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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

REPORTS

[U.S. Strategy in Syria](#)

Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry. Washington DC. November 12, 2015.

“President Obama has made his view clear that the crisis in Syria cannot be resolved militarily, and that remains the case. But it’s also clear that the chance for successful diplomacy depends, in part, on the ability to exert leverage, on control of territory, on perceptions about who is gaining or has the upper hand.”

[The U.S. Role and Strategy in the Middle East](#)

Testimony of Ambassador Anne W. Patterson Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, U.S. Department of State Before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. October 28, 2015 [PDF format, 24 pages]

“Today’s instability has deep roots in six challenges that occur in varying degrees across the region, including: (1) challenges to political legitimacy; (2) lagging institutional competence; (3) demography; (4) lagging economies; (5) growing religious sectarianism; (6) the role of Islam in politics.”

[Remarks at the Berlin Security Conference](#)

Remarks by Victoria Nuland, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State. Berlin, Germany. November 17, 2015.

“Whether we’re talking about Ukraine, strengthening NATO, improving global security, defeating terror, or strengthening our prosperity and our free market way of life, the United States, Canada, and Europe need each other more than ever.”

[The 2014 International Religious Freedom Report](#)

U.S. Department of State. October 14, 2015.

Now in its 17th year, this congressionally-mandated Report comprises almost 200 distinct reports on countries and territories worldwide and continues to reflect the United States’ commitment to, and advancement of, the right of every person to freedom of religion or belief.

[Remarks on Climate Change and National Security](#)

By John Kerry, U.S. Secretary of State, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA, November 10, 2015.

“But the reason I have made climate change a priority in my current role as Secretary of State is not simply because climate change is a threat to the environment. It’s because – by fueling extreme weather events, undermining our military readiness, exacerbating conflicts around the world – climate change is a threat to the security of the United States and, indeed, to the security and stability of countries everywhere.”

[FACT SHEET: Advancing the Rebalance to Asia and the Pacific](#)

The White House. November 16, 2015.

“The region presents clear challenges in the years ahead, including concerns related to nuclear proliferation; intensifying maritime disputes; backsliding in democratic governance and respect for human rights in some countries; and transnational challenges ranging from climate change to terrorism to human and wildlife trafficking.”

[2016 Global Forecast](#)

Craig Cohen and Melissa Dalton, Editors. Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). November 15, 2015.

This is an annual collection of wide-ranging essays by CSIS experts, providing insight into the major ideas, events, trends, and personalities likely to shape international affairs in the year ahead. *Craig Cohen is executive vice president at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Melissa Dalton is a fellow and chief of staff of the CSIS International Security Program (ISP).*

[The Rise of Radicalism: Growing Terrorist Sanctuaries and the Threat to the U.S. Homeland](#)

Testimony by Peter Bergen Vice President, Director of International Security and Fellows Programs, New America for a Joint Hearing of the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security and the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. November 18, 2015 [PDF format, 13 pages]

“This testimony is divided into six sections: (1) who the Westerners being recruited by ISIS are; (2) how they are being recruited; (3) the threat to the United States by ISIS’s American recruits; (4) the threat to the United States by ISIS’s non-American recruits; (5) how ISIS is expanding its reach; (6) how to defeat ISIS.”

[Radicalization: Social Media and the Rise of Terrorism](#)

Written Testimony by Alberto Fernández, Vice President of the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Subcommittee on National Security. October 28, 2015.

“Radicalization through social media is often not the mass consumption of snuff videos but rather the direction, intimate interaction between individuals who form a bond through cyberspace. There is a role for vetted members of civil society in helping out in a very powerful, unique and individualized way to intervene against these extremist interactions.”

