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RESEARCH UNIT - PUBLIC DIPLOMACY SECTION

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DOCUALERT is a monthly information service highlighting documents from government agencies and think tanks and articles from leading U.S. journals. The materials cover international relations, U.S. foreign and domestic policies and trends.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

REPORTS

[Remarks by President Obama in Address to the People of Europe](#)

Hannove Messe Fairgrounds in Germany. April 25, 2016.

“With strength and resolve and the power of our ideals, and a belief in a unified Europe, we didn’t simply end the Cold War -- freedom won. Germany was reunited. You welcomed new democracies into an even “ever closer union.”...But your accomplishment -- more than 500 million people speaking 24 languages in 28 countries, 19 with a common currency, in one European Union -- remains one of the greatest political and economic achievements of modern times.”

[Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015](#)

Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, U.S. Department of State. April 13, 2016.

[Spain 2015 Human Rights Report](#)

“This report is submitted to the Congress by the Department of State in compliance with Sections 116(d) and 502B(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA), as amended... The 2015 edition points to a global governance crisis. In every part of the world, we see an accelerating trend by both state and non-state actors to close the space for civil society, to stifle media and Internet freedom.”

[The Evolution of Sanctions and Lessons for the Future](#)

Remarks by U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Jacob J. Lew. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Washington DC. March 30, 2016.

“In this speech, the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury discussed the evolution of sanctions, outlined lessons learned from previous challenges and successes, and raised the importance of guarding against their misuse. He also highlighted how to further shape the use of sanctions in the future in order to make the world more secure while being ever mindful of their global economic impact.”

[U.S. -China Relations: Strategic Challenges and Opportunities](#)

Testimony of Antony J. Blinken, Deputy U.S. Secretary of State before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. April 27, 2016.

“Our approach to China seeks to broaden and deepen practical cooperation on issues of shared concern; directly resolve or narrow our differences wherever we can; and manage those differences peaceably where we cannot. We have encouraged China to contribute more—to apply its significant capabilities as a rising economic and political power responsibly in order to help meet practical needs in the international community, from peacekeeping to public health.”

[Countering Extremism and the Threat of ISIS in Southeast Asia](#)

Statement of W. Patrick Murphy, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs U.S. Department of State; Marie Richards, Deputy Coordinator Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism, U.S. Department of State Before the House Foreign Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific April 13, 2016 [PDF format, 8 pages]

“Countries in Southeast Asia continue to demonstrate their commitment to countering these threats through domestic action, regionally through ASEAN, and internationally including through the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL... We must think and act broadly to prevent violent ideologies from taking hold, and to prevent terrorist networks such as ISIL from expanding their influence and linking up with regional groups, including those in Southeast Asia.”

[Ten Arguments for TTIP and the Concerns to Address](#)

Andrea Montanino; Earl Anthony Wayne. The Atlantic Council. April 21, 2016.

“The United States and the European Union (EU) share the largest trade and investment relationship in the world, with more than \$5.5 trillion in commerce every year and up to fifteen million jobs generated on both sides of the Atlantic. Currently under negotiations, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) will bolster this key partnership, increasing efficiency, spurring job creation, and generating opportunities for innovation and small and medium enterprises.” *Andrea Montanino is the Director of the Global Business and Economics program at the Atlantic Council. Earl Anthony Wayne is a Fellow at the Atlantic Council; a Career Ambassador; former Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs.*

[The Transatlantic Economy 2016: Annual Survey of Jobs, Trade and Investment between the U.S. and Europe](#)

Daniel S. Hamilton; Joseph Quinlan. Trans-Atlantic Business Council; Center for Transatlantic Relations; AmCham EU. April 14, 2016 [PDF format, 108 pages]

“This annual survey offers the most up-to-date picture of the dense economic relationship binding European countries to America’s 50 states...Another special section in this year’s survey is a deeper analysis of how individual cities and metropolitan areas are linked to each other across the Atlantic in terms of mutually onshored jobs, trade and investment.”

