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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

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Fact Sheet: Afghanistan

The White House. February 12, 2013.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/02/12/fact-sheet-afghanistan>

"In his State of the Union address, the President announced that the United States will withdraw 34,000 American troops from Afghanistan by this time next year, decreasing the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan by half – the next step to responsibly bringing this war to a close... Today, Afghan forces are already leading nearly 90 percent of operations, and by spring 2013, they will be moving into the operational lead across the country. These forces are currently at a surge strength of 352,000, where they will remain for at least three more years, to allow continued progress toward a secure environment in Afghanistan. As the international community's role shifts and Afghan forces continue to grow in capabilities, coalition troop numbers will continue to decrease in a planned, coordinated, and responsible manner. By the end of 2014, transition will be complete and Afghan Security Forces will be fully responsible for the security of their country."

U.S. Policy Toward North Korea

Testimony by Glyn T. Davies, Special Representative for North Korea Policy, U.S. Department of State, before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. March 7, 2013.

http://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Ambassador_Davies_Testimony.pdf

"We are working with the international community to make clear that North Korea's nuclear test has costly consequences. In adopting Resolution 2087 in January after the December launch, the UN Security Council pledged to take "significant action" in the event of a nuclear test; we are working hard at the UN Security Council to make good on that pledge. We are intensively engaged with our Six-Party partners, members of the UN Security Council, and other UN member states on a strong and credible response by the international community. China's support for firm action remains key, and we are deeply engaged with the Chinese in shaping an appropriate response. We are strengthening our close coordination with our Six-Party partners and regional allies. And—through a whole-of-government approach, working closely with our partners in the Department of Defense and other agencies—we will take the steps necessary to defend ourselves and our allies, particularly the ROK and Japan... The United States will not engage in talks for the sake of talks. Rather, what we want are negotiations that address the real issue of North Korea's nuclear program. Authentic and credible negotiations therefore require a serious, meaningful change in North Korea's priorities demonstrating that Pyongyang is prepared to meet its commitments and obligations to achieve the core goal of the September 2005 Joint Statement: the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner."

Sub-Saharan Africa: Trends in U.S. and Chinese Economic Engagement

U.S. Government Accountability Office. February 2013 [PDF format, 89 pages]

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/652041.pdf>

"GAO was asked to review the nature of the United States' and China's engagement in

sub-Saharan Africa. This report examines (1) goals and policies in sub-Saharan Africa; (2) trade, grants and loans, and investment activities in the region; and (3) engagement in three case-study countries--Angola, Ghana, and Kenya. GAO obtained information from, among others, 11 U.S. agencies, U.S. firms, and host-government officials. GAO was not able to meet with Chinese officials. GAO did not include U.S. and Chinese security engagement in the scope of this study... The United States and China have emphasized different policies and approaches for their engagement with sub-Saharan Africa. U.S. goals have included strengthening democratic institutions, supporting human rights, using development assistance to improve health and education, and helping sub-Saharan African countries build global trade. The Chinese government, in contrast, has stated the goal of establishing closer ties with African countries by seeking mutual benefit for China and African nations and by following a policy of noninterference in countries' domestic affairs. Both the United States and China have seen sharp growth in trade with sub-Saharan Africa over the past decade, with China's total trade in goods increasing faster and surpassing U.S. trade in 2009. Petroleum imports constitute the majority of U.S. and Chinese imports from sub-Saharan Africa, with China also importing a large amount of other natural resources. China's exports of goods to the region have grown and far exceed U.S. exports of goods."

The Crisis in Mali: U.S. Interests and the International Response

Testimony by Assistant Secretary Johnnie Carson, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. February 14, 2013 [PDF format, 10 pages]

<http://docs.house.gov/meetings/FA/FA00/20130214/100248/HHRG-113-FA00-Wstate-CarsonJ-20130214.pdf>

"The evolving crisis in Mali is one of the most difficult, complex, and urgent problems West Africa has faced in decades. Mali's problems reflect the fragility of governance in the region, the lack of economic development -- especially in northern Mali -- the absence of meaningful opportunities for people to engage with their governments, and the widespread desperation that exists in an unforgiving, arid region with chronic food insecurity. The March 2012 coup and subsequent loss of northern Mali to Islamic extremists demonstrates all too clearly how quickly terrorists prey upon fragile states. Poor governance, weak democratic institutions, and a lack of development and economic opportunity create fertile ground for terrorism and instability."

The United States and the Asia-Pacific in 2013

Remarks by Tom Donilon, National Security Advisor to the President. The Asia Society. March 11, 2013.

<http://go.usa.gov/2kaJ>

In a speech at the Asia Society in New York city, Tom Donilon stated that "after a decade defined by 9/11, two wars, and a financial crisis, President Obama took office determined to restore the foundation of the United States' global leadership—our economic strength at home. Since then the United States has put in place a set of policies that have put our economy on the path to recovery, and helped create six million U.S. jobs in the last thirty-five months. At the same time, renewing U.S. leadership has also meant focusing our

efforts and resources not just on the challenges that make today's headlines, but on the regions that will shape the global order in the decades ahead. That's why, from the outset—even before the President took office—he directed those of us on his national security team to engage in a strategic assessment, a truly global examination of our presence and priorities. We asked what the U.S. footprint and face to the world was and what it ought to be. We set out to identify the key national security interests that we needed to pursue. We looked around the world and asked: where are we over-weighted? Where are we underweighted? That assessment resulted in a set of key determinations. It was clear that there was an imbalance in the projection and focus of U.S. power. It was the President's judgment that we were over-weighted in some areas and regions, including our military actions in the Middle East. At the same time, we were underweighted in other regions, such as the Asia-Pacific. Indeed, we believed this was our key geographic imbalance."

The US and the Gulf States: Uncertain Partners in a Changing Region

LeBaron, Richard. The Atlantic Council; Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East; Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security. February 7, 2013 [PDF format, 8 pages]
http://www.acus.org/files/publication_pdfs/403/mec130207usgulf.pdf

The author evaluates the relationship between the United States and the Gulf states as they face democratic transitions in the Arab world as well as security challenges in the Gulf. Whether in Egypt or Syria, Gulf states have reacted differently to the rapid political change in the region. According to the author, the looming threat of Iran attaining nuclear weapons has brought greater urgency to efforts to enhance regional security, and is complicated by distrust in the Gulf over the long-term durability of the US commitment to Gulf security. LeBaron also proposes an agenda as the basis for the United States and the Gulf states to reexamine and renew their partnership in the context of a changing region. *Richard LeBaron is a senior fellow at the Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East. Mr. LeBaron retired from the State Department in 2012. He served as Ambassador to Kuwait and held senior positions in Cairo, London, Tel Aviv, and Washington DC.*

Doing More and Expecting Less: The Future of US Alliances in the Asia Pacific

Baker, Carl W.; Glosserman, Brad. Center for Strategic and International Studies. February 19, 2013 [Note: contains copyrighted material] [PDF format, 106 pages]
http://csis.org/files/publication/issuesinsights_vol13no1.pdf

"The volume examines the role of US alliances in the Asia Pacific, outlining their evolution and offering policy recommendations on how to adapt them to a changing regional security environment. To this end, a group of scholars and policymakers met at regular intervals over a three-year period to examine the alliances and the role they have played in shaping U.S. engagement and the relationships among the alliance partners. While each alliance has its own history and each relationship has been shaped by events and circumstances, the system of bilateral alliances with the U.S. has been a key part of the security architecture in the Asia-Pacific region for the past half century." *Carl Baker is the director of programs and co-editor of Comparative Connections at Pacific Forum CSIS in Honolulu. Brad Glosserman is executive director at Pacific Forum CSIS and co-editor of Comparative Connections. He is also the director of the Pacific Forum's Young Leaders*

Program.

