

# DOCUALERT

- June 2016 -

## RESEARCH UNIT - PUBLIC DIPLOMACY SECTION

### U.S. EMBASSY MADRID

Tel. 91 5872528 E-mail: [madridRU@state.gov](mailto:madridRU@state.gov)

*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

#### [Country Reports on Terrorism 2015](#)

U.S. Department of State. June 2016.

"The global terrorist threat continued to evolve rapidly in 2015, becoming increasingly decentralized and diffuse. Terrorist groups continued to exploit an absence of credible and effective state institutions, where avenues for free and peaceful expression of opinion were blocked, justice systems lacked credibility, and where security force abuses and government corruption went unchecked."

#### [The United States and Europe](#)

Remarks by Antony J. Blinken, Deputy Secretary of State, Warsaw Public Library. May 5, 2016.

"Our transatlantic community is experiencing convulsions of doubt, a lack of self-confidence, a search for its own identity... In Europe, slow economic growth, polarizing politics, the rise of extremist parties, and challenges of community integration have led some to debate the merit, the utility of the great European project and the alliances that sustain it... With so much at stake, it is imperative that we remember the reasons why NATO, the EU, and the international order they represent and helped to shape are so profoundly consequential to the health, strength, and security of each and every one of our countries."

#### [Addressing Instability in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)

Testimony by Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of African Affairs and Justin Siberell, Acting Coordinator for Counter terrorism before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. May 10, 2016.

"Underlining the scale of the stability challenges facing Africa, eight of the ten largest United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions in the world are currently deployed in Sub-Saharan Africa... The drivers of conflict and instability in Africa are diverse, and our approach to these threats reflects a range of perspectives, priorities and capabilities."

### [FACT SHEET: World Humanitarian Summit - U.S. Government Priorities](#)

The White House. May 24, 2016.

“In 2015, the U.S. government provided more than \$6 billion in humanitarian assistance to more than 60 new and protracted emergencies worldwide. The United States joins with [47 other countries in presenting a statement](#) to reinforce commitment to the protection of civilians in conflict situations by honoring the full spirit and letter of international law and to reaffirm and strengthen international respect for the core humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence that should serve as the foundation for all humanitarian response.”

### [Rethinking Coordination of Services to Refugees in Urban Areas](#)

Shelly Culbertson et al. RAND Corporation. April 27, 2016 [PDF format, 148 pages]

“Funded by the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM), this report focuses on identifying ways to improve coordination of the Syrian refugee response in urban areas in Jordan and Lebanon, particularly in the legal, employment, shelter, water and sanitation, health, and education sectors.” *Shelly Culbertson is a policy analyst at the RAND Corporation.*

### [Managing Religious Difference in North America and Europe in an Era of Mass Migration](#)

Demetrios G. Papademetriou, et. al. Transatlantic Council on Immigration, Migration Policy Institute. April 2016 [PDF format, 23 pages]

“This policy brief focuses on the different policy frameworks and practices governing Muslim integration in North America and Europe, to offer a window into how receiving governments and societies manage fundamental change in an era of large-scale, and at times massive, immigration.” *Demetrios G. Papademetriou is Distinguished Senior Fellow and President Emeritus of the Migration Policy Institute (MPI).*

### [War in Syria: Next Steps to Mitigate the Crisis](#)

Testimony of Nancy Lindborg, President of the United States Institute of Peace before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. May 17, 2016 [PDF format, 8 pages]

“Addressing the youth of Syria may be the most important challenge as an entire generation is now growing up torn from families, homes and dreams. UNICEF reports that the conflict is affecting 8.4 million children.”

### [Foundations of the Islamic State: Management, Money, and Terror in Iraq](#)

Patrick B. Johnston, et.al. RAND Corporation. May 2016.