[Building a Transatlantic Digital Marketplace: Twenty Steps Toward 2020](#)

Co-Chairs: H.E. Carl Bildt The Hon. William E. Kennard. Atlantic Council. April 2016 [PDF format, 40 pages]

The Atlantic Council created a Task Force for Advancing the Transatlantic Digital Agenda—co-chaired by

former Swedish Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Carl Bildt and former FCC Chairman and US Ambassador to the EU, William Kennard. This report is a result of this Task Force which evaluates the state of play on the most pressing digital policy issues across five interlocking areas, and identifies twenty steps that the United States and the EU can begin to take between now and 2020 to build a transatlantic marketplace.

[Strengthening the Liberal World Order](#)

World Economic Forum. April 2016 [PDF format, 16 pages]

“A new foundation for an effective U.S. foreign policy for a new international environment needs to be established, but it should be recognized that the United States is not omnipotent and faces limitations in what it can do.. To this end, this paper focuses on four baskets of policies—Strengthening and Adapting the Liberal Economic Order; Strengthening the International Security Order; Taking Advantage of the Energy Revolution; and Playing to America’s Strengths in Education, Innovation and Entrepreneurship.”

[Improving Decision Making in a Turbulent World](#)

Charles Ries. Rand Corporation. April 2016 [PDF format, 69 pages]

“This Perspective analyzes a range of management challenges in the national security system and presents eight recommendations for strengthening U.S. decision-making and oversight of policy implementation. The analysis is based on in-depth, off-the-record interviews with more than 20 former and currently serving officials, and on the large literature on contemporary national security decision-making both by former senior officials and academic experts.” *Ambassador Charles Ries is Vice President, International at the RAND Corporation. where he oversees RAND's international offices and growing international presence.*

[The East Mediterranean Triangle at Crossroads](#)

Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College. March 31, 2016. [PDF format, 63 pages]

"The evolving dynamics in the East Mediterranean Triangle, composed of Israel, Turkey and Greece, reveal key security and economic trends that have direct implications for the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)." *Jean-Loup Samaan is a researcher for the Middle East Faculty at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Defense College in Rome, Italy.*

[Dilemmas of Reform: Policing in Arab Transitions](#)

Yezid Sayigh. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. March 30, 2016.

Struggles over the security sector have been central to the politics of every Arab state that has undergone transition in the wake of armed conflict or political upheaval since the early 1990s... Systemic change is needed, but the political and institutional brittleness of Arab states in transition presents a significant obstacle.” *Yezid Sayigh is a senior associate at the Carnegie Middle East.*

[Coalition Contributions to Countering the Islamic State](#)

Kathleen J. McInnis. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. April 13, 2016 [PDF format, 14 pages]

“According to the U.S. State Department, there are currently 66 participants in the coalition. Each country is contributing to the coalition in a manner commensurate with its national interests and

comparative advantage. The brief report offers several figures.” *Kathleen J. McInnis is an Analyst in International Security at the CRS.*

[Fine-Tuning EU Support for Ukrainian Democratization](#)

Richard Youngs. Carnegie Europe. April 6, 2016.

“The European Union (EU) needs to intensify its support for Ukraine’s still-fragile democracy. While the EU and its member states have rolled out a wide range of democracy support initiatives during the last two years, there is scope to make these policies more effective.” Richard Youngs is a senior associate in the Democracy and Rule of Law Program, based at Carnegie Europe.

[Russia in the Middle East: Moscow’s Objectives, Priorities, and Policy Drivers](#)

Dmitri Trenin. Carnegie Moscow Center. April 5, 2016.

“Russia’s reappearance as a player in the Middle East under President Vladimir Putin has the aim of restoring the country’s position as a great power outside of the former USSR. With the start of the military intervention in Syria in 2015, and the U.S.-Russian diplomatic effort that accompanied it, the Middle East has become a key testing ground for Russia’s attempt to return to the global stage.” *Dmitri Trenin is the director of the Carnegie Moscow Center.*

[Strategic Insights: Mexico--New Directions, Continuity, and Obstacles in the Fight against Transnational Organized Crime](#)

Ellis, R. Evan. Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College. March 31, 2016.

“U.S. support to Mexico in the fight against organized crime under the Merida Initiative has amounted to almost \$2.3 billion since 2008, including training and intelligence support, as well as efforts to help the country build advanced riverine naval stations to secure its southern border...” *Dr. R. Evan Ellis is a research professor of Latin American Studies at the Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College.*

ARTICLES

[Leading on Trade to Secure Our Economic Future](#)

U.S. Secretary of State, John Kerry. *Medium*. April 13, 2016.