[How the Current Conflicts Are Shaping the Future of Syria and Iraq](#)

Brian M. Jenkins. Rand Corporation. October 2015 [PDF format, 27 pages]

“This essay examines how the dynamics of the continuing conflicts will shape the future of Syria, Iraq, and the broader region. The conclusions point to a substantial gap between American national objectives and a realistic appreciation of the situation.” *Brian M. Jenkins is a senior adviser to the president of the RAND Corporation.*

[In Syrian War, Peace, Politics and Possibilities Are a Local Affair](#)

Osama Gharizi. U.S. Institute of Peace. October 2015 [HTML format, various pages]

“While the mass bloodshed of Syria’s civil war so far has spared many Kurdish and Arab farming villages in Syria’s far northeast, the war has exacerbated communal tensions there.” *Osama Gharizi is a USIP program officer for the Middle East and Africa.*

[Refugees and the Making of an Arab Regional Disorder](#)

Maha Yahya. Carnegie Middle East Center. November 9, 2015.

“Wars in Iraq and Syria have displaced around 12 million Syrians and 4 million Iraqis as of June 2015, marking a historic turning point for the region. The increasingly sectarian nature of these conflicts is dismantling the idea of a nation-state built on societal diversity and is affecting the refugee policies of Lebanon and Jordan.” *Maha Yahya is a senior associate at the Carnegie Middle East Center.*

[The Islamic State We Knew: Insights Before the Resurgence and Their Implications](#)

Howard J. Shatz. Rand Corporation. October 2015. [PDF format, 24 pages]

“Drawing from articles and documents that were publicly available before 2012, this report shows that quite a bit was known about the Islamic State by the end of 2011: how it financed and organized itself, how it operated, how it captured territory, and what its relationship with airpower looked like. One big thing remained unknown, however: what it would do next.” *Howard J. Shatz is a senior economist at the RAND Corporation and professor at Pardee Rand Graduate School.*

[The Future of Political Salafism in Egypt and Tunisia](#)

Georges Fahmi. Carnegie Middle East Center. November 16, 2015 [HTML format, various pages]

“If Salafi parties seek to be relevant as political actors and maintain a certain level of influence over the political process, they will need to regain the trust of the Islamic youth, find a healthy balance between their religious and political structures, and offer a comprehensive model of governance.” *Georges Fahmi is a visiting scholar at the Carnegie Middle East Center*

[Imagining a New Security Order in the Persian Gulf](#)

Frederic Wehrey; Richard Sokolsky. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. October 14, 2015 [HTML format, various pages]

“The Iranian nuclear agreement presents an opportunity to take a first step toward creating a new security order in the Gulf, one that could improve relations between Iran and the Gulf Arab states and facilitate a lessening of the U.S. military commitment.” *Frederic Wehrey is a senior associate in the Middle East Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Richard Sokolsky is a senior associate in Carnegie’s Russia and Eurasia Program.*

[What Factors Cause Youth to Reject Violent Extremism? Results of an Exploratory Analysis in the West Bank](#)

Kim Cragin, et. al. Rand Corporation. October 2015 [PDF format, 20 pages]

“This report is the first to empirically address the topic of why individuals reject violent extremism.¹⁰ To do so, we focus on the Palestinian West Bank... Rejecting violent extremism, for residents of the West Bank, is a process with multiple stages and choices within each stage.” *Kim Cragin is a senior political scientist at the RAND Corporation.*

ARTICLES

[U.S. Foreign Policy in a Changing World](#)

John Kerry. *Medium*. October 17, 2015.

“We must make the best use of every foreign policy tool, from multilateral institutions to the selective and necessary use of force, to uphold democratic principles and strengthen the rule of law.” *John Kerry is U.S. Secretary of State.*

[Beyond Counterterrorism: Washington Needs a Real Middle East Policy](#)

Daniel Byman. *Foreign Affairs*. November/December 2015.

“Building on the post-9/11 efforts of the Bush administration, U.S. President Barack Obama has established a national security machine adept at identifying and disrupting terrorist networks. Much of the U.S. strategy is based on an intelligence campaign that involves partnering with countries around the world to gather information on suspected top terrorists.”

How to Marginalize the Islamic State Online

Jared Cohen. *Foreign Affairs*. November/December 2015.

“Although the military battle against ISIS is undeniably a top priority, the importance of the digital front should not be underestimated. The group has relied extensively on the Internet to market its poisonous ideology and recruit would-be terrorists.” *Jared Cohen is Director of Google Ideas and Adviser to the Executive Chair of Alphabet Inc. He is an Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.*

[Air War May Be Satisfying, But Won't Defeat ISIS](#)

Mohammed Ayoob. *YaleGlobal*. November 19, 2015.