This document draws from more than 140 recently declassified documents to present a comprehensive examination of the organization, territorial designs, management, personnel policies, and finances of the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Qa'ida in Iraq, both predecessors of the Islamic State. *Patrick Johnston is a political scientist at the RAND Corporation.*

### [Assessment of the Politico-Military Campaign to Counter ISIL and Options for Adaptation](#)

Linda Robinson. Rand Corporation. May 2016 [PDF format, 92 pages]

This report assesses the campaign against the Islamic State (ISIL), focusing on the military and political

lines of effort. The capabilities and motivations of the various counter-ISIL forces on the battlefield are assessed, as well as the U.S.-led efforts to provide training, equipment, advice, and assistance, including air support. *Linda Robinson is a senior international policy analyst at the RAND Corporation.*

### [The Promise of Middle Eastern Swing States](#)

Kristina Kausch. Carnegie Europe. May 12, 2016.

“The dispersal of power allows smaller states to take on bigger roles. There has emerged a new layer of ambitious small and midsize powers, each of which has sought to carve out an independent foreign policy profile and clout. These swing states—including widely diverse powers with often clashing interests, such as Qatar, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, and Egypt—can tilt the balance of power in the Middle East, for better or worse.” *Kristina Kausch is a nonresident associate at Carnegie Europe.*

### [Last Call for TTIP: The Views of European Diplomats in Washington, DC](#)

Marie Kasperek and Andrea Montanino. The Atlantic Council. 10 May 2016 [PDF format, 16 pages]

This publication is based on a survey that was distributed to the ambassadors of the European Union in Washington, DC. The findings and analysis of the survey highlight the possibility of concluding the agreement, the public support for it, the political and diplomatic issues surrounding it, and the expected impact it could have on the economies of the European member states. *Andrea Montanino Director, Global Business and Economics Atlantic Council. Marie Kasperek is Assistant Director of the Global Business and Economics Program at the Atlantic Council.*

### [Dynamic Balance: An Alliance Requirements Roadmap for the Asia-Pacific Region](#)

Patrick M. Cronin. Center for a New American Security. May 26, 2016 [PDF format, 47 pages]

This report provides a roadmap for the next U.S. administration and key U.S. allies in the region to address these challenges and potential escalation. *Patrick M. Cronin is a Senior Advisor and Senior Director of the Asia Pacific Security Program at the Center for a New American Security.*

### [America's Place in the World](#)

Pew Research Center. May 5, 2016.

“The public views America’s role in the world with considerable apprehension and concern... With the United States facing an array of global threats, public support for increased defense spending has climbed to its highest level since a month after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, when 50% favored more defense spending.”

### [Shape, Steer, and Sustain: A US Strategy for the New Global Economic Order](#)

Robert D. Hormats. The Atlantic Council. June 2, 2016 [PDF format, 67 pages]

“To better deal with this new global economic environment, the United States requires a new strategy for the twenty-first century... To build the twenty-first century global economic order, this Atlantic Council Strategy Paper outlines six pillars that must form part of any coherent global economic strategy.” *Robert D. Hormats was the undersecretary of state for economic, energy, and agricultural affairs from September 23, 2009 to July 31, 2013.*

## ARTICLES

### [On the Future of U.S. - Vietnam Relations](#)

Antony Blinken. *Medium*. May 23, 2016.

“Today, the United States and Vietnam are deepening and broadening our engagement in areas that we couldn’t even talk about, much less do together, a decade ago. Regional security. Military cooperation. Trade and business. Human rights. Education. Climate change. Global health. Energy security. Disaster response. Peacekeeping.” *Antony Blinken is the Deputy U.S. Secretary of State.*

### [The Connectivity of Culture: Innovating in Cultural Diplomacy](#)

Evan Ryan. *Harvard International Review*. April 13, 2016.

“This capability of our cultural diplomacy programs to open dialogue is a critical dimension of our efforts to tackle important issues, such as empowering women and girls, promoting economic prosperity, giving venues to free expression, combating climate change, and countering violent extremism.” *Evan Ryan is the Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs at the US Department of State.*

### [America in a New World](#)

Michael Mandelbaum. *The American Interest*. May 23, 2016.