“Even amidst an incredible array of frozen conflicts and new conflicts, one of our top priorities always remains our economic strength. It is the source of our influence in the globalized marketplace and it is vital to everything we are trying to accomplish around the world.”

[America and the Global Economy: The Case for U.S. Leadership](#)

Jacob J. Lew. *Foreign Affairs*. May/June 2016.

According to the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, Jacob J. Lew, under the Obama administration the United States has reinforced its reputation for economic leadership, using sanctions to secure a nuclear deal with Iran, signing the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal, and helping reform the International Monetary Fund.

[The New Road to Development: Paving the Way to Global Connectivity](#)

Catherine Novelli. *Dipnote* blog. April 14, 2016.

“The Internet holds the potential to become the most equal-opportunity platform for economic empowerment the world has ever known... We cannot afford to leave four billion people behind as connected countries continue to move forward towards digitally enabled prosperity.” *Catherine A. Novelli is the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment.*

[Is Climate Change a Non-State Actor/Threat? And Where Do We Go From Here?](#)

Neil Bhatiya. *The Strategy Bridge*. April 19, 2016.

“In its recent directive on climate change, the top leadership of the Department of Defense made it clear that preparing for the effects of global warming would cut across almost all of its work: procurement, training, protecting physical infrastructure, and the operations and missions of its combatant commands. This directive is the end-result of an effort by the institutions of U.S. foreign policy making to grapple with a critical emerging threat.” *Neil Bhatiya is the Climate and Diplomacy Fellow for the Center on Climate and Security and a Fellow at The Century Foundation.*

[How to manage the human consequences of Syria's chaos](#)

Elizabeth Ferris; Kemal Kirişci. *Order from Chaos* blog. April 26, 2016.

“The Syrian tragedy is occurring against the backdrop of a global displacement crisis. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, almost 60 million people have been forced from their homes by conflict, violence, and persecution. And a large proportion doesn't go home quickly.” *Elizabeth Ferris is a Nonresident Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Program at Brookings. Kemal Kirişci is the TÜSİAD senior fellow and director of the Center on the United States and Europe's Turkey Project at Brookings.*

[Get Ready: Syria Will Need Peacekeepers](#)

Michael O'Hanlon; Sean Zeigler. *The National Interest*. April 7, 2016.

“One key to a serious Syria strategy is recognizing that an international peacekeeping force will almost surely be needed someday, in order to uphold any peace deal that eventually emerges. A demonstration of willingness to deploy such a force may, in fact, improve the chances of peace, while making the international community and the parties to the conflict more realistic about what kind of peace is possible.” *Michael O'Hanlon is a senior fellow and director of research in the foreign policy studies program at Brookings. Sean M. Zeigler is an associate political scientist at the RAND Corporation.*

[Inclusive Security and Peaceful Societies: Exploring the Evidence](#)

Marie O'Reilly. *Prism*. March 2016.

“Calls for inclusive approaches to resolving conflict and insecurity have grown louder. In the field of international development, decades of evidence of women's positive impact on socioeconomic outcomes has changed the way governments, donors, and aid organizations do their work.” *Marie O'Reilly is Head of Research at The Institute for Inclusive Security.*

[We Are Not Helpless: Addressing Structural Gender Inequality in Post-Conflict Societies](#)

Valerie M. Hudson, et. al. *Prism*. March 2016.

“The stabilization of fragile societies has become an important emphasis of U.S. national security policy... Over the last two decades, there has been a growing awareness that state stability is integrally tied to the situation and status of women in society.” *Valerie M. Hudson is Professor and George H.W. Bush Chair in the Department of International Affairs at the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University.*

[Can Silicon Valley Help the State Department Track Weapons of Mass Destruction?](#)

E.B. Boyd. *Fast Company*. April 14, 2016.

“Top U.S. officials have worried about nuclear terrorism ever since the Soviet Union collapsed and its warheads threatened to roll away into unsavory hands... But the U.S. government is also looking to Silicon Valley, and the innovation community as a whole, to help come up with solutions to this frightening problem—and a host of other difficult issues.” *E.B. Boyd is a contributing writer at Fast Company magazine.*

The Age of Transparency: International Relations Without Secrets

Sean P. Larkin. *Foreign Affairs*. May/June 2016.

