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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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Title Index

Abolishing Nuclear Weapons: Why the United States Should Lead. [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace]. Web posted October 24, 2008.

Item#1

An Agreement Regarding the Temporary U.S. Presence in Iraq and Its Activities and Withdrawal from Iraq, Between the United States and the Iraqi Government. [American Friends Service Committee]. Web posted October 22, 2008.

Item#2

Anxiety Over Energy, Jobs, and Wealth Shakes America's Global Economic Confidence. [Chicago Council on Global Affairs]. Web posted October 15, 2008.

Item#3

Being Online is Not Enough. [Pew Center on the States]. October 17, 2008.

Item#4

Chinese National Strategy of Total War. [Air University Research Information Management System]. Web posted October 26, 2008.

Item#5

How to Successfully Stimulate the Economy. [Heritage Foundation]. October 24, 2008.

Item#6

International Labor Migration in a Globalizing Economy. [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace]. Web posted October 24, 2008.

Item#7

Is America Ready to Vote? [Brennan Center for Justice, New York University School of Law]. October 16, 2008.

Item#8

Taiwan-U.S. Relations: Recent Developments and Their Policy Implications. [Congressional Research Service, RL34683, Library of Congress]. Web posted October 19, 2008.

Item#9

The U.S. Financial Crisis: Lessons From Sweden. [Congressional Research Service, RS22962, Library of Congress]. Web posted October 17, 2008.

Item#10

Reports

Item#1

ABOLISHING NUCLEAR WEAPONS: WHY THE UNITED STATES SHOULD LEAD. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. George Perkovich. Web posted October 24, 2008.

Efforts to re-invigorate a movement to abolish nuclear weapons are rising on the international agenda. For states without weapons, talk of nuclear disarmament is embraced as a welcome change, but viewed with skepticism. The author outlines four security areas where the long-term project of abolishing nuclear weapons would best serve U.S. interests: preventing proliferation, preventing nuclear terrorism, reducing toward zero the threat of nuclear annihilation, and fostering new optimism for U.S. global leadership.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

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

Item#2

AN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TEMPORARY U.S. PRESENCE IN IRAQ AND ITS ACTIVITIES AND WITHDRAWAL FROM IRAQ, BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT. American Friends Service Committee. Web posted October 22, 2008.

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), an international peace and social justice organization, has posted the first public English translation of the latest status of forces agreement between the U.S and Iraqi administrations on its web site. If ratified in Iraq, the agreement would permit U.S. troops to remain the country once the United Nations mandate ends this year and may begin the process of establishing permanent U.S. military bases there. The Arabic-language version of this document appeared in a major daily newspaper, Al-Sabah Al-Jadeed.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://www.afsc.org/ht/a/GetDocumentAction/i/69064> [PDF format, 17 pages].

Item#3

ANXIETY OVER ENERGY, JOBS, AND WEALTH SHAKES AMERICA'S GLOBAL ECONOMIC

CONFIDENCE. Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Web posted October 15, 2008.

The report shows that economic anxiety is causing Americans to shift their foreign policy views and priorities. Energy has emerged as a major source of concern, along with jobs and an unfair distribution of wealth. These concerns are negatively impacting views of globalization, immigration, NAFTA, and the U.S. economic future. The American public's unease is evident in the strong majority (64%) that believes that the distribution of income and wealth in the U.S. has become less fair. Eighty-two percent of those who believe this indicate that globalization and international trade are "very" or "somewhat" important to their assessment.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/UserFiles/File/POS_Topline%20Reports/POS%202008/2008%20Public%20Opinion_Economic.pdf [PDF format, 8 pages].

Item#4

BEING ONLINE IS NOT ENOUGH. PEW CENTER ON THE STATES. Sue Urahn et al. October 17, 2008.

State elections websites are often too difficult for voters to find and use to answer questions such as whether they are registered to vote, where to vote and what will be on the ballot, according to the study. It analyzes 50-state elections websites' usability and finds that when voters cannot easily locate information online, it diverts limited resources to operate help lines which can cost as much as \$100 per call in staffer time.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Election_reform/VIP_FINAL_101408_WEB.pdf [PDF format, 36 pages].

