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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

THE 2008 OIL PRICE SHOCK: COMPETING EXPLANATIONS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS. Global Public Policy Institute. Timo Behr. 2009.

Throughout 2008, world oil markets experienced volatility on an unprecedented scale.

While crude oil prices shot up to the dizzying heights of almost \$150 per barrel by the middle of the year, they came plunging down to close to \$40 per barrel by December.

The paper analyzes the debate on the causes behind oil price volatility by disentangling the competing arguments and reviewing the evidence that supports them.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.gppi.net/fileadmin/gppi/GPPiPP1_Oil_Prices_2009.pdf [PDF format, 30 pages].

Item#2

AMERICA'S FAMILIES AND LIVING ARRANGEMENTS: 2008. U.S. U.S. Census Bureau. February 25, 2009.

With declining fertility rates and the aging of baby boomers, the percentage of families with their own child living at home decreased to 46 percent in 2008, from 52 percent in 1950, according to new data. The findings are based on statistics on family and nonfamily households, characteristics of single-parent families, living arrangements of children and data on married and unmarried couples. "Decreases in the percentage of families with their own child under 18 at home reflect the aging of the population and changing fertility patterns," said Rose Kreider, family demographer at the U.S. Census Bureau.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam/cps2008.html> [HTML format with links to tables].

Item#3

ARTISTS IN A YEAR OF RECESSION: IMPACT ON JOBS IN 2008. National Endowment for the Arts. March 2009.

Unemployment rates are up among working artists and the artist workforce has contracted, according to the research. It examines how the economic slowdown has affected the nation's working artists. The study looks at artist employment patterns during two spikes in the current recession, the fourth quarters of 2007 and 2008. This downturn reflects larger economic declines: a Commerce Department report last week noted a 6.2 percent decrease in the gross domestic product in the last quarter of 2008.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

<http://arts.endow.gov/research/Notes/97.pdf> [PDF format, 10 pages].

Item#4

EASTERN EUROPE: A CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE IN CAPITALISM? Pew Global Attitudes Project. March 5, 2009.

According to the report, many in Europe think that the financial meltdown poses a serious challenge to European solidarity, and in particular, many observers are worried about the social and political stability of Eastern European nations, several of which have been hit especially hard by the crisis. For instance, Nouriel Roubini, widely lauded as one of the few people who saw the worldwide financial collapse coming, warns that the economic downturn may "even call into question the economic and political model Eastern European countries have followed since the 1990s." Survey research shows that in recent years support for the free-market system has been on the rise in Eastern Europe. However, compared with their Western European counterparts, Eastern Europeans embrace free markets somewhat tepidly.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1142/eastern-europe-crisis-capitalism-poll> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#5

THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND THE FISCAL CRISIS: 2009 AND BEYOND. Urban Institute. Alan J. Auerbach and William G. Gale. February 19, 2009.

In 2009, the federal deficit will be larger as a share of the economy than at any time since the 1940s. After 2009, the Institute projects an average deficit of \$1 trillion per year for the next 10 years. The longer-run picture is even bleaker, with a fiscal gap of 7-9 percent of GDP, between \$1 trillion and \$1.3 trillion annually in current dollars. Recent trends in credit default swap markets suggest that although fiscal policy problems are usually described as medium- and long-term issues, these problems may be upon us much sooner than previously expected.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411843_economic_crisis.pdf [PDF format, 29 pages].

Item#6

A FRESH LOOK AT GLOBAL GOVERNANCE: EXPLORING OBJECTIVE CRITERIA FOR REPRESENTATION. Center for Global Development. Enrique Rueda-Sabater et al. February 2009.

According to the report, the geopolitical world of the 21st century is very different than that of the post-World War II era. The authors argue that it has to balance representation, which is made credible by the inclusion of key parts of the global community, and effectiveness, which means involving as small a number of actors as possible while having access to the resources to turn decisions/intentions into action/results. They propose simple, fundamental criteria, based on global shares of GDP and population, around which global governance might be organized.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1421065/> [HTML format with link to the PDF file].