“The post-Cold War era is over. The U.S. finds itself in a new phase of security competition—one that will pose a unique challenge when it comes to coalition management.” *Michael Mandelbaum is the Christian A. Herter Professor of American Foreign Policy at The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.*

### [World Order: What, Exactly, are the Rules?](#)

Stewart Patrick. *The Washington Quarterly*. Spring 2016, pp. 7–27.

“The post-1945 international rules-based order seems to be under relentless, existential pressure. Can it survive the fastest redistribution of global economics in world history? Here are ten of its most distinctive (and contested) attributes and five guidelines for the next U.S. president to help reinvigorate it.” *Stewart Patrick is the Senior Fellow and Director of the International Institutions and Global Governance (IIGG) program, Council on Foreign Relations (CFR).*

### [It happens on the pavement: Putting cities at the center of countering violent extremism](#)

Eric Rosand; Ian Klaus. *Order from Chaos* blog. June 1, 2016.

“From Montreal to Mombasa to Montgomery County, local communities have begun to serve as laboratories for developing and testing new ways to prevent radicalization from taking root.” *Eric Rosand is nonresident senior fellow in the Foreign Policy program at Brookings and its Project on U.S.-Relations with the Islamic World. Ian Klaus is Senior Adviser for Global Cities, U.S. Department of State.*

### [Combatting the Islamic State’s Digital Dominance: Revitalizing U.S. Communication Strategy](#)

Robert Bole; Kevin Kallmyer. *The Washington Quarterly*. Spring 2016, pp. 29–48.

“The Islamic State’s success is just the first case study in using new media technologies for recruitment and military strategy. Initially caught unprepared, the U.S. government now needs a comprehensive

audience-centric strategy that is proactive, authentic, and sustainable to regain the initiative.” *Robert Bole is the former Director of Global Strategy at the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG). Kevin Kallmyer is a Consultant in the Office of Global Strategy at BBG.*

### [Investing in prevention: An ounce of CVE or a pound of counterterrorism?](#)

Eric Rosand. *Order from Chaos* blog. May 6, 2016.

“Violent extremism is most likely to take root when communities do not challenge those who seek to radicalize others and can’t offer positive alternatives. Prevention is thus most effectively addressed by the communities themselves—mayors, teachers, social workers, youth, women, religious leaders, and mental health professionals—not national security professionals, let alone national governments.” *Eric Rosand is nonresident senior fellow in the Foreign Policy program at Brookings and its Project on U.S.-Relations with the Islamic World.*

### [Solutions for Educating Young Syrian Refugees](#)

Shelly Culbertson. *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*. April. 18, 2016.

“There are immense challenges to providing education to Syrian refugees, beginning with the sheer enormity of the situation. Half of the 1.5 million refugee children are in school, thanks to the efforts of host governments, the U.N., and non-governmental organizations.” *Shelly Culbertson is a policy analyst at the RAND Corporation, and the author of The Fires of Spring: A Post-Arab Spring Journey Through the Tumultuous New Middle East (St. Martin’s Press, 2016).*

### **The Once and Future Superpower: Why China Won't Overtake the United States**

Stephen G. Brooks. *Foreign Affairs*. May/June 2016, pp. 91-104.

“After two and a half decades, is the United States' run as the world's sole superpower coming to an end? Many say yes, seeing a rising China ready to catch up to or even surpass the United States in the near future. By many measures, after all, China's economy is on track to become the world's biggest... But this is wishful, or fearful, thinking.” *Stephen G. Brooks is Associate Professor of Government at Dartmouth College.*

### [We need a Paris climate talks to fix the global food system](#)

Michael A. Levi; Lindsay Iversen. *Quarz*. May 18, 2016.

