
E-ALERT is compiled based on an email service we receive from the Department of State's Office of International Information Programs. We are sending it to you to alert you of the latest issues and debates in the United States.

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.

Please contact the Information Resource Center if you have problem retrieving any of the documents listed. To cancel this service, please reply to the present message and type "unsubscribe" as the text of your message.

Title Index

A Fork in the Road: Obama, McCain, and Health Care. [CATO Institute]. July 29, 2008.

Item#1

Immigration to the United States and World-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions. [Center for Immigration Studies]. Web posted August 17, 2008.

Item#2

A Look at Terrorist Behavior: How They Prepare, Where They Strike. [National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice]. Web posted July 31, 2008.

Item#3

The Looming Crisis: Displacement and Security in Iraq. [Brookings Institute]. August 2008.

Item#4

An Older and More Diverse Nation by Midcentury. [U.S Census Bureau]. August 14, 2008.

Item#5

Promoting Film and Media to Enhance State Economic Development. [Center for Best Practices, National Governors Association]. July 15, 2008.

Item#6

Russia-Georgia Conflict in South Ossetia: Context and Implications for U.S. Interests. [Congressional Research Service, RL34618, Library of Congress]. August 13, 2008.

Item#7

Situation Report, Russo-Georgian Conflict. [Institute for the Study of War]. August 11, 2008.

Item#8

Standing Down as Iraq Stands Up. [Brookings Institute]. August 7, 2008.
Item#9

State Governments' Use of Help America Vote Act Funds. [United States Election Assistance Commission]. Web posted July 22, 2008.
Item#10

U.S.-Japan Strategic Dialogue: Next Generation Views of the U.S.-Japan Alliance. [Pacific Forum, Center for Strategic and International Studies]. August 5, 2008.
Item#11

Reports

Item#1
A FORK IN THE ROAD: OBAMA, MCCAIN, AND HEALTH CARE. CATO Institute. Michael D. Tanner. July 29, 2008.

Senator Obama's approach to health care reform relies heavily on government mandates, regulations, and subsidies. He would mandate that employers provide health care coverage for their workers and parents purchase health insurance for their children. He would significantly increase regulation of the insurance industry, establishing a standard minimum benefits package, and requiring insurers to accept all applicants regardless of their health. In contrast, John McCain emphasizes consumer choice and greater competition in the health care industry. He would move away from our current employment-based insurance system by replacing the current tax exclusion for employer-provided insurance with a refundable tax credit for individuals. At the same time he would sharply deregulate the insurance industry to increase competition.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://cato.org/pubs/bp/bp104.pdf> [PDF format, 28 pages].

Item#2
IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES AND WORLD-WIDE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Center for Immigration Studies. Leon Kolankiewicz and Steven A. Camarota. Web posted August 17, 2008.

The findings of the study indicate that future levels of immigration will have a significant impact on efforts to reduce global CO2 emissions. Immigration to the United States significantly increases world-wide CO2 emissions because it transfers population from lower-polluting parts of the world to the United States, which is a higher-polluting country. On average immigrants increase their emissions four-fold by coming to America.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://www.cis.org/articles/2008/back1008.pdf> [PDF format, 12 pages].

Item#3
A LOOK AT TERRORIST BEHAVIOR: HOW THEY PREPARE, WHEN THEY STRIKE.

National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice. Brent Smith. Web posted July 31, 2008.

There is very little information available on terrorists' behavioral patterns. Research has shown that traditional criminals are spontaneous, but terrorists seem to go to great lengths preparing for their attacks and may commit other crimes while doing so. The study finds that most terrorists live close to their selected targets, and they engage in a great deal of preparation, some over the course of months or even years, that have the potential of coming to the attention of local law enforcement.

Full Text:

<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/222900.pdf> [PDF format, 5 pages].

Item#4

THE LOOMING CRISIS: DISPLACEMENT AND SECURITY IN IRAQ. Brookings Institute. Elizabeth G. Ferris. August 2008.

Lost in discussions of the military surge, the pace of troop draw downs, and political benchmarks are millions of displaced Iraqi women, children, and men. Their plight is both a humanitarian tragedy and a strategic crisis that is not being addressed. The U.S. administration officials may acknowledge it as an important issue but lack a serious long-term plan to address the crisis. Present and future Iraqi displacement has the potential to change the Middle East landscape in unpredictably adverse ways. But if the U.S. government, the U.N. system, and the non-governmental world do not think strategically about Iraqi displacement, the implications for security in the region could be equally far-reaching.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2008/08_iraq_ferris/08_iraq_ferris.pdf [PDF format, 53 pages].

Item#5

AN OLDER AND MORE DIVERSE NATION BY MIDCENTURY. U.S. Census Bureau. August 14, 2008.

