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It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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Item#1

ACCESS TO JUSTICE: REPORT ON SUPREME COURT NOMINEE JUDGE SONIA SOTOMAYOR. Alliance for Justice. June 9, 2009.

According to the report, “Judge Sonia Sotomayor has a careful, cautious and reasoned approach to access to justice issues. Her rulings are well within the legal mainstream.” The report further notes, “Judge Sotomayor shows no bias for or against plaintiffs. She shows sensitivity toward persons bringing claims, but always grounds her decision-making on the law and binding authority.”

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

<http://www.afj.org/check-the-facts/supreme-court-watch/alliance-for-justice-sototmayor-access-to-justice-report.pdf>

[PDF format, 14 pages].

Item#2

COST ESTIMATE FOR THE AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY AND SECURITY ACT OF 2009. Congressional Budget Office. June 5, 2009.

Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) estimate that over the 2010-2019 period enacting this legislation would increase federal revenues by about \$846 billion and increase direct spending by about \$821 billion. In total, those changes would reduce budget deficits (or increase future surpluses) by about \$24 billion over the 2010-2019 period.

Full Text:

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/102xx/doc10262/hr2454.pdf> [PDF format, 40 pages].

Item#3

ENABLING ADAPTATION: PRIORITIES FOR SUPPORTING THE RURAL POOR IN A CHANGING CLIMATE. World Resources Institute. Manish Bapan et al. June 2009.

Effective climate adaptation requires an enabling environment, one that grants the poor the rights, resources and access they need to sustain and benefit from ecosystems, governments and markets, according to the authors. Development experience provides important lessons for fostering such enabling environments, including principles of good governance that provide the rural poor with control of the ecosystems on which they depend.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

http://pdf.wri.org/issue_brief_enabling_adaptation.pdf [PDF format, 12 pages].

Item#4

IRAN AND THE CHALLENGES TO MIDDLE EAST SECURITY. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Anthony H. Cordesman et al. June 9, 2009.

Iran presents a wide range of potential challenges to the security of the Middle East. This does not mean that Iran plans to start new conflicts in the region or will actively seek to achieve its objectives by force. At the same time, however, Iran is actively seeking to expand its influence, and is now the most serious threat to the security of energy exports in the Gulf region, says the report.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

http://www.csis.org/media/isis/pubs/090608_iranupdate.pdf [PDF format, 116 pages].

Item#5

NORTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR AND MISSILE TESTS AND THE SIX-PARTY TALKS: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? Brookings Institution. Richard C. Bush. June 17, 2009.

In testimony before Congress on June 17, Richard Bush describes how North Korea's recent nuclear and missile tests have transformed the challenge faced by the international system. Dr. Bush testified that it is now clear that North Korea bases its security on nuclear weapons, and the hope that it will abandon the nuclear option has disappeared.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/testimonies/2009/0617_north_korea_bush/0617_north_korea_bush_written.pdf

[PDF format, 10 pages].

Item#6

PRESIDENTIAL POWER IN IRAN. Council on Foreign Relations. Greg Bruno and Jamal Afridi. June 10, 2009.

Iran's Supreme Leader remains the regime's ultimate authority but the spirited campaign for the country's June 12 presidential election has raised new interest in the role and power of the head of state.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/19593/presidential_power_in_iran.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fbackgrounder

[HTML format, various paging].

Item#7

PROSECUTING AND DETAINING TERROR SUSPECTS IN THE U.S. CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation. June 9, 2009.

Since the 1990s, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York (SDNY) has investigated and successfully prosecuted a wide range of international and domestic terrorism cases—including the bombings of the World Trade Center and U.S. Embassies in East Africa in the 1990s. More recent cases include those against individuals who provided material support to al Qaeda and other terrorist groups, as well as against international arms trafficker Monzer al Kassar and the Somalian pirate charged in the hijacking of the Maersk Alabama.

Full Text:

<http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel09/terrorfactsheet060909.htm> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#8

REACTING TO IRAN'S DISPUTED PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OUTCOME. Brookings Institution. Suzanne Maloney. June 14, 2009.

Saturday's declaration that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had won a landslide victory for a second term moved the country's perennially unpredictable politics into uncharted territory, according to the report. The patently implausible outcome sparked disbelief, defiance, and violent reprisals on the streets, jeopardizing the stability and legitimacy of the Islamic regime and complicating U.S. President Barack Obama's efforts to engage directly with Tehran as a means of blunting its nuclear ambitions.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0614_iran_election_maloney.aspx [HTML format, various paging].

Item#9

THE US FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS; WHERE DOES IT STAND AND WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? Business and Public Policy, Brookings Institution. Martin Neil Baily and Douglas J. Elliott. June 15, 2009.

The economy is showing signs that it is likely bottoming out and heading toward a weak recovery, but the nation need to keep optimism and keep policy actions in check, argue Martin Baily and Douglas Elliott. Many risks remain for both the banking system and the larger economy, and they argue for increased focus on existing financial rescue plans and the banking sector.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/0615_economic_crisis_baily_elliott/0615_economic_crisis_baily_elliott.pdf

[PDF format, 26 pages].

Item#10

WOMEN MORE LIKELY TO BE DEMOCRATS, REGARDLESS OF AGE. Gallup. June 12, 2009.

A new Gallup analysis of almost 150,000 interviews conducted from January through May of this year sheds new light on the substantial gender gap that exists in American politics today. Not only are women significantly more likely than men to identify as Democrats, and less likely to identify as independents, but -- with only slight variation -- this gap is evident across all ages, from 18 to 85, and within all major racial, ethnic, and marital-status segments of society.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/120839/Women-Likely-Democrats-Regardless-Age.aspx> [HTML format, various paging].