Syria's Hard Landing

Lynch, Dr. Marc. Center for a New American Security. February 2013 [PDF format, 12 pages]

http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/CNAS_SyriasHardLanding_Lynch.pdf

In this report, Dr. Lynch argues that the international response to these developments has been manifestly inadequate. While he writes that the debate over Syria must shift to reflect new realities and that there are actions American policymakers can take in order to prepare for a political transition after Asad falls from power, he maintains that the United States should continue to resist direct intervention or directly arming rebels. "The Obama administration was wise to reject the proposals to impose a no-fly zone or safe areas inside Syria or to arm Syrian rebels that began to gather steam in early 2012. There is little appetite in America for another military adventure in the Arab world. In December 2012, 63 percent of Americans said that the United States did not have a responsibility to act in Syria, and only 24 percent supported arming Syrian rebels (65 percent were opposed). But public opinion is not the primary reason for the Obama administration's refusal to intervene. It rejected military options because it understood that limited measures would not likely have brought the conflict to an early resolution and would have instead embroiled the United States directly in another Middle Eastern quagmire." *Dr. Marc Lynch is a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS) and Associate Professor of Political Science and the Director of the Institute for Middle East Studies at the Elliott School of International Affairs at The George Washington University.*

Russia's Many Interests in Syria

Borshchevskaya, Anna. The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. January 24, 2013 [HTML format with a link to PDF file]

<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/russias-many-interests-in-syria>

"Since 2000, Putin has sought to restore Russia as a Great Power, shaping its policy as an anti-American zero-sum game in order to position the country as a counterweight to the West in the Middle East. Syria is Russia's most important foothold in the region and a key to Putin's calculus. Syria's location -- bordering the Mediterranean, Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, and Iraq -- makes it too important to lose... Since the Syrian uprising began two years ago, Putin has supported Assad unequivocally, despite statements to the contrary. He has armed Assad, shielded him at the UN Security Council, agreed to take Syria's crude oil in exchange for refined oil products to sustain the country's military and economy, and provided loans to stave off Syrian bankruptcy. The Obama administration has hoped to leverage the president's "reset" policy toward Russia into concessions on Syria. Despite continued overtures, however, Russian intransigence continues. After the latest trilateral meeting on Syria, held in Geneva on January 11 between UN Special Representative Lakhdar Brahimi and senior U.S. and Russian diplomats, Moscow stood by its earlier position -- Assad's departure could not be a precondition for peace talks." *Anna Borshchevskaya is an assistant director at the Atlantic Council's Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center.*

Saudi Arabia and Qatar in a Time of Revolution

Haykel, Bernard. Center Strategic and International Studies. February 19, 2013 [Note: contains copyrighted material] [PDF format, 8 pages]

http://csis.org/files/publication/130219_Haykel_SaudiQatar_GulfAnalysis.pdf

"The Arab Spring represents a set of challenges the likes of which have not been seen in the Arab world for a half century or more. Shifts underway in the Levant and North Africa have a profound effect on perceptions of governance in the Gulf, and those shifts are a potential source of threat to the GCC states' stability. In response, Qatar has been active, building on confidence in its domestic support and its conviction that it has nothing to fear from actors like the Muslim Brotherhood. Saudi Arabia has been considerably more cautious, reflecting its own diverse internal politics and the leadership's distrust of sweeping change. Both Qatar and Saudi Arabia seek to use their wealth as an instrument of their foreign policy, shaping the external environment in order to secure their internal one. This paper looks at how the two most active members of the GCC, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, have responded to the Arab Spring. The two countries have col-laborated on some fronts and diverged on others." *Bernard Haykel is professor of Near Eastern studies and director of the Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia at Princeton University.*

Preparing U.S. Policy for the Next Phase of Egypt's Transition

Brian Katulis et al. Center for American Progress. March 1, 2013 [Note: contains copyrighted material] [PDF format, 14 pages]

<http://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/EgyptRevolutionTimeline-1.pdf>

According to the authors, to advance its interests and values in Egypt, the United States should more clearly support inclusive democratic political reform and prepare for possible policy shifts ahead. "As Egypt moves toward another round of parliamentary elections beginning in April, the country remains in a series of interlinked security, political, economic, and social crises. These crises are the result of an inconclusive struggle for power among competing political forces inside the country, as well as a daunting set of policy challenges that Egypt has faced—but not effectively addressed—for decades... A political legitimacy crisis looms in Egypt, driven by two main factors. First is the messy political transition, which suffers from a lack of inclusivity on the part of the Islamist parties that won a majority in the 2012 parliamentary and presidential elections. The second factor contributing to the looming political legitimacy crisis is a disorganized political opposition and the lack of a coherent viable political alternative to the Islamists. The opposition's lack of clear strategy to advance their own agenda—exemplified by their recent call to boycott the next round of parliamentary elections—is likely to contribute to further undermining the trust in and support for Egypt's political institutions... Since the start of Egypt's political transition in 2011, the United States has made some important tactical adjustments to its policy on Egypt, but its overall strategic approach has remained largely unchanged. The United States has utilized several main tools to advance its goals: Close and regular diplomacy with a range of Egypt's leaders; Continued security assistance and cooperation; An additional offer of economic assistance linked to the

International Monetary Fund's efforts to support Egypt's economic stabilization." *Brian Katulis is a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress.*

Muslim Politics Without an "Islamic" State: Can Turkey's Justice and Development Party Be a Model for Arab Islamists?

Kuru, Ahmet T. Brookings Doha Center. February 2013 [PDF format, 14 pages]

http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/Research/Files/Papers/2013/02/21%20akp%20model%20kuru/BDC_AKP%20Model_Kuru.pdf

In this report, the author explores the relationship between Islamism and secularism in the aftermath of the Arab Spring. "As Islamist parties assume power in Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco, many – in both the West and the region – have turned to the experience of Turkey's pro-Islamic Justice and Development Party (AKP) for lessons on negotiating the relationship between Islam and the state. The "AKP model," it is argued, occupies the middle ground between the "assertive secularism" of Turkey's past, and the marriage of religion and politics seen in countries such as Iran. Given striking differences, however, between Turkey, with its Kemalist past, and the Arab world, where "secularism" itself is sometimes almost taboo, can the AKP's experience really be an effective model? Will Islamists in deeply conservative Arab countries even see it as desirable?" *Ahmet T. Kuru is a visiting fellow at the Brookings Doha Center and Associate Professor of Political Science at San Diego State University. He is co-editor of Democracy, Islam, and Secularism in Turkey (Columbia University Press, 2012) and author of Secularism and State Policies toward Religion: The United States, France, and Turkey (Cambridge University Press, 2009).*

Transatlantic Economy 2013

Hamilton, Daniel; Quinlan, Joseph. Center for Transatlantic Relations; European-American Business Council; American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union.

<http://transatlantic.sais-jhu.edu/transatlantic-topics/transatlantic-economy-series.htm>

"The United States and the European Union have launched negotiations towards a comprehensive economic agreement to open transatlantic markets. What will this mean for jobs, growth and innovation? How important are economic relations between the United States and Europe? The Transatlantic Economy 2013 annual survey offers the most up-to-date set of facts and figures describing the deep economic integration binding Europe and the United States...The transatlantic economy is the largest and wealthiest market in the world, accounting for over 50% of world GDP in terms of value and 41% in terms of purchasing power. The transatlantic economy generates \$5.3 trillion in total sales a year and employs up to 15 million workers in mutually "on shored" jobs. No other commercial artery in the world is as integrated. Ties are particular thick in foreign direct investment, portfolio investment, banking claims, trade and affiliate sales in goods and services, mutual R&D investment, patent cooperation, technology flows, and sales of knowledge-intensive services." *Daniel Hamilton is the Executive Director at the Center for Transatlantic Relations and Executive Director at the American Consortium on European Union Studies. Joseph Quinlan is a Non-Resident Fellow at the Center for Transatlantic Relations at the Paul. H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University.*

Reforming U.S. Drone Strike Policies

Zenko, Micah. Council on Foreign Relations. January 2013 [PDF format, 53 pages]

http://i.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/Drones_CSR65.pdf

"The United States should more fully explain and reform aspects of its policies on drone strikes in non battlefield settings by ending the controversial practice of "signature strikes"; limiting targeted killings to leaders of transnational terrorist organizations and individuals with direct involvement in past or ongoing plots against the United States and its allies; and clarifying rules of the road for drone strikes in non battlefield settings. Given that the United States is currently the only country—other than the United Kingdom in the traditional battlefield of Afghanistan and perhaps Israel—to use drones to attack the sovereign territory of another country, it has a unique opportunity and responsibility to engage relevant international actors and shape development of a normative framework for acceptable use of drones. This report raises an important and under examined set of issues. It analyzes the potentially serious consequences, both at home and abroad, of a lightly overseen drone program and makes recommendations for improving its governance." *Micah Zenko is the Douglas Dillon fellow in the Center for Preventive Action (CPA) at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR).*