“The Middle East has two clusters of force capable of and motivated to target ISIS on the ground: the Kurds and Iran.” *Mohammed Ayoob is University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of International Relations, Michigan State University, and author most recently of "Will the Middle East Implode?" (Polity, 2014).*

[Lax Americana](#)

Stephen Walt. *Foreign Policy*. October 23, 2015.

“What’s the biggest challenge facing American statecraft today? Reaching a meaningful global agreement on climate change? Countering a rising China? Containing the Islamic State?.” *Stephen M. Walt is the Robert and Renée Belfer professor of international relations at Harvard University*

The End of Pax Americana: Why Washington’s Middle East Pullback Makes Sense

Steven Simon; Jonathan Stevenson. *Foreign Affairs*. November/December 2015.

“Washington’s post-9/11 interventions in the region—especially the one in Iraq—were anomalous and shaped false perceptions of a “new normal” of American intervention, both at home and in the region. The administration’s unwillingness to use ground forces in Iraq or Syria constitutes not so much a withdrawal as a correction.” *Steven Simon is a Visiting Lecturer at Dartmouth College and served as Senior Director for Middle Eastern and North African Affairs at the White House from 2011 through 2012. Jonathan Stevenson is Professor of Strategic Studies at the U.S. Naval War College and served as Director for Political-Military Affairs for the Middle East and North Africa on the U.S. National Security Council staff from 2011 to 2013.*

[Five Options for the U.S. in Syria](#)

Brian Michael Jenkins. *The Rand Blog*. October 21, 2015.

“Syria must be seen as a long-term problem that will resist any short-term solution, but circumstances will change and opportunities may arise that allow more promising interventions. America can then act wisely in its own national interest.” *Brian Michael Jenkins is a senior adviser to the president of the RAND Corporation.*

[Russia is Repeating Cold War Mistakes in Syria](#)

David W. Lesch. *Foreign Policy*. October 6, 2015.

“The Russians needed Syria as an area of ingress into the heartland of the Middle East during the Cold War, while the Syrians needed Russian arms and political support to counter Israel and other U.S. allies in the region. It was a strategic patron-client state relationship that saw plenty of ups and downs.” *David W. Lesch is the Ewing Halsell distinguished professor of history at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas.*

[Putin’s Dramatic Syria Move Raises Russian Profile - With Risks](#)

Thomas Graham. *YaleGlobal*. October 6, 2015.

“Russia’s actions are not simply about Assad and ISIS; they are, more importantly, about reshaping the geopolitical landscape in the Middle East. The military buildup is obviously intended to secure Russia’s foothold on the Eastern Mediterranean.” *Thomas Graham, a senior fellow at the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, was senior director for Russia on the US National Security Council staff, 2004-2007.*

[Beyond Information Sharing: NATO and the Foreign Fighter Threat](#)

John R. Deni. *Parameters*. Summer 2015, pp. 47-60.

“Despite disagreement among experts and policymakers over its significance, the foreign fighter threat to Europe is very real. Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), such as NATO, have an important role to play in countering this threat, including through information sharing.” *John R. Deni is a Research Professor at the US Army War College’s Strategic Institute.*

[Great Expectations: Iran after the Deal](#)

Mehdi Khalaji. *The Washington Quarterly*. Fall 2015, pp. 61-77.

“The nuclear deal’s significance in the Islamic Republic’s history is comparable only to UN Security Council Resolution 598, in 1987, which called for a ceasefire between Iran and Iraq after eight years of bloody war.” *Mehdi Khalaji is Libitzky Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.*

[The Coming Turmoil in Latin America](#)

Moisés Naím. *The Atlantic*. October 8, 2015.

“What happens when the region’s new middle class discovers its progress isn’t permanent?. Latin America has gone from a period of prosperity to a period of peril.” *Moisés Naím is a contributing editor at The Atlantic and a distinguished fellow in the International Economics Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.*

Geopolitics of Energy: Iran, Turkey, and Europe

Bahgat, Gawdat. *Mediterranean Quarterly*. September 2015, pp. 49-66.

