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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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White Supremacists Vent Rage Over Obama's Win. [Anti-Defamation League]. Web posted November 8, 2008.

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Reports

Item#1

CHINA'S PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS. National Bureau of Economic Research. Huifang Tian and John Whalley. October 2008.

China is now both the largest and most rapidly growing carbon emitter, and has much higher emission intensity relative to GDP than OECD countries. In the Copenhagen negotiation, there will be strong pressure on China to take on emissions reduction commitments and China's concern will be to do so in ways that allow continuation of a high growth rate and fast development. Larger funds and flexibility in their use will also raise China's willingness to make commitments.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w14460.pdf> [PDF format, 37 pages].

Item#2

THE COST OF FAILURE FACTORIES IN AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION. American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. Mark Schneider. Web posted October 30, 2008.

American higher education absorbs a larger share of GDP than that of other countries, but it has not produced a particularly high proportion of college graduates. College graduation rates are actually worse than the very low benchmark of high school graduation rates, but higher education institutions are not held accountable.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.28863/pub_detail.asp [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

FACT SHEET: PROTECTING VOTING RIGHTS AND PROSECUTING VOTER FRAUD. U.S. Department of Justice. November 2008.

Among the Department of Justice's highest priorities are protecting voting rights and combating voter fraud. The Department's Civil Rights Division enforces specific federal laws that help to ensure all qualified voters have an opportunity to cast their ballots and have them counted, while the Department's Criminal Division oversees the nationwide enforcement of federal laws integrity of the federal election process.

Full Text:

http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/pr/press_releases/2008/10/10-31-08_crt-crm-fact-sheet.pdf [PDF format, 3 pages].

Item#4

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT: PROVIDING A FOUNDATION FOR TRANSITION.
Association of Government Accountants' Annual CFO Survey. 2008.

In 2008, 239 federal financial management executives and managers took part in the 12th annual chief financial officer (CFO) survey sponsored by the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) and conducted by Grant Thornton LLP. The report says that the government must head in a new direction to achieve greater gains. Future improvements need to focus on how the CFO can add value to missions and programs, not just comply with regulations. In the future, the quintessential federal CFO will have a relationship of mutual trust with departmental and agency leaders and be skilled in developing and retaining an effective financial team. Such CFOs will understand the federal budget process, have accounting acumen, know the business information needs of program managers and be skilled in selling a budget to OMB and Congress, internal control to program managers and the benefits of integrated financial and performance information to everyone.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://www.agacgfm.org/research/downloads/cfosurvey2008.pdf> [PDF format, 32 pages].

Item#5

FIRST STEPS TOWARD RESTORING AMERICAN LEADERSHIP: LEGALITY MATTERS.
Century Foundation. Jeffrey Laurenti. Web posted November 8, 2008.

The author, Laurenti, suggests that to reclaim American leadership and credibility in resolving the many deepening crises on America's international agenda, the next administration must move swiftly to reverse the U.S. rupture with international law and institutions of the past decade. The report argues that the collapse of America's global standing during this decade has real and measurable consequences in shriveled U.S. capacity to influence events worldwide. The United States had honored international legal commitments without harm to America's core interests from the presidencies of Truman and Eisenhower to those of Ford and Carter.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.tcf.org/publications/internationalaffairs/Jeff_Agenda_Long.pdf [PDF format, 19 pages].

Item#6

THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS: THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF). Congressional Research Service, RS22976, Library of Congress. Martin A. Weiss. October 27, 2008.

The report discusses two potential roles the International Monetary Fund (IMF) may have in helping to resolve the current global financial crisis: (1) immediate crisis control through balance of payments lending to emerging market and less-developed countries and (2) increased surveillance of the global economy through better coordination with the international financial regulatory agencies.

Full Text:

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS22976_20081027.pdf [PDF format, 6 pages].

Item#7

INSIDE OBAMA'S SWEEPING VICTORY. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. November 5, 2008.

Barack Obama captured the White House on the strength of a substantial electoral shift toward the Democratic Party and by winning a number of key groups in the middle of the electorate. Overall, 39% of voters were Democrats while 32% were Republicans, a dramatic shift from 2004 when the electorate was evenly divided. The Democratic advantage in Election Day party identification was significantly larger than in either of Bill Clinton's victories. Without a doubt, the overwhelming backing of younger voters was a critical factor in Obama's victory, according to an analysis of National Election Pool exit polls that were provided by National Public Radio. Obama drew two-thirds (66%) of the vote among those younger than age 30.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1023/exit-poll-analysis-2008> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#8

PRESIDENTIAL POWERS IN NATIONAL SECURITY: A GUIDE TO THE PRESIDENT ELECT. White House Transition Project, Law Library of Congress. Web posted November 3, 2008.

The report explains the effective use of military force and foreign policy initiatives to the building of consensus, public understanding, and acting within the law.

Full Text:

<http://www.loc.gov/law/help/usconlaw/pdf/presidential-power-national-security.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages].

Item#9

ROADMAP TO REFORM: A MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION. Partnership for Public Service. October 2008.

Effective government requires effective management. The transition from one presidential administration to the next offers an important opportunity for effective management. To help shape the next president's management framework, a number of leading government reform experts forged a consensus about critical federal workforce management

issues and actions our next president should take to improve government operations.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.ourpublicservice.org/OPS/programs/documents/PMI_RoadmaptoRef orm.pdf [PDF format, 25 pages].

Item#10

RUSSIAN-AMERICAN SECURITY RELATIONS AFTER GEORGIA. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Rose Gottemoeller Web posted November 4, 2008.

The crisis in Georgia bluntly revealed the failure by the United States and Russia to create a closer working relationship after the Cold War. With both countries now in presidential transition, the potential for new misunderstandings and tensions grows even greater. Established and well-understood treaties and agreements, which have previously inspired at least predictability and confidence in the bilateral relationship, could help establish a new book of rules both countries can embrace, explains Rose Gottemoeller.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/russia_us_security_relations_after_georgia.pdf [PDF format, 8 pages].

Item#11

STOCK MARKET FLUCTUATIONS AND RETIREE INCOME: AN UPDATE. Brookings Institution. Gary Burtless. Web posted November 4, 2008.

The recent plunge in home values and even bigger dive in stock prices offer painful reminders of why Social Security seemed like such a good idea in the 1930s. Benefits are predictable, are guaranteed by the government, and are adjusted every year to keep their purchasing power stable. In contrast, workers who count on the stock market to fund their retirement have seen their savings shrink more than 40% over the past year. The question is: what kind of retirement plan offers the best guarantee workers will receive a predictable and comfortable income when they grow old? Luckily for most older Americans, the cornerstone of their retirement income is still a Social Security check.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2008/1031_market_burtless/1031_market_burtless.pdf [PDF format, 13 pages].

Item#12

WHITE SUPREMACISTS VENT RAGE OVER OBAMA'S WIN. Anti-Defamation League. Web posted November 8, 2008.

In the aftermath of the election victory of Barack Obama, white supremacists rushed to online discussion forums to vent anger and disbelief that voters had chosen an African-American candidate as the next president of the U.S. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) says that anger among white supremacists and other right-wing extremists in response. According to ADL, racists are incredulous that Obama was elected primarily by white voters and are seething with anger at the prospect of an America led by an African-American man.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.adl.org/main_Extremism/rage.htm [HTML format, various paging].