Crux of Asia: China, India, and the Emerging Global Order

Tellis, Ashley J.; Mirski, Sean, editors. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

January 10, 2013 [PDF format, 270 pages]

http://carnegieendowment.org/files/crux_of_asia.pdf

"The rise of China and India as major world powers promises to test the established global order in the coming decades. As the two powers grow, they are bound to change the current international system—with profound implications for themselves, the United States, and the world. And whether they agree on the changes to be made, especially when it comes to their relationship with the West, will influence the system's future character. A close examination of Chinese and Indian perspectives on the fundamentals of the emerging international order reveals that Sino-Indian differences on many issues of both bilateral and global significance are stark. This volume is an attempt to understand how China and India think about various dimensions of the emerging global order. It brings together a series of paired papers by distinguished Chinese and Indian scholars who address a common set of questions (listed at the beginning of each chapter) relating to four broad areas of concern: the evolving global order, the challenges of regional security, key problems of the global commons, and emerging nontraditional security concerns... Washington undoubtedly confronts serious pressure to formulate coherent policies that satisfy its short-term goals vis-à-vis both China and India while simultaneously responding to the long-term challenges represented by those states' rise in Asia and beyond." *Ashley J. Tellis is a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace specializing in international security, defense, and Asian strategic issues.*

U.S. Trade and Investment in the Middle East and North Africa: Overview and Issues for Congress

Nelson, Rebecca M. et al. Congressional Research Service (CRS), Library of Congress. February 28, 2013. [PDF format, 46 pages]

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42153.pdf>

"US interest in deepening economic ties with certain countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) has increased in light of the political unrest and transitions that have swept the region since early 2011. Policymakers in Congress and the Obama Administration are discussing ways that U.S. trade and investment can bolster long-term economic growth in the region. In May 2011, President Obama announced the MENA "Trade and Investment Partnership Initiative" (MENA-TIP), through which various federal government agencies are engaged in efforts to enhance trade and investment with the region. Such activities are in line with longstanding U.S. trade policy goals and measures. Some Members of Congress have called for deeper economic ties with MENA countries undergoing political change. However, continued political uncertainty and changing security environments in the region have prompted greater scrutiny of U.S. engagement. This report analyzes policy approaches that the Congress might consider concerning U.S.-MENA trade and investment." *Rebecca M. Nelson, Coordinator and Analyst in International Trade and Finance at the CRS.*

An Economic NATO: A New Alliance for a New Global Order

Gray, C. Boyden. The Atlantic Council. February 2013 [PDF format, 7 pages]

http://www.acus.org/files/publication_pdfs/403/tar130221economicnato.pdf

"In the aftermath of World War II, the greatest concern facing the United States and its European allies was restraining the Soviet Union and preventing the spread of communism. Cooperation on military security was paramount, and the United States and Europe rose to the challenge by creating NATO, a new type of multilateral defense agreement. Once again, the transatlantic relationship is at a new and perilous crossroads. But now it is economic, rather than military security that is at risk. Crisis grips the economies of Europe, just as the United States, mired in historic levels of unemployment in the wake of the 2008 recession, is rethinking its strategic priorities and place in the world. As before, fears mount concerning the future of liberal democracy and Western capitalism. The question is whether transatlantic cooperation will again rise to the challenge." *C. Boyden Gray is a founding partner of Boyden Gray & Associates PLLC, a law firm specializing in appellate, energy, and financial regulatory law. He is a former US ambassador to the European Union. He currently serves on the Atlantic Council's Board of Directors.*

The State of Global Jihad Online

Zelin, Aaron Y. New America Foundation. February 2013 [PDF format, 24 pages]

<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/uploads/Documents/opeds/Zelin20130201-NewAmericaFoundation.pdf>

"More than eleven years after the 9/11 attacks and nearly a decade since the rise of popular online jihadist internet forums, there is strikingly little empirical research on the manner in which jihadist activists use the web to propagate their cause. Whereas researchers and policy analysts have systematically collected and analyzed the primary

source material produced by al-Qaeda and its allies, very little work has been done on the conduits through which that information is distributed -- and even to what extent anyone is accessing that propaganda other than counterterrorism analysts. This paper begins, first, by quantifying the use of English-language jihadist forums, which rose in prominence with the emergence of American-born Sheikh Anwar al-Awlaki within the jihadist propaganda enterprise. Second, it measures the use of Twitter by online jihadists. Third, it assesses the most prominent English-language forums, the English sections within prominent Arabic jihadist forums, how the English forums compare to the Arabic forums, and the current status of the nascent rise in Twitter activism." *Aaron Y. Zelin is the Richard Borow fellow at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy.*

ARTICLES

Twenty-First Century Statecraft in Action

Hammer, Michael A. Fletcher Forum of World Affairs. Winter 2013, pp. 135-141.
http://www.fletcherforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Hammer_37-1.pdf

"The United States State Department's Bureau of Public Affairs engages domestic and international media to communicate timely and accurate information. It does so with the goal of furthering U.S. foreign policy and national security interests, as well as broadening an understanding of American values. We carry out this mission in an extremely dynamic media environment, one that has accelerated exponentially beyond the 24/7 news cycle to which we adapted a few short years ago... Working to promote America's position as a world leader, each day we seek to set the agenda, respond quickly, and amplify our message to ensure U.S. policies and initiatives are well understood and gain support. Attuned to the demands of a constantly changing media landscape, Secretary Hillary Clinton ushered in what she termed "Twenty-First Century Statecraft"—that is, harnessing the networks and technology of today's interconnected world to advance America's interests. The Secretary motivated the Department—and the Public Affairs Bureau in particular—to be at the forefront of the new digital age. The results have been tangible: our website is consistently rated among the top in the federal government, we have over 175,000 Facebook fans, we have over 390,000 followers on Twitter, and we now tweet in 11 languages including Arabic, Chinese, English, Farsi, French, Hindi, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, and Urdu. Moreover, our counterparts in foreign ministries around the world recognize our efforts and seek our advice on effective public diplomacy and best practices on social media... These accomplishments should be understood within the context of the State Department's wider objectives, however. We are not employing digital technology because it is the latest media fad; instead, we are pursuing Twenty-First Century Statecraft because it advances U.S. policies and highlights American efforts to tackle today's tough national security issues. Social media not only expands our reach to new, broader, and younger audiences, but it also enables us to rapidly gauge reactions to policy pronouncements." *Michael A. Hammer is the Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs at the U.S. State Department. He is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service and most recently served at the White House as Special Assistant to the President, Senior Director for Press and Communications, and Spokesman at the National Security Council.*

The Devolution of American Power

Etzioni, Amitai. *Fletcher Forum of World Affairs*. Winter 2013, pp. 13-34.

http://www.fletcherforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Etzioni_37-1.pdf

"Much of the discussion about the changing distribution of power in the world focuses on whether the power of the United States is declining, whether new global powers are rising to displace it, and how these changes may affect the international order. This article argues that, for the foreseeable future, the rising challengers will remain largely regional powers. On the whole, the changing global order involves increased regional pluralism, or devolution, rather than a rise of multipolarity or a displacement of the United States as the predominant hegemonic power. Given that the rising powers seek mostly regional influence, they can be more easily accommodated by the United States than if they sought to challenge the United States as a global power. These accommodations are less likely to be conflict-prone if they are correctly understood to involve regional-to-global power shifts rather than global-to-global ones." *Amitai Etzioni served as a senior advisor to the Carter White House; he is currently a university professor and professor of international relations at The George Washington University. His latest book is Hot Spots: American Foreign Policy in a Post-Human-Rights World (Transaction, 2012).*

Lean Forward: In Defense of American Engagement

Brooks, Stephen G.; Ikenberry, G. John; Wohlforth, William C. *Foreign Affairs*. January/February 2013.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/138468/stephen-g-brooks-g-john-ikenberry-and-william-c-wohlforth/lean-forward>

"Now, more than ever, the United States might be tempted to pull back from the world. That would be a mistake, since an engaged grand strategy has served the country exceptionally well for the past six decades -- helping prevent the outbreak of conflict in the world's most important regions, keeping the global economy humming, and facilitating international cooperation... Since the end of World War II, the United States has pursued a single grand strategy: deep engagement. In an effort to protect its security and prosperity, the country has promoted a liberal economic order and established close defense ties with partners in Europe, East Asia, and the Middle East. Its military bases cover the map, its ships patrol transit routes across the globe, and tens of thousands of its troops stand guard in allied countries such as Germany, Japan, and South Korea. The details of U.S. foreign policy have differed from administration to administration, including the emphasis placed on democracy promotion and humanitarian goals, but for over 60 years, every president has agreed on the fundamental decision to remain deeply engaged in the world, even as the rationale for that strategy has shifted." *Stephen G. Brooks is Associate Professor of Government at Dartmouth College. G. John Ikenberry is Albert G. Milbank Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University. William C. Wohlforth is Daniel Webster Professor of Government at Dartmouth College. This article is adapted from their essay "Don't Come Home, America: The Case Against Retrenchment," International Security, Winter 2012-13.*

Forget Asia – Time to Pivot to Europe

Manning, Robert A. *The National Interest*. February 1, 2013.

