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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

REPORTS

[Remarks by President Obama in Address to the United Nations General Assembly](#)

The White House. September 24, 2014.

“As we gather here, an outbreak of Ebola overwhelms public health systems in West Africa and threatens to move rapidly across borders. Russian aggression in Europe recalls the days when large nations trampled small ones in pursuit of territorial ambition. The brutality of terrorists in Syria and Iraq forces us to look into the heart of darkness. Each of these problems demands urgent attention. But they are also symptoms of a broader problem -- the failure of our international system to keep pace with an interconnected world. We, collectively, have not invested adequately in the public health capacity of developing countries. Too often, we have failed to enforce international norms when it's inconvenient to do so. And we have not confronted forcefully enough the intolerance, sectarianism, and hopelessness that feeds violent extremism in too many parts of the globe. Fellow delegates, we come together as united nations with a choice to make. We can renew the international system that has enabled so much progress, or we can allow ourselves to be pulled back by an undertow of instability. We can reaffirm our collective responsibility to confront global problems, or be swamped by more and more outbreaks of instability. And for America, the choice is clear: We choose hope over fear. We see the future not as something out of our control, but as something we can shape for the better through concerted and collective effort. We reject fatalism or cynicism when it comes to human affairs.”

[FACT SHEET: Strategy to Counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant \(ISIL\)](#)

The White House. September 10, 2014

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/spanish/texttrans/2014/09/20140911308082.html#axzz3D5dMJq5V> (Spanish)

“The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) poses a clear threat to the people of Iraq and Syria, and to the broader Middle East, as well as U.S. persons, allies and interests in the region. Left unchecked, ISIL could pose a growing threat beyond the region, including to the U.S. homeland. The United States is meeting this threat with strength and resolve. In recent weeks, we have increased intelligence resources devoted to the threat and sent U.S. personnel to assess the situation on the ground. .. Our goal is clear: to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL through a comprehensive and sustained counterterrorism strategy so that it's no longer a threat to Iraq, the region, the United States, and our partners. To achieve this goal, our strategy will be underpinned by a strong coalition of regional and international partners who are willing to commit resources and will to this long-term endeavor. Dozens of countries

are already contributing in Iraq – from military to humanitarian support – and in coming days and weeks we will work to strengthen and expand that coalition.”

[United States Strategy To Defeat The Islamic State In Iraq and the Levant](#)

Testimony by John F. Kerry, Secretary of State; before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. September 17, 2014 [PDF format, 6 pages]

“We have been focused on ISIL since its inception as the successor to AQI in 2013. Back in January we ramped up our assistance to the Iraqi Security Forces, increasing our intelligence surveillance reconnaissance, or ISR, flights to get a better picture of the battlefield and expediting weapons like Hellfire missiles for the Iraqis to bring to bear in this fight. Early this summer, the ISIL threat accelerated when it effectively erased the Iraq-Syria border and the Mosul Dam fell. The President acted deliberately and decisively. We further surged our ISR missions over Iraq. We immediately set up joint operation centers in Baghdad and Erbil. And our special forces conducted a very detailed field assessment of Iraqi Security Forces and Kurdish forces. By the time ISIL launched the offensive in the north, President Obama authorized limited air strikes against ISIL and humanitarian missions to protect American personnel, prevent major catastrophes and support Iraqi Security Forces and Kurdish forces that were fighting bravely to do the same. To date, we’ve launched more than 150 airstrikes. And it is because of the platforms we put in place back in June that those strikes have been highly precise and incredibly effective, including in the operations to break the siege of Sinjar Mountain, retake Mosul Dam, and resupply the town of Amerli. These actions blunted ISIL’s momentum and created time and space for us to put in place the two pillars of a comprehensive strategy against ISIL: an inclusive Iraq government, and a broad international coalition.”

[The National Intelligence Strategy of the United States of America 2014](#)

Office of the Director of National Intelligence. September 18, 2014 [PDF format, 24 pages]

“The National Intelligence Strategy will drive the priorities for the nation's 17 Intelligence Community components over the next four years...The United States faces a complex and evolving security environment with extremely dangerous, pervasive, and elusive threats. The Intelligence Community remains focused on the missions of cyber intelligence, counterterrorism, counter proliferation, counterintelligence, and on the threats posed by state and non-state actors challenging U.S. national security and interests worldwide... The National Intelligence Strategy lays out the strategic environment and identifies pervasive and emerging threats. While key nation states such as China, Russia, North Korea and Iran will continue to challenge U.S. interests, global power is also becoming more diffuse. New alignments and informal networks, outside of traditional power blocs and national governments, will increasingly have significant impact in global affairs. Competition for scarce resources such as food, water and energy is growing in importance as an intelligence issue as that competition exacerbates instability, and the constant advancements and globalization of technology will bring both benefits and challenges.”

[U.S. Policy in the Middle East](#)

Remarks by Wendy R. Sherman, Under Secretary for Political Affairs, U.S. Department of State at Georgetown University. September 16, 2014.

“America’s policy in the Middle East begins with our understanding that the problems now plaguing the region have tangled roots. The internal divides, historic rivalries, and contemporary competitions feed off of one another. Fear and anger drive too many people in too many places into the snare of zero-sum thinking, thereby fueling conflict and playing into the hands of all who would harm us. There is a need throughout the Middle East to change course and

begin moving in the direction of common ground. But quite frankly for that to happen, the region's leaders must live up to their responsibilities. The international community must put aside its divisions and exert a more positive influence. And the United States must help to show the way."