“Over the next decade, the market-driven explosion of surveillance sensors and data analytics will bring an unprecedented level of transparency to global affairs.” *Sean P. Larkin is a Military Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. He is a Colonel in the U.S. Air Force and previously served as Director of Staff for the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance at U.S. Air Force Headquarters.*

[Between the Eagle and the Dragon: America, China, and Middle State Strategies in East Asia](#)

G. John Ikenberry. *Political Science Quarterly*. Spring 2016.

The author states that East Asia is increasingly marked by the emergence of two hierarchies—a security hierarchy dominated by the United States and an economic hierarchy dominated by China. He argues that in this emerging regional order the United States will no longer exercise hegemony, rather it will be drawn into the region in new and more complex ways. *G. John Ikenberry is the Albert G. Milbank Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University in the Department of Politics and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.*

[The Coming ISIS–al Qaeda Merger: It’s Time to Take That Threat Seriously](#)

Bruce Hoffman. *Foreign Affairs*. March 29, 2016.

“In February, Director of National Intelligence James R. Clapper painted a singularly bleak picture of a newly resurgent al Qaeda alongside an ambitiously expansionist Islamic State (ISIS) in his annual worldwide threat assessment.” *Bruce Hoffman directs Georgetown University’s Center for Security Studies and is a Senior Fellow at the U.S. Military Academy’s Combating Terrorism Center.*

[The New Normal in U.S.-Saudi Relations](#)

Perry Cammack; Richard Sokolsky. *The National Interest*. April 13, 2015.

“The United States and Saudi Arabia both seek the defeat of Islamic State, but the kingdom has subordinated this interest to containing Iranian expansionism.” Perry Cammack is an associate in the Middle East Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.” *Richard Sokolsky is a Senior*

Associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. From 2005-2015 he was a member of the Secretary of State's Office of Policy Planning.

[Rethinking America's Grand Strategy: Insights from the Cold War](#)

Hal Brands. *Parameters*. Winter 2016.

"This essay assesses how history can inform the current debate on American grand strategy by revisiting a fundamental period in US diplomatic history: the Cold War." *Hal Brands is an associate professor of public policy and history at Duke University. His most recent book is Making the Unipolar Moment: US Foreign Policy and the Rise of the PostCold War Order (Cornell, 2016).*

U.S. DOMESTIC POLICIES AND TRENDS

REPORTS

[FACT SHEET: Investing \\$90 Million through ApprenticeshipUSA to Expand Proven Pathways into the Middle Class](#)

The White House. April 21, 2016.

"Job-driven apprenticeships are among the surest pathways to provide American workers from all backgrounds with the skills and knowledge they need to acquire good-paying jobs and grow the economy. In fact, 87 percent of apprentices are employed after completing their programs, with an average starting wage above \$50,000... As a result, the President has made expanding apprenticeship a priority for his Administration."

[FACT SHEET: Advancing Active STEM Education for Our Youngest Learners](#)

The White House. April 21, 2016.

"The White House received over 200 submissions of innovative STEM work from leaders across the country, representing state and local entities, foundations, non-profits, media organizations, technology companies, research institutions, and museums. Collectively, the commitments of these leaders have the potential to bring new active STEM content for our youngest children."

[The Islamic State's Acolytes and the Challenges They Pose to U.S. Law Enforcement](#)

Jerome P. Bjelopera. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. April 19, 2016 [PDF format, 18 pages].

"Analysis of publicly available information on homegrown violent jihadist activity in the United States since September 11, 2001, suggests that the Islamic State (IS) and its acolytes may pose broad challenges to domestic law enforcement and homeland security efforts." *Jerome P. Bjelopera is an Specialist in Organized Crime and Terrorism at CRS.*

[Campaign Exposes Fissures Over Issues, Values and How Life Has Changed in the U.S.](#)

Pew Research Center. March 31, 2016.

“The 2016 presidential campaign has exposed deep disagreements between – and within – the two parties on a range of major policy issues. But these divisions go well beyond the issues and extend to fundamentally different visions of the way that life in the United States has changed.”