“International trade in food has grown markedly in recent decades. Some 20% of food now crosses an international border. .. Yet governments, despite repeated attempts, have struggled to cooperate in order to bring more stability to this sensitive space. Most of their efforts have focused on the World Trade Organization.” *Michael A. Levi is the David M. Rubenstein Senior Fellow for Energy and the Environment and Director of the Maurice R. Greenberg Center for Geoeconomic Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. Lindsay Iversen is Associate Director, Climate and Resources at the Council on Foreign Relations.*

### [Clean Energy Is Key to Meeting the Goals of the Paris Climate Deal](#)

Tom Kutsh. *World Policy Review*. June 3, 2016.

“Diplomats and negotiators have rightly been praised for the success of the COP 21 Paris agreement, the most comprehensive global deal to date on climate change, with buy-in from virtually every nation on

earth. But to mitigate the worst effects of climate change by displacing greenhouse gas-producing fossil fuels, countries must expand their clean energy infrastructure.” *Tom Kutsch is a freelance journalist based in New York. He previously was a reporter and news editor at Al Jazeera America.*

### **The Cyber Threat to Nuclear Stability**

Paul Bracken. *Orbis*. Spring 2016, pp. 188-203.

“The thesis of this article is that cyber war technologies are spilling over into precision strike and nuclear mission areas. The result will transform deterrence and arms race stability and lead to other significant changes.” *Paul Bracken is Professor of Management and Political Science at Yale University.*

## **U.S. DOMESTIC POLICIES AND TRENDS**

### **REPORTS**

#### **[Giving Every Child A Fair Shot: Progress Under The Obama Administration’s Education Agenda](#)**

The White House. May 2016 [PDF format, 60 pages]

This report provides an overview of the most significant education policies advanced during the Obama administration, and illustrate the metrics associated with progress during the President’s two terms in office... "From reducing the number of dropouts, to raising academic standards to prepare students for college and career in nearly every state, to expanding the availability of high-quality preschool and digitally connecting America’s classrooms."

#### **[Fact Sheet: Obama Administration Announces Steps to Strengthen Financial Transparency, and Combat Money Laundering, Corruption, and Tax Evasion](#)**

The White House. May 5, 2016.

“Today, the Administration announced several important steps to combat money laundering, corruption, and tax evasion, and called upon Congress to take additional action to address these critical issues.... The Panama Papers underscore the importance of the efforts the United States has taken domestically, and the efforts we have undertaken with our international partners, to address these shared challenges.”

#### **[Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement: Likely Impact on the U.S. Economy and on Specific Industry Sectors](#)**

United States International Trade Commission. May 2016.

This report assesses the likely impact of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement that the President has entered into with Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam. The report provides an assessment of the likely impact of the Agreement on the U.S. economy as a whole and on specific industry sectors and the interests of U.S. consumers.

### [Employment and disconnection among teens and young adults: The role of place, race, and education](#)

Martha Ross, et. al. The Brookings Institution. May 24, 2016.

The following analysis and related interactive examine employment trends among teens aged 16–19 and young adults aged 20–24... The analysis also examines a key subpopulation among teens and young adult population: “disconnected youth” who are neither working nor in school. *Martha Ross is a fellow at the Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings.*

### [Immigration Surged in 2014 and 2015](#)

Steven A. Camarota. Center for Immigration Studies. June 2016.

“An analysis of new government data by the Center for Immigration Studies shows more than three million new legal and illegal immigrants settled in the United States in 2014 and 2015 — a 39 percent increase over the prior two years.” *Steven A. Camarota is Director of Research at the Center for Immigration Studies.*

### [Unaccompanied Alien Children: An Overview](#)

William A. Kandel. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. May 11, 2016 [PDF format, 22 pages]

“This report opens with an analysis of recent unaccompanied alien children (UAC) apprehension data. It then discusses current policy on the treatment, care, and custody of the population and describes the responsibilities of each federal agency involved with the population. The report then discusses both administrative and congressional actions to deal with the UAC surge in FY2014 and action since then to address possible future surges.” *William A. Kandel Analyst in Immigration Policy at the CRS.*

### [The Cost of Welfare Use By Immigrant and Native Households](#)

Jason Richwine. Center for Immigration Studies. May 2016 [PDF format, 18 pages]