[The "Islamic State" Crisis and U.S. Policy](#)

Katzman, Kenneth, et. al. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. September 10, 2014 [PDF format, 22 pages]

"At the NATO summit in Wales during September 4-5, 2014, the Administration began to unveil a comprehensive strategy to defeat the Islamic State organization. As articulated by President Obama and other senior U.S. officials, the strategy is to use a combination of military action, support for partner forces in Iraq and Syria, diplomacy, intelligence sharing, and financial actions to try to progressively shrink the geographic and political space, manpower, and financial resources available to the Islamic State. The Administration and its allies all have ruled out deploying combat forces to either Iraq or Syria. Some assert that the U.S. strategy will attract the support of Sunnis in both Syria and Iraq in a broad effort to defeat the Islamic State. Others assess that the strategy might have minimal effect because local anti-IS forces will not have support from U.S. or other western combat troops." *Kenneth Katzman is an Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs at the CRS.*

[Supporting the Syrian Opposition: Lessons from the Field in the Fight Against ISIS and Assad](#)

Lang, Hardin, et al. Center for American Progress. September 12, 2014 [PDF format, 47 pages]

"To better understand the challenges the United States faces as it prepares to ramp up efforts in Syria, a research team from the Center for American Progress interviewed more than 50 Syrian opposition political representatives, military commanders, activists, fighters, and Islamists in Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey... A central conclusion of this research is that the United States still has an opportunity to build partnerships in Syria as part of the wider effort to combat ISIS and to build a foundation for a transition from the Assad regime... The key to broadening U.S. engagement in Syria is fostering partnerships and providing support to reliable and effective partners. The Obama administration has wisely ruled out putting boots on the ground in Syria. But over the past three years, it has shied away from deeper engagement to support forces that oppose the Assad regime, and this helped create an opening for forces such as ISIS to emerge. This summer's wake-up call is drawing U.S. policy on Syria into a new phase, and it should move forward with a more focused effort to support Syria's opposition." *Hardin Lang is a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress.*

[Libya's Descent](#)

Testimony by Ambassador Gerald Feierstein, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, U.S. Department of State, before the House Foreign Affairs Committee. September 10, 2014. [PDF format, 4 pages]

"Since the 2011 revolution, millions of Libyans have expressed high hopes that the country will seize the opportunity provided by the overthrow of the Qadhafi regime to build a new state, based on strong democratic institutions and providing a secure, stable framework that would put Libya's vast energy resources to work on behalf of the Libyan people. Instead, Libya's new political institutions and leaders have failed to meet Libya's challenges. Despite the efforts of many brave Libyans as well as the active engagement of the United States and our international partners, too many of Libya's power brokers and militia commanders have rejected principles of dialogue, consensus building, and compromise, in favor of pursuit of narrow-minded interests and a scramble for control of Libya's resources. The weak central government, ravaged by 42 years of Qadhafi's misrule, has proven incapable of providing security,

governance, or access to economic opportunity.”

Middle East 2020: Shaped by or Shaper of Global Trends?

Burrows, Mathew, J. The Atlantic Council. August 18, 2014. [PDF format, 14 pages]

“At the onset of the Arab Spring, then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton warned that the foundations of the Middle East risked "sinking into the sand" of unrest and extremism. Three years later, the region is still in a period of prolonged tumult and uncertainty. A large youth bulge, poor economic prospects, and uneven development across the region presents significant challenges to a more stable Middle East, but, more positively, the next five to ten years could see a reintroduction of Iran to the international community and a new regional dynamic if the ongoing P5+1 talks reach a lasting nuclear agreement. What is certain is that the future of the Middle East will have profound effects globally and will continue to substantially influence the global political, economic, and security environment.”
Dr. Mathew J. Burrows serves as director of the Atlantic Council's Strategic Foresight Initiative in the Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security.

Transatlantic Trends 2014

The German Marshall Fund of the U.S.; Compagnia di San Paolo. September 2014.

<http://trends.gmfus.org/transatlantic-trends/country-profiles-2014/country-profiles-spain-2014/> (Country Profile: Spain)

Transatlantic Trends is a comprehensive annual survey of U.S. and European public opinion. Polling was conducted by TNS Opinion from June 2-26, 2014, in the United States, Turkey, Russia, and ten European Union member states: France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. The report explores how Americans and Europeans view the transatlantic relationship and a number of growing challenges facing the world. “Over the past year, policymakers on both sides of the Atlantic have been confronted with increasingly grave foreign policy challenges, even as the global economic crisis appeared to retreat somewhat: bloody wars and civil strife in the Middle East and a worsening conflict in Ukraine — all before a backdrop of partisan political divisions and domestic concerns that limit citizens’ appetite for international engagement. Under the circumstances, politicians and publics alike face difficult questions about burden-sharing in the context of transatlantic cooperation, the future of NATO and the European project, negotiations on Iran’s nuclear program, the impact of mobility and migration on foreign and security policy, and the West’s relations with Russia.”

Rethinking NATO’s Strategy in A Changing World: Recommendations for the Next NATO Secretary General

de Hoop Scheffer, Alexandra, and Lété, Bruno. The German Marshall Fund of the United States. September 10, 2014 [PDF format, 8 pages]

“A military alliance like NATO is a fragile and evolutionary concept by nature because it must be reactive to geopolitics. Despite periodic fundamental overhauls, NATO’s past strategic concepts have struggled to fulfill one of their core purposes, which is to foster consensus among NATO’s 28 members on strategic goals and missions for the future. This policy brief offers suggestions for how the Alliance can best adapt to face international security challenges... NATO today arguably finds itself in the most difficult security environment in its 65-year history. In the past, the Alliance had to perform only one core task at a time, whether it be collective defense in Europe or crisis management beyond. Now NATO is simultaneously confronted with many very real security threats at once, both inside and outside Europe, and from the east now as well as the south. These threats originate from multiple factors: a resurgent Russia that has not only abandoned strategic cooperation with NATO, but is no longer restrained from

challenging it directly; growing disorder, even chaos in North Africa and the Middle East, obliging NATO to rethink its partnership arrangements with the majority of the fragile states in these regions; and the rapid growth of jihadist movements, fuelled by abundant weaponry, control of local economic resources, vanishing national borders and close links to organized crime.” *Alexandra de Hoop Scheffer is a senior transatlantic fellow and the director of GMF's Paris Office. Bruno L  t   is a program officer on GMF's Foreign and Security Policy program.*

[Developing a U.S. Strategy for dealing with China – Now and into the future](#)

The Rand Corporation. September 2, 2014 [PDF format, 5 pages]

“While Asia as a whole is of great importance to the United States, the focus of U.S. military strategy in Asia is on China. That focus includes a number of concerns—how to facilitate a security framework that allows the United States and China to pursue both common and individual goals peacefully if not cooperatively, how to deter China’s use of force to intimidate its neighbors, and how to posture U.S. forces to support partner militaries to protect their sovereignty should China become more aggressive militarily. Whatever military strategy the United States pursues now should account for changes that will reshape the security environment in Asia down the road. In the future, for example, China—and the region as a whole—will face demographic, environmental, technological, and economic changes. China’s strong economy and sustained investment in military modernization will be the most powerful disruptive influences in the future security environment in the Western Pacific.”