Item#7

GREEN JOBS: A PATHWAY TO A STRONG MIDDLE CLASS. Middle Class Task Force, Vice President of the United States. March 4, 2009.

The White House Task Force on the Middle Class has a simple mandate: to find, highlight, and implement solutions to the economic challenges facing the American middle class. The Obama Administration is committed to reforming how we create and consume energy in America, and project of reform is the work of many different officials and agencies within the government. One part of that agenda is to promote the creation of green jobs.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/mctf_one_staff_report.pdf [PDF format, 33 pages].

Item#8

GREEN POWER SUPERHIGHWAYS: BUILDING A PATH TO AMERICA'S CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE. American Wind Energy Association and Solar Energy Industries Association. February 2009.

The report details current inadequacies of the U.S. electric transmission infrastructure and offering policy solutions to address them. According to the report, inadequate transmission capacity is a significant barrier to renewable energy development in the U.S. The release of the paper comes at a critical time. President Obama and Congress have made strong commitments to renewable energy as a driver for jobs creation and economic growth, but the nation's renewable energy resources can not reach their full potential without renewed investment in our transmission infrastructure.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://seia.org/galleries/pdf/GreenPowerSuperhighways.pdf> [PDF format, 28 pages].

Item#9

MACROECONOMIC IMBALANCES IN THE UNITED STATES AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SYSTEM. Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. Julia S. Perelstein. Web posted February 2009.

The paper presents that the financial crisis of 2007-08 was made global by the current account deficit in the United States and there is global dependence on the United States trade deficit as a means of maintaining liquidity in financial markets. The outflow of dollars from the United States was invested in U.S. capital markets, causing inflation in asset markets and leading to a bubble and bust in the subprime mortgage sector. Since the U.S. dollar is the international reserve currency, international debt is mostly denominated in dollars. Because there is a high degree of global financial integration, any reduction in the U.S. balance of trade will have negative effects on many countries throughout the world, according to the paper.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.levy.org/pubs/wp_554.pdf [PDF format, 21 pages].

Item#10

MAPPING PEACE BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL. U.S. Institute of Peace. Frederic C. Hof. March 2009.

The report provides ideas on facilitating a Syrian-Israel Peace. It comes out at a critical time in the Arab-Israeli peace process as a new U.S. administration is looking for ways to move the process forward despite the recent violence in Gaza. In the report, Fred Hof, lays out a roadmap for how to resolve the thorny issues separating Syria and Israel over the Golan Heights plateau and small tracts in the Jordan River Valley. Hof's study focuses on creative ways and means to reconcile Syria's boundary demand with legitimate Israeli concerns. A key element is elaboration on the concept of a Jordan Valley-Golan Heights Environmental Preserve, which attracted attention during earlier peace talks.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

<http://library.usip.org/articles/1012101.1042/1.PDF> [PDF format, 20 pages].

Item#11

THE NORTH KOREAN PARADOX AND THE SUBVERSIVE TRUTH. American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. Andrei Lankov. March 3, 2009.

Lankov says North Korea must be transformed from within. Neither sanctions nor direct engagement will work. What is needed is an effort to increase contacts between North Korea and the outside world through cultural and educational exchanges and through economic cooperation that exposes North Koreans to South Koreans and their vastly better way of life. Further, the author believes increased radio and video penetration combined with support for defectors who can aid the transformation when the Kim Jong Il regime ends will also be necessary.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

http://www.aei.org/docLib/20090303_0123913AOLankov_g.pdf [PDF format, 5 pages].

Item#12

RECOVERY ACT (ARRA): COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER GRANTS BY STATE. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. March 5, 2009.

President Obama has announced the release of \$155 million authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that will support 126 new health centers. These health centers will help people in need, many with no health insurance, obtain access to comprehensive primary and preventive health care services. "We have acted quickly to put Recovery Act dollars to good use in communities across America," said President Obama. "The construction and expansion of health centers will create thousands of new jobs, help provide health care to an estimated 750,000 Americans across the country who wouldn't have access to care without these centers, and take another step toward an affordable, accessible health care system."

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

<http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/hrsa/napawards.html> [HTML format, various paging].