<http://nationalinterest.org/commentary/forget-asia-%E2%80%93-time-pivot-europe-8048>

"Don't look now, but for all the buzz about the Obama administration's "pivot" to Asia and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, momentum is building on both sides of the Atlantic for a U.S.-EU free trade agreement that could be at least as consequential in shaping the world order. In fact, considering the messy geopolitical landscape with few opportunities and no shortage of challenges, a successful new U.S.-EU accord could well end up as the signature foreign-policy achievement of Obama 2.0... The sheer magnitude of U.S.-EU economic relations is eye-popping. Despite the recession plaguing the West, the U.S. and EU still account for about 50 percent of the world's GDP and have more than \$3 trillion in foreign direct investment in their respective economies. U.S.-EU trade in goods and services reached \$636 billion in 2011, nearly 40 percent of the world total. Reinforcing the transatlantic economic relationship could give new impetus and focus to a sagging U.S.-EU relationship and enhance the global leverage of both actors. Call it the new *Trans-Atlantic Partnership*." *Robert A. Manning is a Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council. He previously served in the State Department as a senior advisor to the Assistant Secretary for East Asia and the Pacific (1989-93) and on the Secretary's policy planning staff (2004-08).*

Ordeal of the European Union

Brown, Bernard E. *American Foreign Policy Interests*. January 2013, pp.21-30.

"The European unity movement has always been a political as well as an economic project. Political objectives have included: eliminating areas of poverty and diminishing the appeal and threat of communism through economic and defense cooperation; solving the "German problem" (integration of the German economy into Europe, yet preventing German domination); completing the economic foundation by introducing a common currency; and helping to stabilize newly independent East European states. Controversy has always been present over the final goal of European unity: a full-fledged federal state capable of playing the role of a Great Power or a federation of nation-states with more limited missions. The underlying question: Is there a European "people" sufficiently cohesive to support a central state with an executive power independent of the political leadership of member states?". *Bernard E. Brown is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the CUNY Graduate School and Director of the Transatlantic Relations project of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy.*

The Turkey— Russia— Iran Nexus: Eurasian Power Dynamics

Flanagan, Stephen J. *The Washington Quarterly*. Winter 2013, pp.163-178

https://csis.org/files/publication/TWQ_13Winter_Flanagan.pdf

"Complex and often contradictory interactions among Turkey, Russia, and Iran are shaping regional dynamics in the Middle East, Caucasus, and Central Asia. The nexus of the three pairs of relations are influencing each country's dealings with the other two, as well as with the United States, and are whipsawed by events on the ground that continue to surprise leaders of these three historic rivals. Starkly differing policies toward the Syrian civil war and the Arab Awakening have strained Ankara's previously cooperative relations with Moscow and Tehran. Understanding these dynamics is essential to avoiding a wider war in the Middle East, renewed conflict in the Caucasus, and instability in Central Asia following the

withdrawal of NATO forces from Afghanistan. Moreover, with the proxy war in Syria deepening and the prospect of Israeli military strikes against Iran's nuclear facilities, the Middle East is reaching a tipping point unless the United States and the international community are able to work with these three powers to broker a political transition in Syria and a resolution of the Iranian nuclear crisis, which would otherwise have devastating consequences for regional stability and the global economy." *Stephen J. Flanagan is Henry A. Kissinger Chair in Diplomacy and National Security at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).*

Avoid Repeating Mistakes toward Iran

Amirahmadi, Hooshang; ShahidSaless, Shahir. *The Washington Quarterly*. Winter 2013, pp. 145-162.

https://csis.org/files/publication/TWQ_13Winter_AmirahmadiShahidSaless.pdf

"United States and Iran have been locked in a historically rare relationship: Washington and Tehran have not been able to talk to each other in a meaningful and consistent way. This pattern was not seen even during the Cold War between the United States and its communist adversaries. If the factors which have perpetuated this state of non-communication (or failing engagement) continue to go ignored, it is unreasonable to expect a negotiated solution in the coming months or years. This essay seeks to answer three questions: First, why have Iran and the United States been unable to engage in sustained dialogue aimed at de´tente and minimal cooperation? Second, why will current U.S. policies toward Iran's nuclear program likely fail, leading to a war that would make Iran weaponize? Third, what strategies and policies should be implemented to end the standoff over Iran's nuclear program, and facilitate de´tente between the two countries?." *Hooshang Amirahmadi is a professor at Rutgers University and President of the American Iranian Council. Shahir ShahidSaless is a political analyst and freelance journalist.*

Impediments to Normalized U.S.-Iranian Relations

Hunter, Shireen. *Fletcher Forum of World Affairs*. March 5, 2013.

<http://www.fletcherforum.org/2013/03/05/hunter/>

"For nearly four decades after the 1940s, the United States and Iran were close allies and friends. This period of friendship turned to enmity following the Islamic Revolution in February of 1979 and the establishment of the Islamic Republic. Since then, successive efforts, initiated by both Iran and the U.S., have failed to normalize relations between the two. The reasons for these failed attempts can be attributed to the dynamics of domestic politics in Iran and in America, the interests and influence of regional and international actors, and deep-seated psychological factors. Combined, these elements have been responsible for the continued hostility between Washington and Tehran." *Dr. Shireen Hunter is a Visiting Professor at the Center For Muslim-Christian Understanding at the Edmund E. Walsh School of Foreign Service in Georgetown.*

Getting to Yes With Iran

Jervis, Robert. *Foreign Affairs*. January/February 2013, pp.105-115.

"The article looks at U.S. foreign policy toward Iran as of 2013, focusing on Iran's nuclear

weapons development program. The author expresses the view that stopping Iran from developing nuclear weapons represents a difficult challenge, and discusses the combination of threats and inducements, or coercive diplomacy, that he considers most likely to succeed. He looks at factors that affect the credibility of U.S. threats and promises in the eyes of Iranian leaders. Topics include initiating negotiations, Iran's uranium enrichment program, and historical precedents for the use of coercive diplomacy." *Robert Jervis is Adlai E. Stevenson Professor of International Politics at Columbia University and a member of the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies.*

Obama's Second Term Middle East Policy: Will Words Become Actions?

Dunne, Michele. *Fletcher Forum of World Affairs*. Winter 2013, pp. 119-122.

http://www.fletcherforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Dunne_37-1.pdf

The author argues that in President Obama's second term, however, there will be several opportunities to adjust the U.S. approach to the region and to implement proactive policies that advance American interests and regional stability. "With escalating bloodshed in Syria, a recalcitrant Iran bent on becoming a nuclear power, long-time ally Egypt under Muslim Brotherhood rule, Libya terrorized by armed Salafis, and a recent military escalation between Israel and Hamas, it is easy to see why President Barack Obama might hope for a graceful pivot to Asia. The Middle East's problems are complex and even well-intentioned efforts to ameliorate them do not always pay off. Unrewarding as it might be, however, the United States must have policies towards the Middle East because it has an interest in the free flow of oil to the global economy, the prevention of terrorism emanating from the area, the security of Israel, and the outcome of political transitions in key states such as Egypt." *Michele Dunne is director of the Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East at the Atlantic Council in Washington, DC. A former official at the U.S. Department of State, she served in assignments in Cairo, Jerusalem, and Washington, including the National Security Council staff.*

The Mirage of the Arab Spring

Jones, Seth. *Foreign Affairs*. January/February 2013.