[Why Trade Matters](#)

Sapiro, Miriam. The Brookings Institution. September 2014 [PDF format, 30 pages]

“This policy brief explores the economic rationale and strategic imperative of an ambitious domestic and global trade agenda from the perspective of the United States. International trade is often viewed through the relatively narrow prism of trade-offs that might be made among domestic sectors or between trading partners, but it is important to consider also the impact that increased trade has on global growth, development and security. With that context in mind, this paper assesses the implications of the Asia-Pacific and European trade negotiations underway, including for countries that are not participating but aspire to join. It outlines some of the challenges that stand in the way of completion and ways in which they can be addressed. It examines whether the focus on “mega-regional” trade agreements comes at the expense of broader liberalization or acts as a catalyst to develop higher standards than might otherwise be possible. It concludes with policy recommendations for action by governments, legislators and stakeholders to address concerns that have been raised and create greater domestic support.” *Ambassador Miriam Sapiro is a Visiting Fellow in the Global Economy and Development program and served as Deputy U.S. Trade Representative from 2009 to 2014.*

[Frontiers in Development 2014: Ending Extreme Poverty](#)

U.S. Agency for International Development. September 2014 [PDF format, 154 pages]

Two years ago, USAID convened a forum and published an associated volume of essays, all under the banner of an effort called Frontiers in Development. It was designed to encourage forward-looking, provocative discussion and debate that could advance development policy and practice across the full range of relevant actors. “Again, in September 2014 USAID brought together the world’s brightest minds and boldest leaders to engage in a dialogue on development. Accompanying the dialogue, and contributing to the critical exchange of ideas, is this new book of essays. These essays do not necessarily reflect the official positions of USAID or the U.S. Government, nor were they selected based on support for official views and approaches. Rather, they are intended to encourage discussion and

provoke debate on critical issues associated with ending extreme poverty...Today, by some recent estimations, donor resources represent no more than one-fifth—and possibly less than one-tenth—of external financing, with foreign direct investment, remittances and private philanthropy making up the lion's share. While aid has continued to decline in importance over the last decade in most developing economies, investment, tax revenues and remittances have continued on an upward trend. As a development community, we have to catch up to this reality. These growing sources of financing—from international private equity to local wealth to domestic public investments—are transforming our ability to encourage policy reforms and open thriving markets.”

ARTICLES

Prospects for a New US Strategic Orientation in the Middle East

Bahgat, Gawdat; Sharp, Robert. *Mediterranean Quarterly*. Summer 2014, pp.27-39.

“For decades the United States has forged close relations with a number of key allies in the Arab world, particularly Egypt and Saudi Arabia. These close ties were based largely on perceived national interest, not mutual values. The fundamental changes in the Arab world since early 2011 (the so-called Arab Spring) have drastically altered the regional strategic landscape. This essay examines the US response to the political upheaval in the Arab world. It argues that the United States should distance itself from the changes in the Arab world and give the newly established regimes the space they need to sort out their futures. Meanwhile, Washington should further strengthen relations with the non-Arab Middle Eastern “peripheries,” specifically, Israel and Turkey. Also, the nuclear deal signed between Iran and major global powers in November 2013 provides a significant opportunity to open a new chapter in relations between Tehran and Washington.” *Dr. Gawdat Bahgat is professor of National Security Affairs at the National Defense University's Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Study (NESA). Robert Sharp is associate professor at NESA.*

[Fixing Fragile States](#)

Blair, Dennis; Neumann, Ronald; Olson, Eric. *The National Interest*. September/October 2014, pp. 11-20.

“Since the 9/11 attacks, the US has waged major postwar reconstruction campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan and similar but smaller programs in other countries that harbor Al Qaeda affiliates. Continued complex political, economic and military operations will be needed for many years to deal with the continuing threat from Al Qaeda and its associated organizations, much of it stemming from fragile states with weak institutions, high rates of poverty and deep ethnic, religious or tribal divisions. Despite thirteen years of experience, there have been few significant changes in their cumbersome, inefficient and ineffective approach to interagency operations in the field. The 9/11 attacks offered Americans a painful reminder of an old verity, which is that fragile states unable to enforce their laws and control their territory are the progenitors of potent threats that can be carried out simply and effectively. Such states provide safe havens from which Al Qaeda and its affiliates plan and launch terror attacks against the US and other countries.” *Dennis Blair is the former director of national intelligence and former commander in chief of U.S. Pacific Command. Ronald Neumann is president of the American Academy of Diplomacy and former U.S. ambassador to Algeria, Bahrain and Afghanistan. Eric Olson is the former commander of U.S. Special Operations Command.*

An Army to Defeat Assad: How to Turn Syria's Opposition into a Real Fighting Force

Pollack, Kenneth M. *Foreign Affairs*. September/October, 2014, pp.110-124.