“The study of immigration and welfare use, shows that 51 percent of immigrant-headed households (legal and illegal) use at least one federal welfare program, compared to 30 percent of native households.” *Jason Richwine is an independent public policy analyst and contributing writer to National Review.*

### [Family support or school readiness? Contrasting models of public spending on children's early care and learning](#)

Grover J. (Russ) Whitehurst. The Brookings Institution. April 28, 2016 [PDF format, 8 pages]

“In the United States, public policy and expenditure intended to improve the prospects of children from low-income families have focused on better preparing children for school through Head Start and universal pre-K. This school readiness approach differs from the dominant model of public support for early care and learning in Northern Europe, which places more emphasis on supporting families.” *Grover J. Russ Whitehurst is a senior fellow in the Center on Children and Families in the Economic Studies program at the Brookings Institution.*

### [Bringing It All Together: Elementary Principals are Key to Strong PreK-3rd Grade Classrooms](#)

Laura Bornfreund. New America Foundation. May 2016 [PDF format, 12 pages]

“In this report, the authors recommend a series of actions for states and school districts to better support elementary school principals.” *Laura Bornfreund is director of Early & Elementary Education Policy at New America.*

### [Shared, Collaborative and On Demand: The New Digital Economy](#)

Pew Research Center. May 19, 2016.

This survey of 4,787 American adults – its first-ever comprehensive study of the scope and impact of the shared, collaborative and on-demand economy – finds that usage of these platforms varies widely across the population.

### [America’s Shrinking Middle Class: A Close Look at Changes Within Metropolitan Areas](#)

Pew Research Center. 11 May 2016.

“The American middle class is losing ground in metropolitan areas across the country, affecting communities from Boston to Seattle and from Dallas to Milwaukee. From 2000 to 2014 the share of adults living in middle-income households fell in 203 of the 229 U.S. metropolitan areas examined in a new Pew Research Center analysis of government data.”

### [Engaging Communities in Reducing Gun Violence: A Road Map for Safer Communities](#)

Samuel Bieler, et al. Urban Institute. April 28, 2016 [PDF format, 67 pages]

“The report shows that violence prevention demands a holistic set of solutions. Limiting access to firearms is part of the solution, but a comprehensive strategy will also require improving police-community relations, investing in community services, and facilitating community leadership in violence prevention efforts.” *Sam Bieler is a research associate at the Urban Institute’s Justice Policy Center, specializing in gun violence prevention.*

### [News Use Across Social Media Platforms 2016](#)

Pew Research Center. 26 May 2016.

“A majority of U.S. adults – 62% – get news on social media, and 18% do so often... But which social media sites have the largest portion of users getting news there? How many get news on multiple social media sites? And to what degree are these news consumers seeking online news out versus happening upon it while doing other things?”

## **ARTICLES**

### [How Obama Changed the Relationship Between Washington, the States and the Cities](#)

Daniel C. Vock. *Governing*. June 2016.

“States haven’t been the willing political partners President Obama once hoped they would be. He’s found some ways to work around that.” *Daniel C. Vock is a staff writer at Governing magazine.*

### [The Hutchins Center Explains: Federal budget basics](#)

Anna Malinovskaya; Louise Sheiner. *Up Front* blog. June 1, 2016.

“Last year, the federal government spent nearly \$3.7 trillion, roughly one out of every five dollars in the

U.S. economy. Read on for a glimpse into how the government spent and earned its money in 2015.” Louise Sheiner is a senior fellow in Economic Studies and policy director for the Hutchins Center on Fiscal and Monetary Policy. *Anna Malinovskaya is a senior research assistant at the Hutchins Center on Fiscal and Monetary Policy.*

### [Which topics do presidential candidates discuss on Facebook?](#)

Kevin C. Desouza, et. al. *TechTank* blog. May 19, 2016.