[Challenges in Accessing Early Childhood Education and Care for Children in Refugee Families in Massachusetts](#)

Jeff Grooss; Christine Ntagengwa. Migration Policy Institute. March 2016 [PDF format, 35 pages]

“Massachusetts has been an innovator in early childhood education and care (ECEC) policy: the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (MDEEC), created in 2005, was the first state agency dedicated to coordinating the myriad parts of the ECEC system to enhance the quality, consistency, and oversight of service delivery across the licensed child-care system.” *Jeff Gross is Director of the New Americans Integration Institute at the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition. Christine Ntagengwa is Coordinator of the New American Integration Program (NAIP) at the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition.*

[Statistical Portrait of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States](#)

Anna Brown; Renee Stepler. Pew Research Center. April 19, 2016.

“There were a record 42.2 million immigrants living in the U.S. in 2014, making up 13.2% of the nation’s population. This represents a fourfold increase since 1960, when only 9.7 million immigrants lived in the U.S., accounting for just 5.4% of the total U.S. population.” *Anna Brown and Renee Stepler are both Research Assistants at Pew Research Center.*

[The Nation’s Latino Population Is Defined by Its Youth](#)

Eileen Patten. Pew Research Center. April 20, 2016.

“Hispanics are the youngest major racial or ethnic group in the United States. About one-third, or 17.9 million, of the nation’s Hispanic population is younger than 18.” *Eileen Patten is a research analyst at the Pew Research Center’s Hispanic Center and Social & Demographic*

[The Intersection of Race, Place, and Multidimensional Poverty](#)

Elizabeth Kneebone; Richard V. Reeves. The Brookings Institution. April 21, 2016.

This report examines five key disadvantages of poverty: low household income, limited education (lacking a high-school diploma), lacking health insurance, living in a low-income area, and living in a jobless household, paying particular attention to the 100 largest U.S. metro areas, which account for two-thirds of the nation’s population. *Elizabeth Kneebone is a fellow of the Brookings Institution’s Metropolitan Policy Program. Richard V. Reeves is a senior fellow in Economic Studies, co-director of the Center on Children and Families, and editor-in-chief of the Social Mobility Memos blog.*

[Teacher Evaluation and Support Systems: A Roadmap for Improvement](#)

The Aspen Institute. March 2016 [PDF format, 24 pages]

“As states assume more autonomy under the Every Student Succeeds Act, many are at a crossroads:

They can retreat from their teacher evaluation policies, or take stock of their systems and refine them for the better. The report synthesizes key findings from research, highlights best practices from states and districts.”

[Evaluating School Climate and Discipline: Tools for Parents, Schools, and Policymakers](#)

Michael Katz; Kristin Blagg. Urban Institute. March 2016 [PDF format, 23 pages]

“Student discipline and school climate have entered the national discourse in recent years, catalyzed, in large part, by data on the disparities between the suspension and expulsion rates of black and white students and by high-profile incidents..” This brief examines the school climate and discipline landscape, focusing on Washington DC. *Michael Katz is a research associate in the Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population at the Urban Institute. Kristin Blagg is a research associate in the Income and Benefits Policy Center at the Urban Institute.*

[Solar on Superstores How the Roofs of Big Box Stores Can Help America Shift to Clean Energy](#)

Gideon Weissman, et. al. Frontier Group; Environment America Research & Policy Center. Spring 2016 [PDF format, 40 pages]

“Solar energy is expanding rapidly across the United States... America must take advantage of untapped opportunities to install solar technologies – like using rooftops of large superstores and “big box” retail stores as hosts for clean electricity generation.” *Gideon Weissman is a policy analyst at the nonprofit think tank Frontier Group.*

[Smart Homes and the Internet of Things](#)

Greg Lindsay, et. al. Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security, The Atlantic Council [PDF format, 12 pages]

“It explores the opportunities that networked homes offer to society, along with the commensurate risks to security and privacy. It also offers recommendations for maximizing their value for homeowners while minimizing consumers’ concerns.” *Greg Lindsay is Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council’s Strategic Foresight Initiative, Senior Fellow at the New Cities Foundation.*

ARTICLES

President Obama Weighs His Economic Legacy

Andrew Ross Sorkin. *The New York Times Magazine*. April 28, 2016.