“Intercommunal civil wars such as Syria's tend to end in one of two ways: with a victory by one side, followed by a

horrific slaughter of its adversaries, or with a massive intervention by a third party to halt the fighting and forge a power-sharing deal. The rationale for more decisive US intervention is gaining ground. As of this writing, the crisis in Syria had claimed more than 170,000 lives and spilled over into every neighboring state. In June, US Pres Barack Obama requested \$500 million from Congress to ramp up US assistance to moderate members of the Syrian opposition. But there is, in fact, a way that the US could get what it wants in Syria without sending in US forces: by building a new Syrian opposition army capable of defeating both President Bashar al-Assad and the more militant Islamists. Considering the extent to which the Iraqi and Syrian civil wars have become entwined, such a strategy would help secure US interests throughout the Middle East.” *Kenneth Pollack is a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution and the author of Unthinkable: Iran, the Bomb, and American Strategy.*

[Rebalancing the Rebalance](#)

Sangler, Michael. *Parameters*. Summer, 2014, pp.11-21.

“Beginning in late 2011, the Obama Administration unveiled its intention to rebalance US military, diplomatic, and economic efforts to the Asia-Pacific region. Initially described as a “pivot,” this term was subsequently changed to “rebalance,” to describe more aptly the repositioning of mainly military assets from a then 50-50 percent to a 60-40 percent split, favoring the Asia-Pacific over the Atlantic side of the world by 2020... This paper argues the regional shaping benefits of the rebalance have not yet materialized, and odds remain low they can be realized in the absence of new efforts. In particular, China has become increasingly assertive of its claims to disputed maritime territories in the East and South China Seas, and remains committed to a relatively high rate of military spending to project its power into the region in the coming years. At the same time, some countries, notably US allies, Japan and the Philippines, have become more vocal in their objections to Chinese maritime claims and more convinced of their need for American military support as maritime disputes unfold.” *Michael Spangler is a career member of the U.S. State Department’s Senior Foreign Service. He is also a Visiting Fellow at the Army War College.*

NATO Enlargement and Russia: Discerning Fact from Fiction

Rühle, Michael. *American Foreign Policy Interests*. September 2014, pp. 234–239.

“The crisis in Ukraine, which culminated in Russia’s annexation of the Crimea, marked a new low in North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)–Russia relations. While this relationship had been deteriorating for quite some time, Moscow’s role in the Ukraine crisis revealed a geopolitical agenda that caught many observers by surprise. In the course of just a few weeks, Russia emerged as a revisionist power, changing borders by threat of force, thus denying a neighboring country the ability to determine its own alignments. The assumption that Russia had accepted certain ground rules of behavior among European states turned out to be wrong. The crisis also put to rest another assumption held in the West: the idea that, while Russia was opposed to NATO membership for its immediate neighbors, it was much more open-minded about their deepening relations with the European Union. The issue in the Ukraine crisis was Russia’s loss of influence over a critically important neighboring country, not a quarrel about a specific institutional framework. Worse, even though the crisis was sparked by the European Union’s neighborhood policy, which confronted Ukraine with a choice that was bound to amplify that country’s well-known internal divisions, NATO remained the proverbial “elephant in the room.” *Michael Rühle is Head of the Energy Security Section in NATO’s Emerging Security Challenges Division.*

[Ukraine is Running Out of Time](#)

Michta, Andrew A. *The American Interest*. September 12, 2014.

“Ukraine has reached an inflection point in its war with Russia to preserve its territorial integrity. There are signs that an outright partition may not be far off. Whether it holds or not, the ceasefire with the “rebels” in eastern Ukraine, announced by President Petro Poroshenko on the margins of the NATO summit in Wales, has begun the process of Russia’s carving out yet another chunk of Ukrainian territory. With the military balance now shifted decisively in favor of Russia, Putin’s long-term objectives are firmly in view... The ending of Ukraine’s two-decade run as the largest sovereign state in Eastern Europe has implications for European and Transatlantic security that few have been willing to articulate. At the end of the day, the geostrategic results for Europe will not be so different than they were after 1921, when the Soviet Union defeated and then absorbed the nascent Ukrainian state. A Ukraine that is dismembered and partially or wholly incorporated into the Russian Federation will set the stage for Russia’s reemergence as a threat to Europe of a degree unknown since the end of the Cold War.” *Andrew A. Michta is the M. W. Buckman Professor of International Studies at Rhodes College and an adjunct fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).*

[Waiting for Disruption: The Western Sahara Stalemate](#)

Mundy, Jacob. *World Politics Review*. September 16, 2014.

“The Western Sahara conflict is fast approaching its 40th anniversary with no end in sight. A web of geopolitical interests keeps the conflict in a permanent state of limbo. At the heart of this web is the U.N. Security Council, which has managed the conflict since the late 1980s. The council has been historically reticent to take dramatic action to resolve the dispute and remains so today. Though there has been “peace” in Western Sahara since 1991 when a cease-fire came into effect, all efforts to reconcile Morocco’s claim of sovereignty against the local population’s right to self-determination have failed. The status quo thus seems indefinitely sustainable. Unless the conflict takes a sudden turn for the worse, it is unlikely that the international community will make the tough choices necessary to achieve a lasting solution. Therein lies the paradox of the Western Sahara peace process: The peace process now exists to contain the conflict, but only a crisis will save Western Sahara.” *Jacob Mundy is an Assistant Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies at Colgate University where he also contributes to the Africa and Middle East studies programs.*

[Jihad in the Balkans: The Next Generation](#)

Bardos, Gordon N. *World Affairs*. September/October, 2014.

“While the Muslims of southeastern Europe remain the world’s most moderate Islamic populations, an estimated five to ten percent has become indoctrinated in the more extreme forms of Islam typical of places such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt. This is not an accident—the rise and growth of militant Islamism in southeastern Europe is the result of long-term efforts by extremists to radicalize local populations. Over the past several decades, the militant Islamist movement in southeastern Europe has created a sophisticated infrastructure consisting of local safe havens in isolated villages and in mosques controlled by radical clergy, along with a wide array of electronic and print media propagating news from various jihad fronts, relaying orders from al-Qaeda leaders, and attempting to convert impressionable young people to join their cause. All of this is funded by generous Middle Eastern donors and supported by small groups of local extremists who have infiltrated influential political, religious, and social institutions.” *Gordon N. Bardos is the president of SEERECOM, a political risk and strategic advisory firm specializing in southeastern Europe. He is a Balkan politics and security specialist based in New York.*

[Barack Obama Is Not a Realist](#)

Saunders, Paul J. *The National Interest*. August 26, 2014.