The nation will be more racially and ethnically diverse, as well as much older, by mid-century, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Minorities, now roughly one-third of the U.S. population, are expected to become the majority in 2042, with the nation projected to be 54 percent minority in 2050. By 2023, minorities will comprise more than half of all children. In 2030, when all of the baby boomers will be 65 and older, nearly one in five U.S. residents is expected to be 65 and older. This age group is projected to increase to 88.5 million in 2050, more than doubling the number in 2008 (38.7 million). Similarly, the 85 and older population is expected to more than triple, from 5.4 million to 19 million between 2008 and 2050.

Full Text:

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/012496.html> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#6

PROMOTING FILM AND MEDIA TO ENHANCE STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Center for Best Practices, National Governors Association. July 15, 2008.

As governors continue exploring innovative strategies to grow their economies, states are increasingly looking to film, television and related media arts productions as a means of attracting high-paying jobs and related high-tech businesses, according to the report. The state and local economic benefits brought by hosting a major motion picture production are numerous. Film, TV and media arts productions help create local jobs by using residents to staff the production, as well as boost local economies by purchasing goods and services from local vendors.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0807PROMOTINGFILMMEDIA.PDF> [PDF format, 30 pages].

Item#7

RUSSIA-GEORGIA CONFLICT IN SOUTH OSSETIA: CONTEXT AND IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. INTERESTS. Congressional Research Service, RL34618, Library of Congress. Jim Nichol. August 13, 2008.

In the early 1990s, Georgia and its breakaway South Ossetia region had agreed to a Russian-mediated ceasefire agreement that provided for Russian "peacekeepers" to be stationed in the region. Long-time tensions erupted on August 7, 2008, when South Ossetia and Georgia accused each other of launching intense artillery barrages against each other. Russia launched large-scale air attacks across Georgia and dispatched seasoned troops to South Ossetia that engaged Georgian forces in Tskhinvali later in the day. On August 12, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Joseph Biden warned Russia that its aggression in Georgia jeopardized Congressional support for legislation to collaborate with Russia on nuclear energy production and to repeal the Jackson-Vanik conditions on U.S. trade with Russia.

Full Text:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL34618.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages].

Item#8

SITUATION REPORT, RUSSO-GEORGIAN CONFLICT. Institute for the Study of War. Frederick W. Kagan. August 11, 2008.

On August 12, President Medvedev told Defense Minister Anatolii Serdiukov and Chief of the General Staff Nikolai Makarov that he has decided to terminate the operation compelling the Georgian forces to peace. Medvedev told Sarkozy, the French President, that "the final resolution of the situation is possible on two conditions: the return of Georgian forces to their starting positions and the signature of a legally binding document about the non-use of force."

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://www.understandingwar.org/backgrounders/situation-report-russo-georgian-conflict> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#9

STANDING DOWN AS IRAQ STANDS UP. Brookings Institute. Stephen Biddle et al. August 7, 2008.

The Iraq war has become one of the most polarizing issues in American politics. Most Democrats, including Senator Barack Obama (D-Ill.), want large, early troop cuts; most Republicans, including Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.), want U.S. troops to stay until Iraq's stability is guaranteed. A series of positive developments in the past year and a half offers hope that the desire of so many Americans to bring the troops home can be fulfilled without leaving Iraq in chaos. The right approach, in other words, can partly square Obama's goal of redeploying large numbers of U.S. forces sooner rather than later with McCain's goal of ensuring stability in Iraq.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/articles/2008/09_iraq_ohanlon.aspx [HTML various paging].

Item#10

STATE GOVERNMENTS' USE OF HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT FUNDS. United States Election Assistance Commission. Web posted July 22, 2008.

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission has delivered a report to Congress on state government spending of Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds, which amounts to nearly three billion dollars. States have spent 67 percent of it and the 64 percent of the spent went toward acquiring and administering voting system technology.

Full Text:

http://www.eac.gov/election/HAVA%20Funds/docs/2007-report-on-hava-spending-by-states/attachment_download/file [PDF format, 40 pages].

Item#11

U.S.-JAPAN STRATEGIC DIALOGUE: NEXT GENERATION VIEWS OF THE U.S.-JAPAN ALLIANCE. Pacific Forum, Center for Strategic and International Studies. August 5, 2008.

Despite a historic strengthening of the U.S.-Japan security alliance throughout the last decade, new strains are emerging in the relationship. A series of developments has triggered concerns in Tokyo about the U.S. commitment to Japan's defense. The U.S. readiness to move forward with relations with North Korea, despite a lack of progress in Japan-North Korea relations, has stirred fears of abandonment. For U.S. strategists, the U.S. commitment to Japan remains firmly rooted in common values, interests, and a long and enduring history.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.csis.org/media/isis/pubs/issuesinsights_v08n07.pdf [PDF format, 49 pages].