"As popular demonstrations swept across the Arab world in 2011, many U.S. policymakers and analysts were hopeful that the movements would usher in a new era for the region. That May, President Barack Obama described the uprisings as "a historic opportunity" for the United States "to pursue the world as it should be. The Arab uprisings of 2011, once a great source of hope for democracy enthusiasts, have given way to sectarian clashes and political instability. The Middle East has not yet shed its authoritarian yoke, and the United States needs a policy that reflects that reality." *Seth Jones is Associate Director of the International Security and Defense Policy Center at the RAND Corporation and an Adjunct Professor at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies. He is the author, most recently, of Hunting in the Shadows: The Pursuit of al Qa'ida Since 9/11 (W.W. Norton & Company, 2012).*

The Promise of the Arab Spring: In Political Development, No Gain Without Pain

Berman, Sheri. *Foreign Affairs*. January/February, 2013, pp. 64-74.

"It's easy to be pessimistic about the Arab Spring, given the post-revolutionary turmoil the Middle East is now experiencing. But critics forget that it takes time for new

democracies to transcend their authoritarian pasts. As the history of political development elsewhere shows, things get better... Two years after the outbreak of what has come to be known as the Arab Spring, the bloom is off the rose. Fledgling democracies in North Africa are struggling to move forward or even maintain control, government crackdowns in the Persian Gulf and elsewhere have kept liberalization at bay, and Syria is slipping ever deeper into a vicious civil war that threatens to ignite the Middle East. Instead of widespread elation about democracy finally coming to the region, one now hears pessimism about the many obstacles in the way, fear about what will happen next, and even open nostalgia for the old authoritarian order." *Sheri Berman is Professor of Political Science at Barnard College, Columbia University.*

Syria is not Iraq

Hamid, Shadi. *The Atlantic*. February 4, 2013.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2013/02/syria-is-not-iraq/272815/>

"Military intervention in Syria cannot happen without American support and there is nothing to suggest the United States has any interest in intervening, no matter the number of dead. The Obama administration has cited the use of chemical weapons as a "red line," but even that red line has managed to shift back and forth several times. Opponents of intervention have, understandably, tended to focus on the risky - and potentially prohibitively difficult - nature of military action. Yet, the very fact that some "red lines" do exist suggests that the U.S. would be willing to intervene at some point, in spite of those difficulties. The question, then, isn't so much the difficulty of the operation as much as what is an appropriate red line... The memory of the Iraq War obviously looms large. The war, itself, was one of the greatest strategic blunders in the recent history of American foreign policy. But its legacy is proving just as damaging, leading to a series of mistakes that we are likely to regret in due time. There would have been much more willingness to intervene in Syria if we hadn't intervened in Iraq." *Shadi Hamid is director of research at the Brookings Doha Center and a fellow at the Saban Center for Middle East Policy of the Brookings Institution.*

Syria's Crisis of Transition

Crocker, Cherter. *The National Interest*. March/April 2013.

<http://nationalinterest.org/article/syrias-crisis-transition-8141?page=show>

"The Syrian conundrum exemplifies the policy challenges that arise when regimes face political crises and violent transitions under opposition pressures. Syria is not the first such case nor will it be the last. So it may be useful to recall how similar past scenarios have unfolded—and sometimes been managed—in order to draw lessons for Syria and future crises. One can imagine a range of outcomes in Syria. Most pose considerable risks for the United States, Europe, Russia and Syria's immediate neighbors. But Syrians themselves are paying the price of this violent transition and ultimately are shaping its course. Still, what the United States does or decides not to do can make a significant difference while the clay of political change is still moist. So it is useful to look at some of the available tools of influence and the considerations that should guide those who use them." *Chester Crocker is the James R. Schlesinger Professor of Strategic Studies at Georgetown University's Walsh*

School of Foreign Service.

International Order and Global Swing States

Fontaine, Richard; Kliman, Daniel M. *The Washington Quarterly*. Winter 2013, pp. 93-109.
https://csis.org/files/publication/TWQ_13Winter_FontaineKliman.pdf

"The rise of four powerful democracies -Brazil, India, Indonesia, and Turkey-presents one of the most significant opportunities for U.S. foreign policy in the early 21st century. The democracies that have newly emerged on the global stage collectively possess the capability and the legitimacy to bolster the interlocking web of norms, institutions, rules, and relationships that has for six decades preserved peace among the great powers, fostered economic prosperity, and facilitated the spread of freedom. This global order now confronts numerous challenges, some emanating from China's rise and others from a diverse set of international developments. If these challenges eventually fragment the international order, the United States, its allies, and all other countries that depend upon an open and stable world will suffer the consequences. Brazil, India, Indonesia, and Turkey offer great potential as partners to extend the global order. Though separated by location and historical experience, these countries share not only a common commitment to democratic institutions but also possess large and growing economies while inhabiting strategic locations in their respective regions. And critically, the precise global role of each is in flux." *Richard Fontaine is President at the Center for a New American Security. Daniel M. Kliman is a Transatlantic Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States.*

Our Pacific Predicament

Nye, Joseph S., Jr. *American Interest*. March/April 2013.

<http://www.the-american-interest.com/article.cfm?piece=1388>

"The key strategic issue in East Asia is the rise of Chinese power. For nearly three decades, the Chinese economy grew between 7 and 10 percent annually, which means it has more than doubled each decade. China's defense expenditures grew by an even larger percentage. Chinese leaders speak of China's "peaceful development", but some analysts believe that China cannot rise peacefully, and will seek a form of hegemony in East Asia that will lead to conflict with the United States and Japan. Unlike Europe, East Asia never fully came to terms with the 1930s, and Cold War divisions prevented the reconciliation and institutional development that make another war between Germany and France unthinkable. In that climate of lingering mistrust, it is easy for Asian political leaders to turn to populist nationalism to generate support. In addition to China's rise, the decline of Japan has caused the balance of power between Japan and China to shift markedly over recent decades." *Joseph S. Nye, Jr. is University Distinguished Service Professor at Harvard University and author of the forthcoming Presidential Leadership and the Creation of the American Era (Princeton University Press, 2013)*

Overcoming Obstacles to Peace

Dobbins, James; Miller, Laurel. *Survival*. February/March 2013, pp. 103-120.

"Societies emerging from conflict face many obstacles to achieving enduring peace, economic development and political reform. These include sectarian divides, historical

animosities, poverty, weak institutions and malign neighbours. Some analysts have found these local factors so various as to argue that there can be no generic approaches to post-conflict stabilisation and reconstruction (known more colloquially as nation-building). Others have argued that these obstacles are so daunting as to make the whole nation-building project too difficult and expensive to even attempt. Yet of 20 major peacekeeping or peace-enforcement interventions undertaken since the end of the Cold War, 16 have produced greater peace, 18 saw increases in democratisation (according to Freedom House), 17 saw improvements in government effectiveness (according to the World Bank), 18 experienced economic growth – indeed, generally faster growth than other countries in their region – and 18 saw improvements in their human development, as measured by the UN. Thus, nation-building, which we define as the employment by the international community of military and civil means to assist societies emerging from conflict to achieve peace, development and political reform, has in the great majority of cases produced positive results. Previous studies have sought to distinguish the causes of success or failure in terms of the policy and resource inputs of the intervening authorities." *James Dobbins is a Senior Fellow and Laurel Miller a Senior Political Scientist at the RAND Corporation, where Dobbins directs the International Security and Defense Policy Center.*

U.S. DOMESTIC POLICY AND TRENDS

REPORTS

Remarks by the President in the State of the Union Address

The White House. February 12, 2013.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/02/12/remarks-president-state-union-address>

"Our first priority is making America a magnet for new jobs and manufacturing. After shedding jobs for more than 10 years, our manufacturers have added about 500,000 jobs over the past three. Caterpillar is bringing jobs back from Japan. Ford is bringing jobs back from Mexico. And this year, Apple will start making Macs in America again. There are things we can do, right now, to accelerate this trend. Last year, we created our first manufacturing innovation institute in Youngstown, Ohio. A once-shuttered warehouse is now a state-of-the art lab where new workers are mastering the 3D printing that has the potential to revolutionize the way we make almost everything. There's no reason this can't happen in other towns. So tonight, I'm announcing the launch of three more of these manufacturing hubs, where businesses will partner with the Department of Defense and Energy to turn regions left behind by globalization into global centers of high-tech jobs. And I ask this Congress to help create a network of 15 of these hubs and guarantee that the next revolution in manufacturing is made right here in America."