“Is President Barack Obama a foreign-policy realist? For most of his time in office, both his supporters and his detractors have said that he is—and until very recently, Obama did not dispute it. On the contrary, the White House often aggressively cultivated the image of the president as a steely-eyed pragmatist judiciously making tough calls on both international and domestic policy. Nevertheless, in his May commencement speech at West Point, Obama finally distanced himself from this, saying that “according to self-described realists, conflicts in Syria or Ukraine or the Central African Republic are not ours to solve” and that this view is inadequate to “the demands of this moment.” *Paul J. Saunders is executive director of The Center for the National Interest and associate publisher of The National Interest.*

[Targeted Killing of Terrorists](#)

Rostow, Nicolas. *Joint Forces Quarterly*. July 01, 2014, var. pages.

"This essay addresses the question principally from the American perspective. It examines the authority, as a matter of U.S. law, for the United States to kill individual terrorists and the international legal context for such operations. The operating premise is that the targeted killing of al Qaeda leaders is emblematic of the subject under review in contrast to such domestic police action against terrorists as the arrest, prosecution, conviction, and execution of Timothy McVeigh, who was principally responsible for the bombing of the Federal office building in Oklahoma City in April 1995. The essay concludes that authority in domestic and international law exists for such operations and that, as a policy choice, the United States would do well to apply the Geneva Conventions of 1949 in the conflict with terrorists whether or not it is legally required. In any event, policymakers need to weigh the consequences of targeted killing operations because, like all military operations, unforeseen results—positive and negative— are likely." *Dr. Nicholas Rostow is Distinguished Research Professor and Senior Director in the Center for Strategic Research, Institute for National Strategic Studies, at the National Defense University. He is also a Senior Research Scholar at the Yale Law School.*

U.S. DOMESTIC POLICY AND TRENDS

REPORTS

[Jobs Supported by State Exports 2013](#)

International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. September 2014 [PDF format, 6 pages]

“In 2013, exports of goods and services directly and indirectly supported and estimated 11.3 million U.S. jobs. Good exports which consist of manufactured products, agricultural products, natural resources, and used/second hand products supported 7.1 million jobs while the export of services accounted for the remaining 4.2 million jobs supported nationally... We find that goods exports from the states of Texas, California, Washington, Illinois, and New York supported an estimated 3.0 million jobs in 2013. This figure represents almost 43 percent of all U.S. jobs supported by goods exports. We also find that export of manufactured products supported 6.2 million jobs in 2013, with the same five states also accounting for almost 43 percent of all U.S. jobs supported by manufactured exports.”

[U.S. Metropolitan Area Exports 2013](#)

International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. September 2014 [PDF format, 14 pages]

“U.S. Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) continue to be critical drivers of the nation’s export economy, with goods

exports from 134 metropolitan areas achieving record highs in 2013. Viewing exports from the metropolitan perspective is important, as these are concentrated areas for industries and economic activity. In 2013, 21 metropolitan areas represented more than 40 percent of their state's total export activity. While large areas like Houston, New York and Los Angeles contribute greatly to the value of exports from metropolitan areas sent around the world, exports are also an important economic driver in smaller markets. In 2013, 156 metro areas exported more than \$1 billion of goods each. This data displays the importance of exports to not only our national economy, but to local economies throughout the country. Exports strengthen local economies and create millions of jobs. In 2013, U.S. exporters reached an all-time record of \$2.3 trillion in goods and services exports, supporting 11.3 million U.S. jobs."

[FACT SHEET: Building a 21st Century Infrastructure: Increasing Public and Private Collaboration with the Build America Investment Initiative](#)

The White House. July 2014.

"Investing in a 21st century American infrastructure is an important part of the President's plan to build on the progress our economy is making by creating jobs and expanding opportunity for all hardworking Americans. Modern and efficient infrastructure – whether moving goods to our harbors and ports or connecting people to services or gigabits to our offices and homes – helps small businesses to expand, manufacturers to export, investors to bring jobs to our shores, and lowers prices for goods and services for American families. The President has been very clear that we need to do more to improve our infrastructure in order to create jobs, provide certainty to states and communities, help American businesses, and grow our economy. He has put forth a long-term proposal that would do just that and pay for it by closing unfair tax loopholes and making commonsense reforms to our business tax system, while providing the certainty of reliable federal funding to states and communities."

[FACT SHEET: Comprehensive U.S. Government Approach to Foreign Terrorist Fighters in Syria and the Broader Region](#)

The White House. September 24, 2014.

"More than 15,000 foreign terrorist fighters from more than 80 countries have traveled to Syria to fight alongside terrorist groups including dozens of Americans from a variety of backgrounds. The White House is leading an interagency effort to address this threat. Our approach brings together homeland security, law enforcement, intelligence, diplomatic, military, capacity building, and information sharing efforts. We employ a whole-of-government outreach effort with foreign partners to highlight the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters as well as their funding streams and to urge steps to interdict wherever possible. The countries involved in this effort are long-time counterterrorism partners, and together, we are committing significant resources to track and disrupt foreign terrorist fighter travel."