“The sharp drop in oil prices since June 2014 has drastically altered the global energy landscape. This essay examines the growing energy cooperation between Iran and Turkey and the strategic and economic implications for Europe.” *Gawdat Bahgat is professor of national security at the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University, Washington, DC.*

[Toward a European Neighborhood Realpolitik?](#)

Stefan Lehne. *Strategic Europe*. November 19, 2015.

“On November 18, the European Commission published its review of the EU’s European Neighborhood Policy (ENP). The paper marks a significant departure from the original idea of the ENP. Rather than conducting a traditional foreign policy on the basis of interests, the EU initially wanted to transform its neighbors into functioning market economies and democracies committed to the rule of law.” *Stefan Lehne is a visiting scholar at Carnegie Europe in Brussels.*

REPORTS

[Open Government National Action Plan](#)

The White House. October 27, 2015.

“This is the third Open Government National Action Plan, announcing more than 40 new or expanded initiatives to advance the President’s commitment to an open and citizen-centered government. This plan was developed through extensive consultations across Federal agencies and with civil society beginning in March of 2015.”

[FACT SHEET: The White House Releases New Strategy for American Innovation, Announces Areas of Opportunity from Self-Driving Cars to Smart Cities](#)

The White House. October 21, 2015.

“Today, the Administration is unveiling an updated [Strategy for American Innovation](#). The Strategy, first issued in 2009, provides an overview of Administration efforts to ensure America continues to lead as the world’s most innovative economy, to develop the industries of the future.”

[FACT SHEET: Administration Announces 68 Cities, States, and Businesses Are Working Together to Increase Access to Solar for All Americans](#)

The White House. November 17, 2015.

“Today, private sector organizations are building on the initial commitments announced in July, bringing the total number of pledges to advance community solar and scale up solar and for low- and moderate-income households to more than 20,000 households and \$545 million across 21 states.”

[The Syrian Refugee Crisis and its Impact on the Security of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program](#)

Written Testimony of Leon Rodriguez, Director, U.S. Citizenship And Immigration Services, Department Of Homeland Security Before the House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security. November 19, 2015.

“My testimony today will describe USCIS’s role in refugee resettlement generally, and I will discuss the screening measures and safeguards that have been developed by the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program’s (USRAP) and enhanced over time.”

[Infographic: The Screening Process for Refugee Entry into the United States](#)

The White House. November 20, 2015.

This is a a step-by-step guide to the refugee entry process into the U.S.

[The High Cost of Resettling Middle Eastern Refugees](#)

Karen Zeigler and Steven A. Camarota. Center for Immigration Studies. November 2015. [PDF format, 10 pages].

“As Americans continue to debate what to do about the humanitarian crisis in the Middle East, the analysis attempts to estimate the costs of resettling refugees from that region in the United States.”

[Keeping the Edge: U.S. Innovation](#)

Council on Foreign Relations. October 2015.

U.S. government policy, though not without flaws, deserves credit for creating a nurturing innovation environment and for directly promoting innovation where the private market cannot. The U.S. government is relatively generous in supporting research funding for business and, unlike Europe, relies more on direct subsidies instead of tax incentives, which helps the smaller start-ups that disproportionately drive innovation.

[International Data Flows: Promoting Digital Trade in the 21st Century](#)

Testimony of Victoria Espinel, President and CEO, BSA -The Software Alliance. before the House Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet. November 3, 2015.

“The implications of this software and data revolution are enormous. Economists predict that making better use of data could lead to a “data dividend” of \$1.6 trillion in the next four years, and that data enabled efficiency gains could add almost \$15 trillion to global GDP by 2030, and that data-enabled efficiency gains could add almost \$15 trillion to global GDP by 2030.”