Immigration's Role in Building a Strong American Economy

The White House. March 13, 2013.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/factsheet_-

[immigrations_role_in_building_a_strong_economy_final_final_clean.pdf](#)

This fact sheet addresses the economic case of immigration reform. It gives statistics and data about the impact of immigration on U.S. economy." The President's plan will bring millions of undocumented individuals out of the shadow economy and provide U.S. businesses with a stronger, legal workforce that is required to compete in the 21st century global economy. The President's plan also creates a "Startup Visa" for immigrant entrepreneurs and cuts red tape for employers by eliminating the backlog for employment-sponsored green cards."

The Geographic Concentration of Manufacturing Across the United States

Bond, Brittany. Economics and Statistics Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. January 18, 2012 [PDF format, 24 pages]

<http://go.usa.gov/46EA>

"Manufacturing has been one of the major bright spots in the economic recovery of the last few years, contributing more than 25 percent of the overall growth in GDP between 2009 and 2011 and adding roughly 500,000 new jobs between the beginning of 2010 and the end of 2012. This trend is especially welcome as manufacturing jobs often provide higher wages and better benefits than non-manufacturing jobs. However, the importance of manufacturing to the economy is not uniform across the U.S. as manufacturing industries are concentrated in certain locations. In this report, we examine county-level data to assess the importance of manufacturing in local economies throughout the U.S. and find that, although almost all states include some counties where manufacturing accounts for a significant share of jobs and earnings, such counties are concentrated in the Midwest and the South, are more likely to be outside metropolitan areas, and are relatively small." *Brittany Bond is an economist at the Office of the Chief Economist of the Economics and Statistics Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.*

U.S. Manufacturing in International Perspective

Levinson, Marc. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. February 11, 2013 [PDF format, 22 pages]

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42135.pdf>

"The health of the U.S. manufacturing sector has long been of great concern to Congress. The decline in manufacturing employment since the start of the 21st century has stimulated particular congressional interest. Members have introduced hundreds of bills intended to support domestic manufacturing activity in various ways. The proponents of such measures frequently contend that the United States is by various measures falling behind other countries in manufacturing, and they argue that this relative decline can be mitigated or reversed by government policy. This report is designed to inform the debate over the health of U.S. manufacturing through a series of charts and tables that depict the position of the U.S. relative to other countries according to various metrics. Understanding which trends in manufacturing reflect factors that may be unique to the U. S. and which are related to broader changes in technology or consumer preferences may be helpful in formulating policies intended to aid firms or workers engaged in

manufacturing activity." *Marc Levinson is Section Research Manager at the CRS.*

The Economic Case for Higher Education

Eberly, Jan; Martin, Carmel. U.S. Department of the Treasury. December 13, 2013 [PDF format, 43 pages]

http://www.treasury.gov/connect/blog/Documents/20121212_Economics%20of%20Higher%20Ed_vFINAL.pdf

"This report prepared in conjunction with the Education Department, shows that investing in education expands job opportunities, boosts America's competitiveness, and supports the kind of income mobility that is fundamental to a growing economy. The report examines the current state of higher education, the economic benefits of education, access to higher education, the financial aid system, and recent policy changes... Higher education is a critical mechanism for socioeconomic advancement among aspiring individuals and an important driver of economic mobility in our society. Moreover, a well-educated workforce is vital to our nation's future economic growth. American companies and businesses require a highly skilled workforce to meet the demands of today's increasingly competitive global economy. Higher education is provided through a complex public-private market, with many different individuals and institutions participating." *Jan Eberly is the Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy and Chief Economist at the U.S. Department of the Treasury and Carmel Martin is the Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development at the U.S. Department of Education.*

The Budget and Economic Outlook: Fiscal Years 2013 to 2023

Congressional Budget Office. February 3, 2013 [PDF format, 77 pages]

https://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/attachments/43907_Outlook_2012-2-5_Corrected.pdf

"Economic growth will remain slow this year, CBO anticipates, as gradual improvement in many of the forces that drive the economy is offset by the effects of budgetary changes that are scheduled to occur under current law. After this year, economic growth will speed up, CBO projects, causing the unemployment rate to decline and inflation and interest rates to eventually rise from their current low levels. Nevertheless, the unemployment rate is expected to remain above 7½ percent through next year; if that happens, 2014 will be the sixth consecutive year with unemployment exceeding 7½ percent of the labor force--the longest such period in the past 70 years. If the current laws that govern federal taxes and spending do not change, the budget deficit will shrink this year to \$845 billion, or 5.3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), its smallest size since 2008. In CBO's baseline projections, deficits continue to shrink over the next few years, falling to 2.4 percent of GDP by 2015."

15 Ways to Rethink the Federal Budget

The Hamilton Project, the Brookings Institution. February 2013.

http://www.brookings.edu/research/interactives/2013/federal-budget-hamilton?cid=em_alert022513

"In the coming months, policymakers will be making important decisions on how to reduce the federal budget deficit. These decisions pose significant political and economic challenges, but also create a rare window of opportunity for policymakers to decide what kinds of programs and investments our country values, and what sort of society we will create for future generations. To this end, The Hamilton Project asked leading experts from a variety of backgrounds — the policy world, academia, and the private sector, and from both sides of the political aisle — to develop policy proposals which could form a partial menu of options to achieve responsible deficit reduction. The mandate given to the authors was to describe pragmatic, evidenced-based proposals that would both reduce the deficit and also bring broader economic benefits. The resulting fifteen proposals are included in The Hamilton Project's 15 Ways to Rethink the Federal Budget. While not intended to cover every budget category, these papers take on a wide-ranging set of topics, including immigration, transportation, health care, defense spending, and tax expenditures, and include options to reduce mandatory and discretionary expenditures, raise revenues, and improve government efficiency."

Monetary Policy and the Federal Reserve: Current Policy and Conditions

Labonte, Marc. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. February 12, 2013 [PDF format, 21 pages]

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/205202.pdf>

This report provides an overview of monetary policy and issues for Congress. "Congress has delegated responsibility for monetary policy to the Federal Reserve (the Fed), but retains oversight responsibilities to ensure that the Fed is adhering to its statutory mandate of "maximum employment, stable prices, and moderate long-term interest rates." The Fed's responsibilities as the nation's central bank fall into four main categories: monetary policy, ensuring financial stability through the lender of last resort function, supervision of bank holding companies, and providing payment system services to financial firms and the government. This report will discuss the first two areas of responsibility. The Fed's unprecedented response to the financial crisis has garnered renewed attention on the Fed from Congress. On the one hand, the Fed was given new regulatory responsibilities in The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (P.L. 111-203) in an attempt to prevent future crises. On the other hand, the Dodd-Frank Act shifted its consumer protection responsibilities to the newly created Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, placed restrictions on the Fed's emergency powers, and increased oversight of the Fed. Fed oversight and disclosure has been a focus of recent Congresses." *Marc Labonte is Coordinator of Division Research and Specialist at the CRS.*

Patenting Prosperity: Invention and Economic Performance in the United States and its Metropolitan Areas

Rothwell, Jonathan, et. al. The Brookings Institution. February 2013 [PDF format, 49 pages]

<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Research/Files/Reports/2013/02/patenting%20prosperity%20rothwell/patenting%20prosperity%20rothwell.pdf>

An analysis of national and metropolitan area invention from 1980 to 2012, using a new comprehensive database of patents, reveals: The rate of patenting in the United States has been increasing in recent decades and stands at historically high levels; Most U.S. patents—63 percent—are developed by people living in just 20 metro areas, which are home to 34 percent of the U.S. population; Inventions, embodied in patents, are a major driver of long-term regional economic performance, especially if the patents are of higher quality; Research universities, a scientifically-educated workforce, and collaboration play an important role in driving metropolitan innovation; Patents funded by the U.S. government tend to be of especially high quality, and federal small business R&D funding is associated with significantly higher metropolitan productivity growth... This report examines the importance of patents as a measure of invention to economic growth and explores why some areas are more inventive than others. Why should we expect there to be a relationship between patenting and urban economic development? As economist Paul Romer has written, the defining nature of ideas, in contrast to other economic goods, is that they are non-rival: their use by any one individual does not preclude others from using them." *Jonathan Rothwell is an Associate Fellow at the Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institution.*

THE UNITED STATES AFTER THE GREAT RECESSION: THE CHALLENGE OF SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Meltzer, Joshua. The Brookings Institution. February 2013 [PDF format, 58 pages]