[Going Local: Connecting the National Labs to their Regions for Innovation and Growth](#)

By Andes, Scott; Muro, Mark; Stepp, Matthew The Brookings Institution. September 2014 [PDF format, 19 pages]

"The U.S. economic prosperity revolves around the competitiveness of the nation's advanced industry sector: innovation- and science-technology-engineering-mathematics (STEM) worker-intensive industries focused on advanced production and services. Central to the competitiveness of these critical industries is the U.S. innovation ecosystem, which functions most dynamically in U.S. metropolitan regions. Cities and their surrounding metro areas support innovation through concentrated knowledge flows, specialized workers, and dense supply chains that improve firm productivity through highly adaptive and specialized technology clusters. As such, the nation's regional

clusters are important sources of national problem-solving, innovation, and prosperity. Located throughout the country, the Department of Energy's (DOE) 17 national labs (labs) stand as potentially pivotal institutions in many metropolitan economies and for overall national innovation, growth, and competitiveness. As centers of basic and applied technology research and development (R&D), the labs are well-positioned to serve as unique focal points for technology exchange among regional firms, universities, and economic development intermediaries... This brief argues that, in order to improve the impact of the national labs, DOE, states, and Congress should: Improve the labs as an economic asset; Open labs to small- and medium-sized businesses; Increase labs' relevance to regional and metropolitan clusters; Provide greater flexibility in oversight and funding." *Scott Andes is Senior Policy Analyst at the Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institution. Mark Muro is Senior Fellow and Policy Director at the Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings. Matthew Stepp is Executive Director at the Center for Clean Energy Innovation. He is also Senior Policy Analyst at the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation.*

[Immigrant Civic Integration and Service Access Initiatives: City-Sized Solutions for City-Sized Needs](#)

McHugh, Margie. Migration Policy Initiative. September 2014 [PDF format, 19 pages]

"In recent decades, large flows of immigration have challenged destination cities both old and new to find innovative ways to meet the needs of immigrant residents and promote their integration. Because city administrations are responsible for providing everyday services and maintaining public spaces and institutions, they hold considerable power over community life and their actions strongly influence the integration of newcomers. While the involvement and coordination of multiple actors and stakeholders can make implementing solutions to these problems difficult, cities of all sizes across the United States are successfully designing approaches to address the unique service access and civic integration challenges they face." *Margie McHugh is Director of MPI's National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy.*

[Examining the Connections within the Startup Ecosystem: A Case Study of St. Louis](#)

Motoyama, Yasuyuki, and Watkins, Karren. Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. September 2014. [PDF format, 30 pages]

"In this paper, Yas Motoyama and Karren Watkins document the resurgence of entrepreneurial activity in St. Louis by reporting on the collaboration and local learning within the startup community. This activity is happening both between entrepreneurs and between organizations that provide support, such as mentoring and funding, to entrepreneurs. As these connections deepen, the strength of the entrepreneurial ecosystem grows... As a region seeks to successfully cultivate entrepreneurship, a keen understanding of how, when, or why different players interact with one another and how the ecosystem evolves is likely to make both public- and private-sector behavior more effective. Similarly, to identify potential policy implications, it is far more useful to analyze how successful ecosystems have developed over time—particularly how each got its start—than to attempt to copy a developed ecosystem. This research is based on a case study of the startup ecosystem (a segment of an entrepreneurial ecosystem) in the St. Louis area. St. Louis was chosen because it has not been known as an entrepreneurial hub and because the recent, substantial transformation of its local entrepreneurship ecosystem provides greater implications for the evolution of the ecosystem." *Yasuyuki Motoyama is a senior scholar in Research and Policy at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. Karren Watkins is a Research Associate, Skandalaris Center for Entrepreneurship at Washington University in St. Louis.*

[Smart Inclusive Cities: How New Apps, Big Data, and Collaborative Technologies Are Transforming Immigrant](#)

Integration

Benton, Meghan. Migration Policy Institute. September 2014 [PDF format, 18 pages]

“The spread of smartphones—cellphones with high-speed Internet access and geolocation technology—is transforming urban life. While many smartphone apps are largely about convenience, policymakers are beginning to explore their potential to address social challenges from disaster response to public health. And cities, in North America and Europe alike, are in the vanguard in exploring creative uses for these apps, including how to improve engagement. For disadvantaged and diverse populations, accessing city services through a smartphone can help overcome language or literacy barriers and thus increase interactions with city officials. For those with language needs, smartphones allow language training to be accessed anywhere and at any time... This report explores the kinds of opportunities smartphones and apps are creating for the immigrant integration field. It provides a first look at the opportunities and tradeoffs that smartphones and emerging technologies offer for immigrant integration, and how they might deepen—or weaken—city residents’ sense of belonging.” *Meghan Benton is a policy analyst in the International Program at the Migration Policy Institute (MPI).*

Immigrant Youth Outcomes: Patterns by Generation and Race and Ethnicity

Enchautegui, Maria E. Urban Institute. September 23, 2014. [Pdf format, 37 pages]

“This report examines 40 indicators of well-being of immigrant and nonimmigrant youth. The purpose is: (1) to assess inequalities between immigrant and nonimmigrant youth, and (2) to trace the progress of immigrant youth across generations. Given the continued importance of race and ethnicity in American society and their interplay with immigration, it is important to assess how immigrants perform in society. The report presents outcomes for all immigrant and nonimmigrant youth and then breaks out findings for Latinos and for Asians, Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. Assessing the standing of immigrant youth and their progress across generations is timely and relevant as the country debates inequality alongside discussions of immigration reform focused on the impacts of immigration and the integration of immigrants... Information provided in this report can be used to identify outcomes that could be targeted for policy interventions to foster the integration of immigrants, reduce inequalities between immigrant and nonimmigrant youth, and maximize the potential of immigrants and their children.” *Maria E. Enchautegui is a Senior Research Associate at the Urban Institute.*

Using Technology to Support At-Risk Students’ Learning

Darling-Hammond, Linda; et.al. Alliance for Excellent Education. September 10, 2014 [PDF format, 20 pages]

“As school districts around the country consider investments in technology as a way to improve student outcomes, this report from the Alliance for Excellent Education and the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education (SCOPE) finds that technology—when implemented properly—can produce significant gains in student achievement and boost engagement, particularly among students most at risk. Using Technology is based on a review of more than seventy recent research studies and provides concrete examples of classroom environments in which technology has made a positive difference in the learning outcomes of students at risk of failing courses and dropping out. Specifically, the report identifies three important components to successfully using technology with at-risk students: (1) interactive learning; (2) use of technology to explore and create rather than to “drill and kill;” and (3) the right blend of teachers and technology. The report also identifies significant disparities in technology access and implementation between affluent and low-income schools.” *Linda Darling-Hammond is Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education at Stanford University where she has launched the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in*

Education (SCOPE) and the School Redesign Network.