“Eight years after the financial crisis, unemployment is at 5 percent, deficits are down and G.D.P. is growing. Why do so many voters feel left behind? The president has a theory.” *Andrew Ross Sorkin is a financial columnist for The New York Times, founder and editor at large of DealBook and co-anchor of CNBC’s “Squawk Box.”*

[In-Depth Look: How Manufacturing Hubs Helped This Business Innovate](#)

The White House Blog. April 4, 2016.

In 2012, President Obama launched the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation. Here's how that policy helped one business innovate and retain 400 jobs.

[The Diverse Geography of High-Tech Industries](#)

Richard Florida. *CityLab*. April 7, 2016.

“While investment in software, information technology, and media and entertainment has gravitated out of the suburbs of Silicon Valley and into the urban districts of San Francisco and New York, biotech and biomedical startups are located near leading universities.” *Richard Florida is the co-founder and editor at large of CityLab and a senior editor at The Atlantic.*

[How Mentorship Is Helping More Latino Men Earn College Degrees](#)

Emily Deruy. *The Atlantic*. April 26, 2016.

“The number of Latino men enrolling in college increased 75 percent between 2005 and 2014, from 718,500 to 1.26 million. Yet compared to Latino women, these young men make up a disproportionately small percentage of college students.” *Emily DeRuy is a senior associate editor at The Atlantic, where she covers education.*

[Free Community College Gets Financial Aid From White House](#)

Alan Greenblatt. *Governing*. April 25, 2016.

“Congress rejected the president's proposal for tuition-free community college, so his administration is instead helping regions launch the program themselves.” *Alan Greenblatt is a Staff Writer at Governing magazine.*

[Trump vs. Clinton: A Battle Between Two Opposite Americas](#)

Derek Thompson. *The Atlantic*. April 28, 2016.

“Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are on track to capture the Republican and Democratic nominations, despite both losing a majority of their parties’ primaries west of the Mississippi.” *Derek Thompson is a senior editor at The Atlantic.*

[Tracking presidential campaigns on Facebook](#)

Kevin C. Desouza, et. al. *TechTank* blog. April 13, 2016.

“The former and current presidential candidates have used a number of social media platforms to attract votes. Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton have used Instagram and Snapchat to connect to voters, while Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders use Twitter to deliver their messages.” *Kevin C. Desouza is a nonresident senior fellow with the Center for Technology Innovation at Brookings.*

[In-State Tuition for Undocumented Children](#)

Paulina Hernandez Larumbe. *Latin America Goes Global*. April 27, 2016.

“In June of 2012, President Barack Obama announced the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) initiative. The executive policy allows children of undocumented immigrants to—among other things—work, drive and attend school without fear of deportation if they: were physically in the United States, under the age of 31, and had no lawful status as of June 15th, 2012.” *Paulina Hernandez Larumbe is a political science major at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte.*

[How a Simple Graphic Poster Takes a Stand Against Islamophobia](#)

Eillie Anzilotti. *CityLab*. April 18, 2016.

“Signs bearing the message “Refugees Are Welcome Here” have sprung up in cities across the country.”
Eillie Anzilotti is an editorial fellow at CityLab.

[Houston’s Muslim-Led Plan to Protect the Homeland](#)

The Daily Signal. April 17, 2016.

Houston is one of about 10 U.S. cities that have formal Muslim-led programs to counter violent extremism... Other cities with programs: Los Angeles, Boston, Minneapolis, Denver, Tampa, Fla., and Columbus, Ohio. Counties include Montgomery County, Md., Loudoun County, Va., and Cook County, Ill.

[The High Stakes of 'Soft Skills'](#)

U.S. News & World Report. April 7, 2016.

“With the recent passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act, Congress is broadening what it considers success when it comes to judging school quality. The change reflects in part growing recognition that test scores alone do not provide complete information about school quality.”

[These are the 10 Best Sustainable Buildings of 2016](#)

Fast Company. April 28, 2016.

“Every year, the American Institute of Architects Committee on the Environment scours the country for the best new green buildings.. From labs to museums to libraries, these buildings all save enormous amounts of energy and water—and are better to work in, too.”

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