<http://bit.ly/15SOucN>

"Despite the result of the 2012 election, however, Americans remain deeply divided over the country's future direction. According to a survey of political values across the past quarter century, partisan di-vision was fairly stable until 2002, after which it in-creased rapidly.⁶ The public is especially split on the scope and performance of government, the role the state should play in helping the poor and the need for regulation to protect the environment.⁷ These divisions have shaped the United States' response to the financial crisis. In September 2008, the initial phases of the banking bailout became enmeshed in the American election, and in the summer of 2011, fundamental disagreements about government debt brought the country close to a deliberate default.⁸ In recent years, fiscal battles have brought the coun-try's politics close to gridlock... The paper is divided into three sections. In the first, we review the evolution of the United States' economy in recent decades and the positive and negative effects of the growth it has provided, with a focus on economic, social and environmental outcomes. In the second section, we set out an analysis of the shifting interests of different groups in American soci-ety and the structural, institutional and cultural factors that will inform the process of change. This allows us to identify four broad scenarios for the evolution of the United States' economy, each of which represents a plausible pathway from the current crisis toward a new growth model and political settlement. In the third and final section, we set out policy recom-mendations that cover the areas of employment, in-vestment in the future, energy, fiscal rebalancing and American opportunities for global leadership during President Obama's second term." *Joshua Meltzer is a fellow in the Global Economy and Development program at the Brookings Institution and adjunct professor at The Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies.*

A Nation of Immigrants: A Portrait of the 40 Million, Including 11 Million Unauthorized

Pew Research Hispanic Center. January 29, 2013 [PDF format, 8 pages]

http://www.pewhispanic.org/files/2013/01/statistical_portrait_final_jan_29.pdf

The nation's total immigrant population reached a record 40.4 million in 2011, according to an analysis of Census Bureau data by the Pew Hispanic Center. Over the last decade, the number of immigrants in the U.S. has steadily grown. Since 2007 alone, the number of immigrants living in the U.S. increased by 2.4 million. The number of unauthorized immigrants living in the U.S. also grew during the last decade, rising from 8.4 million in 2000 to 11.1 million in 2011... The United States is the world's leader by far as a destination for immigrants. The country with the next largest number is Russia with 12.3 million. The U.S. total of 40.4 million, which includes legal as well as unauthorized immigrants, represents 13% of the total U.S. population in 2011. While the foreign-born population size is a record, immigrants' share of the total population is below the U.S. peak of just under 15% during a previous immigration wave from 1890 to 1920 that was dominated by arrivals from Europe. The modern wave, which began with the passage of border-opening legislation in 1965, has been dominated by arrivals from Latin America (about 50%) and Asia (27%).

Second-Generation Americans: A Portrait of the Adult Children of Immigrants

Pew Research Social & Demographic Trends. February 7, 2013 [PDF format, 130 pages]

http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2013/02/FINAL_immigrant_generations_report_2-7-13.pdf

"Second-generation Americans--the 20 million adult U.S.-born children of immigrants--are substantially better off than immigrants themselves on key measures of socioeconomic attainment, according to the analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data. They have higher incomes; more are college graduates and homeowners; and fewer live in poverty. In all of these measures, their characteristics resemble those of the full U.S. adult population... As the U.S. Congress gears up to consider immigration legislation, this new Pew Research report on second-generation Americans looks at the attitudes, values, life priorities, economic experiences, intergroup relations and identity markers of a group that will have a significant impact on the nation's economy and politics for decades to come."

Youth and Work: Restoring Teen and Young Adult Connections to Opportunity

Annie E. Casey Foundation. December 2012 [PDF format, 20 pages]

<http://www.aecf.org/~media/Pubs/Initiatives/KIDS%20COUNT/Y/youthandworkpolicyreport/kidscountyouthandwork.pdf>

This policy report finds that nearly 6.5 million U.S. teens and young adults are neither in school nor in the workforce. With employment among young people at its lowest levels since the 1950s, these youth are veering toward chronic unemployment as adults and failing to gain the skills employers need in the 21st century. In addition to new national

and state data on the issue, the report offers recommendations to support youth in gaining a stronger foothold in the economy.

Technology-Driven Innovations For Teaching English Learners

Kennedy, Sean; Soifer, Don. Lexington Institute. January 8, 2013 [Note: contains copyrighted material] [PDF format, 16 pages]

<http://www.lexingtoninstitute.org/library/resources/documents/Education/TechnologyInnovations.pdf>

"For the growing number of schools across the United States struggling to meet the educational needs of English language learner student populations, the challenges frequently outweigh the new approaches and ideas for meeting them successfully. This report focuses on several promising innovations being utilized in schools around the country. The innovations vary: a network of high-performing blended-learning charter schools serving predominantly low-income and English learner families, a web-based math curriculum designed for English learners, a combined approach utilized by a diverse, suburban Maryland school district, a software platform for managing ELL student data, a reading tool that individualizes content to students' various comprehension levels, and a novel, avatar-driven interactive environment that fosters constructive engagement." *Don Soifer is Executive Vice President of the Lexington Institute, a nonpartisan think tank headquartered in Arlington, VA.*

High-Speed Passenger Rail: Preliminary Assessment of California's Cost Estimates and Other Challenges

U.S. Government Accountability Office. December 6, 2012 [PDF format, 21 pages]

<http://gao.gov/assets/660/650608.pdf>

"The California high-speed rail project is the single largest recipient of federal funding from the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) grant program. The 520-mile project (see map) would link San Francisco to Los Angeles at an estimated cost of \$68.4 billion. Thus far, FRA has awarded \$3.5 billion to the California project. The Authority has to continue to rely on significant public-sector funding, in addition to private funding, through the project's anticipated completion date in 2028. This testimony is based primarily on GAO's ongoing review of the California high-speed rail project and discusses GAO's preliminary assessment of (1) the reliability of the project's cost estimates developed by the Authority and (2) key challenges facing the project."

Newspapers Turning Ideas into Dollars

Jurkowitz, Mark; Mitchell, Amy. Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism. February 11, 2013.

http://www.journalism.org/analysis_report/newspapers_turning_ideas_dollars

At a time of economic turmoil in the newspaper business, this new Pew Research Center report identifies four dailies that have built successful new revenue streams and answers

four key questions. What are these winning business innovations? What challenges did the papers overcome in implementing them? What are the tangible signs of success? And what lessons can be shared with the industry?. "The report follows a year-long effort to identify newspaper successes in the search for new business models. This report analyzes four such dailies whose executives explained, in detail, the motivation and strategy behind their experiments and shared internal data about the results with the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism. Their innovations-ranging from sales force restructuring to rebranding the print product to web consulting for local merchants-are generating significant new income." *Amy Mitchell is acting director for the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism. Mark Jurkowitz, Associate Director of the Project, has spent nearly two decades covering the news media.*

Building on President Obama's Clean Energy Successes

Weiss, Daniel J.; Weidman, Jackie. Center for American Progress. January 17, 2013 [PDF format, 11 pages]

<http://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/WeissSecondTermPriorities-2.pdf>

"Many of the top energy and environmental priorities for President Obama's second term, should reduce industrial carbon pollution by boosting investments in clean energy technologies, protect public health by reducing pollution from the largest emitters, and help communities cope with the increase in frequency and severity of extreme weather events linked to climate change, according to the report. It also provides the top 10 energy and environmental priorities for President Obama's second term." *Daniel J. Weiss is a Senior Fellow and Director of Climate Strategy at the Center for American Progress. Jackie Weidman is a Special Assistant at the Center.*

American Jihadist Terrorism: Combating a Complex Threat

Bjelopera, Jerome P. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. January 23, 2013 [PDF format, 141 pages]

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/203728.pdf>

"This report describes homegrown violent jihadists and the plots and attacks that have occurred since 9/11. It discusses the radicalization process and the forces driving violent extremist activity. It analyzes post-9/11 domestic jihadist terrorist activity and describes law enforcement and intelligence efforts to combat terrorism and the challenges associated with those efforts. It also briefly discusses efforts to build trust and partnership between community groups and government agencies and the tensions that may occur between law enforcement and engagement activities. The Congressional Research Service (CRS) estimates that there have been 63 homegrown violent jihadist plots or attacks in the United States since September 11, 2001 (9/11).¹ As part of a much discussed apparent expansion of terrorist activity in the United States, from May 2009 through December 2012, arrests were made for 42 "homegrown," jihadist-inspired terrorist plots by American citizens or legal permanent residents of the United States. Two of these resulted in attacks. Most of the 2009-2012 homegrown plots likely reflect a trend in jihadist terrorist activity away from schemes directed by core members of

significant terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda. However, it may be too early to tell how sustained this uptick is. While in 2010 and 2011, there were 12 and 10 plots, respectively, in 2012, eight came to light. Regardless, the apparent spike in such activity after April 2009 suggests that ideologies supporting violent jihad continue to influence some Americans—even if a tiny minority." *Jerome P. Bjelopera is an Specialist in Organized Crime and Terrorism at the CRS.*

ARTICLES

Can San Antonio Displace Austin as Texas's Tech Hub?