“In this post, we are going to share several insights into the topics discussed on the Facebook pages of five presidential candidates...The purpose of this is to understand the type of content and messaging people are responding to in the form of likes, shares, and comments. We analyzed candidates’ posts to discover topics and reactions on posts.” *Kevin C. Desouza is a nonresident senior fellow with the Center for Technology Innovation.*

### [Women could make a big difference in a Clinton-Trump match-up](#)

William H. Frey. *The Avenue* blog. April 29, 2016.

“Women have long been important for Democratic presidential candidates, who have gotten more votes from them than men since 1980. Their support was crucial for Barack Obama for in 2012, as he received 55 percent of the women’s vote, while Mitt Romney took 52 percent of men.” *William H. Frey is a Senior Fellow at the Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institution.*

### [Meet the Most Dynamic Young CEOs in America](#)

*Inc.* May 2016.

“Millennials frequently start companies that confront problems unique to their generation. But Inc.’s 30 Under 30 honorees for 2016 are tackling problems that have vexed society for generations, such as nefarious stock trading, hospital-borne illnesses, reliance on nonrenewable energy sources, and more.”

### **The Clean Energy Revolution: Fighting Climate Change with Innovation**

Varun Sivaram; Teryn Norris. *Foreign Affairs*. May/June 2016, pp.147-156.

“Fighting climate change successfully will certainly require sensible government policies to level the economic playing field between clean and dirty energy, such as putting a price on carbon dioxide emissions. But it will also require policies that encourage investment in new clean energy technology, which even a level playing field may not generate on its own.” *Varun Sivaram is Douglas Dillon Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. Teryn Norris is a former Special Adviser at the U.S. Department of Energy.*

### [Why the Maker Movement Matters: Part 1, the Tools Revolution](#)

James Fallows. *The Atlantic*. June 5, 2016.

“Just like the internet before it, the Maker Movement is revolutionizing “manufacturing, with implications for startups and jobs.” *James Fallows is a national correspondent for The Atlantic and has written for the magazine since the late 1970s.*

### [International Students in the United States](#)

Jie Zong and Jeanne Batalova. *Migration Information Source*. May 12, 2016.

“In 2013, the United States hosted more of the world’s 4.1 million international students than any other country. The next two destinations, the United Kingdom and Australia, hosted 10 percent and 6 percent, respectively.” Jeanne Batalova is a Senior Policy Analyst at MPI and Manager of the MPI Data Hub, a one-stop, online resource that provides instant access to the latest facts, stats, and maps covering U.S. and global data on immigration and immigrant integration." *Jie Zong is a Research Assistant at the Migration Policy Institute.*

#### **[Disrupting manufacturing: Innovation and the future of skilled labor](#)**

Daniel Araya; Christopher Sulavik. *Brown Center Chalkboard* blog. May 6, 2016.

“Calls to rejuvenate schools in support of advanced skills and capabilities suggest the need for substantial investments in transforming U.S. education. In fact, Fab Labs and makerspaces are already emerging in schools across the country and this is a strong sign that local districts are responding to the needs of their communities.” Daniel Araya is a researcher and advisor to government with a special interest in technological innovation, public policy, and education. Christopher Sulavik is a senior research fellow at PwC's Thought Leadership Institute, researching and writing on the intersection of business, public policy and smart technologies in the US and globally.

#### **[In Defense of Immigrants: Here's Why America Needs Them Now More Than Ever](#)**

Richard V. Reeves. *Esquire*. May 16, 2016.

“Since the American Dream is part of the national identity, it seems natural to look to the national government to help make it a reality. But cities are now where the American Dream will live or die.” *Richard V. Reeves is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.*

#### **[Ali: 1942-2016](#)**

Robert Lipsyte. *Time*. June 2016.

“For half a century, whether or not we wanted to go, Muhammad Ali took us, Beatles and all, for a wondrous ride in which we made him a symbol of the resistance to war, of the racial struggle, of the individual standing up to establishment pressure. Along the way he made us laugh, curse, cheer, and cry. Most important, he made us brave.” *Robert Lipsyte is a U.S. sports journalist.*

**Information Provided by the Research Unit**

Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

<http://madrid.usembassy.gov/ru.html>

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