Item#5

CHINESE NATIONAL STRATEGY OF TOTAL WAR. Air University Research Information Management System. Michael J. Good. Web posted October 26, 2008.

The recent trends in the growth of China's national power across all elements are analyzed to determine if there is an underlying national strategy based on the Chinese concept of total warfare. The research seeks to determine if China is currently engaged in a total war with the United States across nontraditional forms of conflict including economic, political, information, financial, cyber, and industrial warfare. The results indicate that China does possess a long term national strategy for engagement in a total war with the United States consistent with Chinese military strategy, and is actively pursuing this strategy across all elements of national power.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<https://www.afresearch.org/skins/rims/display.aspx?ModuleID=be0e99f3-fc56-4ccb-8dfe-670c0822a153&Action=researchproject&ObjectID=f2bb9596->

[5d11-4a87-aeb1-587bd06add3](#) [Website, click to view PDF format, 66 pages].

Item#6

HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY STIMULATE THE ECONOMY. Heritage Foundation. William W. Beach. October 24, 2008.

When the economy is struggling, Congress has a tendency to invoke the same tried and failed policies of the past. Typically, these policies promise hundreds of billions of dollars in government spending while doing little to actually revitalize economic activity. According to Beach, the test for distinguishing good stimulus ideas from bad ones should be this: Is the proposal likely to raise the economy to a sustained, higher level of growth?

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.heritage.org/Research/Economy/upload/wm_2113.pdf [PDF format, 3 pages].

Item#7

INTERNATIONAL LABOR MIGRATION IN A GLOBALIZING ECONOMY. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Robert E. B. Lucas. Web posted October 24, 2008.

As globalization spread dramatically over the last twenty years, migration expanded less rapidly than either trade or foreign investment. Nonetheless, the migration remains contentious, often being blamed for income stagnation, even as some economists praise it as the fastest route to raising world incomes. Money sent by migrants to their home countries can promote rapid growth in developing regions, and the withdrawal of laborers can induce higher wages or less underemployment for those left behind. However, the flow of money can dry up quickly and unexpectedly, as has happened recently in Mexico.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/international_migration_globalizing_economy.pdf [PDF format, 32 pages].

Item#8

IS AMERICA READY TO VOTE? Brennan Center for Justice, New York University School of Law. October 16, 2008.

With millions of Americans expected to confront an array of voting technologies on Nov. 4, election experts from the Brennan Center for Justice gives 50-state report card that grades every state on its preparedness to respond to Election Day voting system problems like broken machines, software malfunctions, or long lines that result from voting equipment breakdowns or misallocation of machines.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/is_america_ready_to_vote [HTML format, various paging].

Item#9

TAIWAN-U.S. REALTIONS: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND THEIR POLICY

IMPLICATIONS. Congressional Research Service, RL34683, Library of Congress]. Kerry Dumbaugh. Web posted October 19, 2008.

U.S.-Taiwan relations have undergone important changes, sparked in part by the increasing complexity of Taiwan's democratic political environment and the continued insistence of Beijing that the separately ruled Taiwan is a part of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou, elected on March 22, 2008, in a surprisingly broad electoral victory, has moved quickly to repair Taiwan's relations with the PRC. The Taiwan government also is seeking to raise its international profile in other ways involving the United States.

Full-Text:

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL34683_20080925.pdf [PDF format, 30 pages].

Item#10

THE U.S. FINANCIAL CRISIS: LESSONS FROM SWEDEN. Congressional Research Service, RS22962, Library of Congress]. James K. Jackson. Web posted October 17, 2008.

In the early 1990s, Sweden faced a banking and exchange rate crisis that led it to rescue banks that had experienced large losses on their balance sheets and that threatened a collapse of the banking system. Some analysts and others argue that Sweden's experience could provide useful lessons for the execution and implementation of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. The banking crisis facing the United States is unique, so there are no exact parallels from which to draw templates. Sweden's experience, however, represents a case study in how a systemic banking crisis was resolved in a developed country with democratic institutions. The report provides an overview of the Swedish banking crisis and an explanation of the measures Sweden used to restore its banking system to health.

Full Text:

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS22962_20080929.pdf [PDF format, 6 pages].