[**Getting on the Same Page: Identifying Goals for Technology Use in Early Childhood Education**](#)

Daugherty, Lindsay. Rand Corporation. September 22, 2014 [PDF format, 10 pages]

"Technology use among young children is increasingly a fact of life, and establishing a clear set of goals that are broadly accepted by stakeholders is critical to planning for the successful integration of technology into early childhood education (ECE). However, debates about the role of technology in ECE settings are ongoing, with some stakeholders unwilling to accept any role for technology in ECE. It has been difficult, therefore, to make progress toward identifying common goals, and toward ensuring that technology is integrated in a way that aligns with those goals, once defined. Based on findings from a forum and review of the literature, the authors offer ways to move past that debate and suggest several core goals that might be adopted to guide technology use in ECE." *Lindsay Daugherty is a full policy researcher at the RAND Corporation who specializes in education and policy research.*

[**Public Attitudes toward Federalism: The Public's Preference for Renewed Federalism**](#)

Samples, John; Ekins, Emily McClintock. The Cato Institute September 23, 2014 [PDF format, 40 pages]

"For much of its history, the United States had a notably decentralized government structure. Since the 1930s, the national government has undertaken new efforts to regulate the economy and society and to redistribute resources. Those new efforts have implied a greater centralization of authority in Washington. In the past the public often supported such centralization. Public opinion about federalism has changed. Voters are more supportive of decentralized policymaking on many issues where they previously supported a stronger national role. This shift in the public mood is consistent with other polling data that indicates profound distrust in the capacity of the federal government to act on behalf of the public good." *John Samples is the director of the Center for Representative Government at the Cato Institute. Emily McClintock Ekins a research fellow at the Cato Institute and the polling director at Reason Foundation where she leads the Reason-Rupe public opinion research project.*

[**The 2014 Congressional Primaries: Who Ran and Why**](#)

Kamarck, Elaine; Podkul, Alexander R. The Brookings Institution. September 2014 [PDF format, 26 pages]

"Congressional primaries are the stepchild of election studies. They take place over the course of eight to nine months each election year. Most are barely covered by the press unless a long-term or scandal-ridden incumbent is defeated. Since that rarely happens, congressional primaries tend to be ignored. In recent years, this situation has gotten worse as the number of reporters who cover state and local government and politics has declined. The 2010 midterm elections illustrated how important the obscure world of congressional primaries is to American politics. In those primaries, Tea Party candidates emerged to challenge more mainstream Republican incumbents. Enough of them were ultimately successful that the balance of power within the Republican majority in Congress shifted, and we have been coping with a much more polarized political system ever since." *Elaine C. Kamarck is a senior fellow in the Governance Studies program at Brookings and the Founding Director of the Center for Effective Public Management. Alexander Podkul is a doctoral student in political science at Georgetown University.*

[**A Shale Success Story: LNG**](#)

U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce. October 3, 2014.

"An energy transformation is underway in America and technology is leading the charge. Advances in hydraulic

fracturing and directional drilling have completely shattered prior expectations about our nation's energy future by unlocking vast amounts of shale resources that were previously considered off limits. Only a decade ago, many thought America was running out of oil and gas and would grow increasingly dependent on foreign imports, much of it from unstable or hostile nations. But thanks to the shale revolution, America today is producing more oil and gas than ever before, which is contributing to lower prices, greater energy security, and unprecedented job growth in the energy sector."

ARTICLES

[Innovation Districts Catch On](#)

Katz, Bruce. *The Avenue blog*. August 5, 2014.

"Large technology and R&D-intensive firms also continue to announce new offices in dense urban settings. Samsung recently leased an entire six-story building in Manhattan, to be closer to "an innovation-minded workforce." And in Chattanooga, Volkswagen is building a new plant on the outskirts of the metro area, but plans to locate its R&D unit in the heart of the city's downtown, closer to potential collaborators like the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Still, the potential of these trends is most apparent in innovation districts that are supported by a network of public, private and civic stakeholders that unite behind a clear growth strategy. Luckily, metropolitan leaders across the country are getting the message. Last month, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan established an innovation district taskforce to study the potential designation of a district in the city's Downtown and Midtown. Henry Ford Health System CEO Nancy Schlichting will lead a working group of stakeholders such as the College for Creative Studies, Wayne State University, TechTown, and local philanthropies including the Kresge Foundation." *Bruce J. Katz is a vice president at the Brookings Institution and founding director of the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program.*

[Ranking the Top States for Infrastructure Jobs](#)

Kane, Joseph; Puentes, Robert. *The Avenue blog*. August 4, 2014.

"Across the public and private sector, leaders have partnered to invest in our roads, ports and other key infrastructure systems, aiming to provide greater financial certainty for future projects and put more people back to work. Policymakers at the state level, in particular, are grappling with a series of infrastructure challenges given the looming shortfall in the Highway Trust Fund. Without reliable federal support during the height of the summer construction season, lawmakers from Maryland to New Hampshire have recently raised their gas taxes to pay for needed improvements, private groups have lined up in Pennsylvania to fund hundreds of bridge upgrades, and voters in Oregon and elsewhere have supported a variety of transportation ballot measures. Since more than 14.2 million infrastructure jobs are at stake in these policy discussions—the majority of which last for years beyond construction—it's easy to see why states are acting with a sense of urgency." *Robert Puentes is a senior fellow with the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program. Joseph Kane is a Policy/Research Assistant, Metropolitan Policy Program.*

[From Vacant to Vibrant: Cincinnati's Urban Transformation](#)

Greenblatt, Alan. *Governing*. September 2014.

"Cincinnati is making itself more attractive to young people who have fled the city in recent times, as well as big corporations. When General Electric recently announced plans to open a \$90 million downtown facility that will bring in 1,500 jobs, local officials celebrated it as the latest proof that their strategy of investing in older parts of the city

could pay off in a big way.” *Alan Greenblatt is a Staff Writer for Governing.*

[Beyond Dialogue: What We Can Do About Race and the Police](#)

DuBois, Joshua. *National Journal*. September 6, 2014.