[Building and advancing digital skills to support Seattle’s economic future](#)

Jessica A. Lee; Adie Tomer. The Brookings Institution. October 23, 2015 [PDF format, 12 pages]

“As the influence of digital technologies in the global economy expands, metropolitan areas throughout the U.S. face the task of preparing residents for an increasingly technology-powered world... This brief summarizes the results of a workshop held in Seattle to explore these issues: addressing digital skills shortfalls and develop solutions tailored to residents’ needs.” *Jessica A. Lee is a senior policy associate and associate fellow at the Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings. Adie Tomer is a fellow at the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program*

[Three-in-Ten U.S. Jobs Are Held by the Self-Employed and the Workers They Hire](#)

Pew Research Center. October 22, 2015.

“Self-employed Americans and the workers they hired accounted. Entrepreneurship and the role it plays in job creation is an issue of keen interest to policymakers.”

[Measuring Up: Educational Improvement and Opportunity in 50 Cities](#)

Michael DeArmond, et. al. Center on Reinventing Public Education. October 2015 [PDF format, 55 pages]

This report provides a new resource for understanding the state of urban public schools in the U.S.

“Our research uses nine indicators to examine how well each city’s schools are doing overall and how well they are doing for students from low-income households and students of color.” *Michael DeArmond is a Senior Research Analyst at the Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE).*

[Disconnected Youth: A Look at 16 to 24 Year Olds Who Are Not Working or In School](#)

Adrienne L. Fernandes-Alcantara. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. October 1, 2015 [PDF format, 41 pages]

“In recent years, policymakers and youth advocates have focused greater attention on young people who are neither working nor in school... The purpose of the report is to provide context for Congress about the characteristics of youth who are neither working nor in school, and the circumstances in which they live.” *Adrienne L. Fernandes-Alcantara is an Specialist in Social Policy at the CRS.*

[Campaign 2016: Eight Big Issues the Presidential Candidates Should Address](#)

Ron Haskins; Isabel Sawhill. The Brookings Institution. November 2015 [PDF format, 63 pages]

In this paper, their authors pick eight top issues they believe should be the focus of the upcoming campaign. A former White House and congressional advisor on welfare issues, *Ron Haskins co-directs the Brookings Center on Children and Families and Budgeting for National Priorities Project. Isabel Sawhill is a Senior Fellow in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution.*

[5 facts about Democrats](#)

Pew Research Center. October 12, 2015.

“Republicans and Democrats have debates scheduled through next March as candidates on both sides seek to nail down their parties’ presidential nominations.” As background, the Pew Research Center has published this piece and another one about the Republicans; both are based on their polling and other surveys.

[5 facts about Republicans](#)

Pew Research Center. November 10, 2015.

“The state of Republicans and their party has been very much in focus this year, with a large field of presidential candidates battling it out in a series of debates and continuing divides among Republican lawmakers on Capitol Hill that led to a change in their leadership.”

[The news today: 7 trends in old and new media](#)

Elaine C. Kamarck; Ashley Gabriele. The Brookings Institution. November 2015 [PDF format, 11 pages]

“What exactly has changed in news media as the communications landscape has shifted into the digital age? This paper tackles that question, providing an overview of the media ecosystem, and examining—in listicle form—seven trends that illustrate how the news functions today.” *Elaine C. Kamarck is a senior fellow in the Governance Studies program at Brookings. Ashley Gabriele is a senior research assistant in the Center for Effective Public Management at the Brookings Institution.*

ARTICLES

[City of Refugees: How Houston became a resettlement magnet](#)

Andrew Kragie. Houston Chronicle. October 15, 2015.

“Houston welcomes more refugees than any other American city because its nonprofit sector has the capacity to assist them.” *Andrew Kragie is a freelance reporter.*

[Governors Don't Want Syrian Refugees. Mayors Are Asking for Even More](#)

Kriston Capps. CityLab. November 19, 2015.

“Eighteen mayors signed a letter in September telling President Barack Obama that they could take in even more Syrian refugees.” *Kriston Capps is a staff writer at CityLab.*

[How the Fed saved the economy](#)

Ben S. Bernake. The Wall Street Journal. October 4, 2015.

“With full employment in sight, further economic growth will have to come from the supply side, primarily from increases in productivity. That means that the Fed will continue to do what it can, but monetary policy can no longer be the only game in town. Fiscal-policy makers in Congress need to step up.” *Ben S. Bernanke is a Distinguished Fellow in Residence with the Economic Studies Program at the Brookings Institution. From February 2006 through January 2014, he was Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.*

[Who Is Running for President?](#)

Wilson Andrews, et. al. *The New York Times*. November 17, 2015.