Quinton, Sophie. *The Atlantic Cities*. March 7, 2013.

<http://www.theatlanticcities.com/technology/2013/03/can-san-antonio-displace-austin-texas-tech-hub/4906/>

"Austin—home to the South by Southwest tech and music festivals, the headquarters for Dell, and an indeterminate number of hipsters--is generally considered the technology hub in Texas. But just 90 minutes south on I-35, San Antonio has been quietly establishing itself as a center for tech industries. The Air Force division charged with waging cyber-warfare is located in San Antonio, and a growing number of cyber-security and biotechnology companies have set up shop in the city as well. San Antonio also claims Rackspace Hosting, a billion-dollar hosting and cloud-computing company that has found San Antonio's low risk of natural disasters or disruptive weath perfectly suit the requirements of gigantic data centers." *Sophie Quinton covers the White House as a Staff Reporter at the National Journal.*

How NASA Scientists Are Turning L.A. Into One Big Climate-Change Lab

Metcalfe, John. *The Atlantic Cities*. February 2013, var. pages.

<http://www.theatlanticcities.com/technology/2013/02/how-nasa-scientists-are-turning-l-one-big-climate-change-lab/4824/>

"Scientists from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., and elsewhere are turning the entire Los Angeles metro region into a state-of-the-art climate laboratory. From the ridgeline, they deploy a mechanical lung that senses airborne chemicals and a unique sunbeam analyzer that scans the skies over the Los Angeles Basin. At a sister site at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), researchers slice the clouds with a shimmering green laser, trap air samples in glass flasks, and stare at the sun with a massive mirrored contraption that looks like God's own microscope. These folks are the foot soldiers in an ambitious, interagency initiative called the Megacities Carbon Project. They've been probing L.A.'s airspace for more than a year, with the help of big-name sponsors like the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Keck Institute for Space Studies, and the California Air Resources Board. If all goes well, by 2015 the Megacities crew and colleagues working on smaller cities such as Indianapolis and Boston will have pinned down a slippery piece of climate science: an empirical measurement of a city's carbon footprint." *John Metcalfe is a staff writer at The Atlantic Cities.*

Silicon Valley Tech Giants Plan Super-Green Campuses

Burrows, Peter. *Business Week*. March 14, 2013.

<http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2013-03-14/silicon-valley-tech-giants-plan-super-green-campuses#r=nav-r-story>

“Despite all the creativity that flows from Silicon Valley, America’s tech capital hasn’t been famed for its iconic architecture. Startups are never sure enough of their future to sink millions into a structure that could outlast the company. Enterprises born in dorm rooms or garages typically graduate to nondescript office rentals in San Francisco or Palo Alto or take up residence in cookie-cutter, single- or two-story buildings in industrial parks around San Jose. As the late Steve Jobs remarked in 2011, “Buildings in office parks get boring pretty fast.” Since Jobs presented plans for new headquarters shaped like a giant spaceship to the Cupertino City Council two years ago, several other cash-flush tech companies, including Facebook, Google, Samsung Electronics, and Nvidia, have released blueprints for monumental new campuses.” *Peter Burrows is a senior writer for Bloomberg Businessweek, based in San Francisco.*

Roe v. Wade and Beyond: Forty Years of Legal Abortion in the United States

Joffe, Carole. *Dissent Magazine*. Winter 2013.

<http://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/roe-v-wade-and-beyond-forty-years-of-legal-abortion-in-the-united-states>

“This January marked the fortieth anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion in the United States. In ways not anticipated by the coalition of physicians and feminist health activists who fought to legalize abortion in the years leading up to Roe, the abortion conflict remains the most divisive issue in American domestic politics. More than any other issue, the abortion war symbolizes the still contested concerns originally brought forward by second-wave feminists in the late 1960s—the changing relationship between the genders, the place of women in the public sphere, the legitimacy of sexual activity separated from procreation. What have been the benefits and costs of this landmark Supreme Court decision?.” *Carole Joffe is a professor at the Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health at the University of California, San Francisco.*

Bumps Along the Path to Citizenship

Skerry, Peter. *The Weekly Standard*. February 25, 2013.

http://www.brookings.edu/research/opinions/2013/02/25-immigration-citizenship-skerry?cid=em_alert031113

President Obama and the Democrats have made clear that their “path to citizenship” for illegal immigrants should be as direct as possible. Many Republicans are not sure they want any such path. Those who do, like Senator John McCain, call for “a long and arduous process.” His fellow Arizona senator Jeff Flake agrees: “As more people learn of all these requirements that are put in place—back taxes, pay a fine, learn English not just for citizenship, to get your green card—and learn that it’s going to take a while, they’ll be more comfortable with this path.” *Peter Skerry is a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. A former congressional aide and longtime professor of politics, Peter Skerry’s research focuses on immigration policy.*

Guestworkers: Hard To Turn Off Flow

Bhagwati, Jagdish. *YaleGlobal*. February 25, 2013 [HTML format, various paging]

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/guestworkers-hard-turn-flow>

"Hispanics, about 17 percent of the U.S. population, represented just 10 percent of voters in the nation's 2012 presidential election, but soundly rejected harsh proposals on immigration, including rigid enforcement and no amnesty for those already in the country illegally. Since the election, both Republicans and Democrats recognize the need for prompt immigration reform, reducing illegal entry and offering a humane response to immigrants living and contributing to communities for years despite their illegal status. Expanding U.S. guestworker programs could be one strategy considered by a bipartisan group of eight senators and even the president." The author contends that expectations of temporary workers who come and go based on employer needs, while reducing or even eliminating illegal entries, are unrealistic. Increases in legal entry can lead to more illegal entry, and American labor groups are wary about a substantial rise in guestworkers. Bhagwati urges mobility for workers and policies that avoid discrimination and protect human rights." *Jagdish Bhagwati is university professor of economics, law and international affairs at Columbia University and senior fellow in international economics at the Council on Foreign Relations.*

The US Focuses on Its Homefront

Stokes, Bruce. *YaleGlobal*. February 6, 2013 [HTML format, various paging]

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/us-focuses-its-homefront>

"So far, President Barack Obama is signaling that he'll focus most attention on improving the economy during his last four years in office. That's in line with priorities listed in a Pew Research Center survey: More than 80 percent list the economy as a "top priority"; more than 70 percent list jobs, the budget deficit, education, Social Security protection each as a "top priority." The survey was conducted in mid-January among more than 1,500 adults. Except for defending the country against future terrorist attacks, international concerns like trade or even climate change were not ranked as top priorities by a majority of the respondents. Respondents were not keen on intervention in Syria or strengthening the U.S. military; 94 percent are opposed to Iran acquiring nuclear weapons. Of course, attitudes shift as new crises emerge." *Bruce Stokes is director of global economic attitudes at the Pew Research Center.*

What's So Bold about \$9.00 an Hour? Benchmarking the Minimum Wage

Gordon, Colin; Schmitt, John. *Dissent Magazine*. February 27, 2013.

http://www.dissentmagazine.org/online_articles/whats-so-bold-about-9-00-an-hour-benchmarking-the-minimum-wage

"In his State of the Union address, President Obama heartened many progressives with a call for raising the minimum wage to \$9.00 (from its current \$7.25), and then pegging its value to increases in the cost of living. This would be a bold move, and it raises an important question: What should the minimum wage be? What is the appropriate floor for the labor market?." *Colin Gordon is a professor of history at the University of Iowa. John Schmitt is a senior economist at the Center for Economic and Policy Research in*

Washington, D.C.

Information Provided by the Information Resource Center
U.S. Consulate General - Barcelona
<http://barcelona.usconsulate.gov>

Views expressed in the articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. government policies.