“At moments like these, America says it wants a conversation about race. This time, it's because of the shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown by a Ferguson, Missouri, police officer. Last time, it was because of Trayvon Martin. Before that, there was the shooting of Amadou Diallo and the beating of Rodney King and countless other incidents, the specifics of which too many Americans have long forgotten. Each time, we ask for a conversation about race while the cameras are running, in front of the courthouse or on a protest-lined street. Then the heat dies down, and the urgency of a national dialogue fades with it. But what if this time was different? What if this chapter of the conversation actually resulted in lasting, concrete policy changes? And what might those changes look like?” *Joshua DuBois was executive director of the White House faith-based initiative in President Obama's first term.*

[Senate's Future Likely Hinges on These Three Races](#)

Cook, Charlie. *National Journal*. October 6, 2014.

“With just 28 days to go until Election Day, the U.S. Senate picture looks remarkably stable—but there is still a great deal of uncertainty. The number of seats in play is either 11 or 12, depending on whether or not you believe that the contest in Minnesota between Democratic incumbent Al Franken and GOP challenger Mike McFadden has tightened up. We have begun to see some polls that show the race now in mid-to-high single digits; it could just be that Republicans are coming home, thus producing the normal closure you often see, or it could be that it is in fact growing more competitive. Three Democratic open seats are goners: Montana, South Dakota, and West Virginia. Democrats' three most endangered incumbents still are in extremely challenging races. However, all of them—Mark Begich in Alaska, Mark Pryor in Arkansas, and Louisiana's Mary Landrieu—are still absolutely alive and in the hunt for victory.” *Charlie Cook is Editor and Publisher of The Cook Political Report, and political analyst for National Journal.*

[MOOC U: The Revolution Isn't Over](#)

Salingo, Jeffrey. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. September 29, 2014.

“Massive open online courses (MOOCs) were heralded as the invention that would disrupt higher education's expensive business model and would become the next big innovation in the tech world. By the end of 2012, the Times declared it "the year of the MOOC." But a year later, after a series of high-profile failed experiments using MOOCs, another proclamation from the Times about the massive classes arrived in this front-page headline: "After Setbacks, Online Courses Are Rethought." In the news media, MOOCs had gone from being higher education's savior to a bust in a little more than a year. That doesn't mean MOOCs are dead, however. Far from it. More than six million people have signed up for a MOOC since 2011. Massive open online courses are clearly resonating with an audience looking for instruction on the web. And the format is able to scale education in a way that simply can't be done on a physical campus.” *Jeffrey Selingo is a contributing editor at The Chronicle. This essay is adapted from his latest book, MOOC U: Who Is Getting the Most Out of Online Education and Why (Simon & Schuster, 2014).*

[Facing Climate Change, Cities Embrace Resiliency](#)

Vock, Daniel C. *Governing*. September 2014.

“Lacking substantial state or federal support, local governments throughout the country are using natural disasters as

a way to get their infrastructure, personnel and budgets better prepared for the next...It is a role more and more local government leaders are assuming. "Cities," wrote the authors of this year's National Climate Assessment, "have become early responders to climate change challenges and opportunities." Like first responders, localities do not have the wherewithal to take on the entire problem of global warming themselves. But they have tools to improve the situation until greater resources can be brought to bear. Early signs of climate change -- the supercharged storms in the Midwest, droughts and forest fires in the West, and sea level rise on the coasts -- are forcing cities like Dubuque to prepare for a future in which new weather patterns can overwhelm existing infrastructure." *Daniel C. Vock covers transportation and infrastructure for Governing.*

[Home Free?: Utah's New Approach to Solving Homelessness](#)

Surowiecki, James. *The New Yorker*. September 22, 2014.

"In 2005, Utah set out to fix a problem that's often thought of as unfixable: chronic homelessness. The state had almost two thousand chronically homeless people. Most of them had mental-health or substance-abuse issues, or both. At the time, the standard approach was to try to make homeless people "housing ready": first, you got people into shelters or halfway houses and put them into treatment; only when they made progress could they get a chance at permanent housing. Utah, though, embraced a different strategy, called Housing First: it started by just giving the homeless homes. Handing mentally ill substance abusers the keys to a new place may sound like an example of wasteful government spending. But it turned out to be the opposite: over time, Housing First has saved the government money." *James Surowiecki is a staff writer for the New Yorker and writes for the Financial Page.*

[How Serious Is the Supreme Court About Religious Freedom?](#)

Sidhu, Dawinder S. *The Atlantic*. September 30, 2014.

"Religious freedom in the United States has ebbed and flowed between two competing concepts: the principled view that religion is a matter of individual conscience that cannot be invaded by the government, and the practical concern once expressed by Justice Antonin Scalia that accommodating all religious practices in our diverse society would be "courting anarchy." In June, the Supreme Court ruled in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* that closely held corporations, whose owners objected to contraception on account of sincere Christian beliefs, could not be forced by the Affordable Care Act to include certain contraceptives in their employee insurance plans. But the idea that Hobby Lobby creates robust protections will be credible only if the justices are willing to recognize the religious freedom of marginalized religious minorities—not just the Judeo-Christian tradition." *Dawinder S. Sidhu is a law professor at the University of New Mexico. He has served as a fellow at the Supreme Court of the United States.*

[The Court's Green Light on Gay Marriage](#)

Socarides, Richard. *The New Yorker*. October 6, 2014.

"The Supreme Court's decision this morning to decline to hear any of the gay-marriage cases pending before it this term is not the kind of victory marriage-equality advocates expected, but it is an important and, indeed, highly significant victory nonetheless. Since the lower-court rulings had all overturned bans on same-sex marriage, it means that gay marriage will become legal very soon in Utah, Oklahoma, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Indiana, and fairly soon in the six other states covered by the circuit courts whose rulings were allowed to stand." *Richard Socarides is an attorney and longtime gay-rights advocate. He served in the White House during the Clinton Administration and has also been a political strategist.*

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