“More than a dozen Republicans and a handful of Democrats have announced they are running for their party’s 2016 presidential nomination.” *Wilson Andrews is a graphic editor at the New York Times.*

[New survey reveals an anxious and nostalgic America going into the 2016 election](#)

FixGov blog. November 18, 2015.

“On November 17, Brookings hosted the release of the Public Religion Research Institute’s sixth annual American Values Survey (AVS). Appropriately titled, “Anxiety, Nostalgia, and Mistrust: Findings from the 2015 American Values Survey,” the report finds Americans increasingly concerned about the country’s future as we approach the 2016 elections.”

[The Top 10 States for Women Entrepreneurs](#)

Zoe Henry. *Inc.* October 21, 2015.

“Women in business are dealt a tough hand, but as the 2015 *Inc.* 5000 shows, they’re also coming out on top. Click through to see which states can tout the largest number of women-led companies in America.” *Zoe Henry is a reporter at Inc. magazine.*

[The 25 Best Midsize Companies to Work for in America](#)

Emmie Martin. *Inc.* October 23, 2015.

“Workplace data website [Great Place to Work](#) surveyed hundreds of employees at companies around the U.S. to find the best medium-size companies to work for--defined as having between 250 and 999 employees.” *Emmie Martin is a writer for Business Insider.*

[The 25 best jobs in America right now](#)

Rachel Gillet. *Business Insider*. September 20, 2015.

“Physician assistant is the best job in America right now, according to a report from Glassdoor...To compile the ranking, Glassdoor identified 25 specific jobs with the highest overall Glassdoor “Job Score,” which is based on a five-point scale.” *Rachel is a careers reporter at Business Insider.*

[Toward a city-led federalism](#)

Bruce Katz. *The Brookings Institution*. November 3, 2015.

“The 2016 presidential election is the right time to have an honest conversation, not just about the role of the federal government, but about federalism: the way powers and responsibilities are distributed across levels of government.” *Bruce Katz, vice president and founding director of the Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings.*

[Tech-savvy Portland aims to make growth inclusive](#)

Amy Liu. *The Avenue* blog. November 3, 2015.

As cities across the country begin to explore ways to make sure economic growth reaches more workers, Portland is emerging as an unlikely model for inclusive strategies. *Amy Liu is a senior fellow, and co-director of the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program.*

[How Delaware is creating a pipeline of skilled workers in manufacturing](#)

Mark T. Brainard. *Brown Center Chalkboard*. November 6, 2015.

The author discusses Delaware's Advanced Manufacturing Pathway program that is working to preserve, transform, and expand the state's manufacturing sector. Dr. *Mark T. Brainard, a graduate of Delaware Technical Community College, was appointed the College's fifth president on August 4, 2014.*

[Facebook, Target and Dell make big promises on climate change to help the White House](#)

Andrew Freedman. *Mashable*. October 19, 2015.

"The White House has mobilized 68 more companies to sign its "American Business Act on Climate Pledge," in an effort to get U.S. businesses to cut emissions and improve the environment." *Andrew Freedman is Mashable's Science Editor.*

[Charles Ramsey: The Man Supposed to Fix America's Relationship With Cops](#)

John Buntin. *Governing*. November 2015.

"Obama called on Philadelphia Police Chief Charles Ramsey, among others, to change the future of law enforcement. Will his unorthodox ideas make a difference or just alienate his fellow officers?." *John Buntin is a staff writer at Governing magazine.*

[The return of cap and trade is good news for U.S. climate policy](#)

Sussman, Bob. *PlanetPolicy blog*. October 21, 2015.

"China recently announced that it would be implementing a national cap and trade system for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. And the EPA's final [Clean Power Plan \(CPP\)](#) strongly encourages states to use trading as a mechanism to reduce power plant emissions and loosen restrictions on trading across state lines." *Bob Sussman is the Principal at Sussman and Associates. He is a former senior policy counsel to the EPA administrator.*

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