” *Gillian B. White is a senior associate editor at The Atlantic.*

### **Protecting America's Competitive Advantage: Why the Export-Import Bank Matters**

Hochberg, Fred. *Foreign Affairs*. May/June 2015, pp.59-70.

“The Export-Import Bank of the US empowers American exporters by equipping those that cannot access private financing with credit insurance and working capital, among other tools. For more than 80 years, the bank has operated largely without controversy. Ignoring the bank's long record of supporting jobs, safeguarding taxpayer dollars, and maintaining a low default rate, a small minority of conservative Republicans began expressing opposition to the bank on ideological grounds. The US government, they argued, has no role to play in global finance and should not interfere in the export sector in ways that might give some companies an advantage over others. Of course, this argument ignores the fact that government-backed export financing does not pick winners and losers -- on the contrary, it is entirely demand-driven. Ideological opposition to the Export-Import Bank is not only shortsighted; it could also have devastating consequences for the thousands of US businesses and workers who rely on the bank's financing to secure overseas sales.” *Fred Hochberg is Chair and President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.*

## **Solar Power Comes of Age: How Harnessing the Sun Got Cheap and Practical**

Pinner, Dickon; Rogers, Matt. *Foreign Affairs*. March/April 2015, pp. 111-118.

"Solar power has been declared a winner before, only to flounder. But this time really is different: solar power is ready to compete on its own terms. Four factors lie behind the rise of solar power: 1. regulatory support; 2. industrialization, chiefly in China; 3. technological innovation; and 4. financing. As the rates for solar power begin to match the rates for traditional energy sources in more and more markets, the capacity of solar power installed each year could increase from about 45 gigawatts today to more than 200 gigawatts by 2025. That would fundamentally disrupt the electric power sector, however. Amid all the optimism, it's worth considering what might set back solar power. One possibility is that governments might dismantle or weaken their supportive policies. But even without a great leap forward in efficiency and batteries, and even with halting and sometimes contradictory government policies, the momentum behind solar power has become unstoppable." *Dickon Pinner is a Director in McKinsey's San Francisco office, where he leads McKinsey's Global Cleantech Practice. Matt Rogers is a Director in McKinsey's San Francisco office.*

## **Why Can't America Have Great Trains?**

van Zuylen-Wood, Simon. *National Journal*. April 18, 2015, var. pages.

"Compared with the high-speed trains of Western Europe and East Asia, American passenger rail is notoriously creaky, tardy, and slow. The Acela, currently the only 'high-speed' train in America, runs at an average pace of 68 miles per hour between Washington and Boston; a high-speed train from Madrid to Barcelona averages 154 miles per hour. Amtrak's most punctual trains arrive on schedule 75 percent of the time; judged by Amtrak's lax standards, Japan's bullet trains are late basically 0 percent of the time. And those stats don't figure to improve anytime soon... With Washington largely abdicating on high-speed rail, much of the energy is now in the private sector. One private project would run from Dallas to Houston in 90 minutes and is slated for completion in 2021. Another, which is set to run from Miami to Orlando in three hours, could be completed as soon as 2017... The private ventures and the California project do raise the question of whether the future of American train travel lies inside Amtrak or outside it. On the one hand, Amtrak is the only institution that is plausibly equipped to carry out the money-losing experiment that a world-class national train network would be. On the other hand, having starved Amtrak for this long, Washington isn't likely to wake up one morning and decide to suddenly shower the agency with cash." *Simon van Zuylen-Wood is a writer-at-large for Philadelphia and Boston magazines and a contributing writer at National Journal magazine.*

## **America Is Ready for Gay Marriage**

Ball, Molly. *CityLab*. April 28, 2015, var. pages.

"As the Supreme Court hears arguments toward a landmark ruling on same-sex marriages, public opinion has already turned largely in favor of gay unions... Gay marriage is now legal in 37 states. Eighteen states have legalized it in the past six months alone. Meanwhile, public support continues to increase, with 61 percent of Americans saying they support gay marriage in a recent poll and just 35 percent opposed. As gay marriage spreads across the country, in other words, Americans are becoming more accepting of it—and that could be a key factor as the Supreme Court takes up the issue in oral arguments on Tuesday. America, proponents argue, is now ready for gay marriage as never before." *Molly Ball is a staff writer covering national politics at The Atlantic.*

## [Building the First Slavery Museum in America](#)

Amsden, David. *The New York Times*. February 26, 2015, var. pages.

“On Dec. 7, the Whitney Plantation, in the town of Wallace, 35 miles west of New Orleans, celebrated its opening, and it was clear, based on the crowd entering the freshly painted gates, that the plantation intended to provide a different experience from those of its neighbors. Roughly half of the visitors were black, for starters, an anomaly on plantation tours in the Deep South. And while there were plenty of genteel New Orleanians eager for a peek at the antiques inside the property’s Creole mansion, they were outnumbered by professors, historians, preservationists, artists, graduate students, gospel singers and men and women from Senegal dressed in traditional West African garb: flowing boubous of intricate embroidery and bright, saturated colors. If opinions on the restoration varied, visitors were in agreement that they had never seen anything quite like it. Built largely in secret and under decidedly unorthodox circumstances, the Whitney had been turned into a museum dedicated to telling the story of slavery — the first of its kind in the United States.” *David Amsden is a novelist and journalist who lives in New Orleans and Brooklyn.*



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