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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

The Anxious American Worker. [Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University]. Web posted August 27, 2008.

Item#1

Bank Survey Shows Tightening Lending Standards. [Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta]. Web posted September 2, 2008.

Item#2

Economic Impacts of Immigration: A Survey. [Harvard Business School]. Web posted September 2, 2008.

Item#3

Education at a Glance 2008: OECD Indicators. [Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development]. Web posted September 9, 2008.

Item#4

Media and Democracy in America Today: A Reform Plan for a New Administration. [Common Cause Education Fund]. Web posted August 29, 2008.

Item#5

Oil's Trouble Spots. [Council on Foreign Relations]. Web posted August 29, 2008.

Item#6

A Report on the 2008 Presidential Nomination Ads: Ads More Negative than Previous Years. [Brookings Institution]. September 4, 2008.

Item#7

Rising Income Inequality in China: A Race to the Top. [World Bank]. Web posted August 26, 2008.

Item#8

Securing the Future: A Primer on Security Sector Reform in Conflict Countries. [U.S. Institute of Peace]. September 2008.

Item#9

South Korea's Miraculous Democracy. [RAND Corporation]. Web posted August 31, 2008.

Item#10

Reports

Item#1

THE ANXIOUS AMERICAN WORKER. Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University. Krista Jenkins et al. Web posted August 27, 2008.

The report presents the latest snapshots of the American worker. It is framed by overall disquiet about the economy, depicting anxious workers trying to adjust to change in their current jobs and to uncertainty about their future work life. The survey finds a widely shared belief among U.S. workers that they need additional education or training to remain successful, and that they are underpaid for what they do. The responses also reflect an inability or unwillingness to adequately prepare for retirement. Overall job satisfaction remains high, with 91% reporting that they are satisfied with their job, with 40% of workers very satisfied with opportunities for job training and education. However, there is a great deal of anxiety in the workforce as the general election of 2008 comes closer.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://www.heldrich.rutgers.edu/uploadedFiles/Publications/Work%20Trends%20August%202008.pdf> [PDF format, 40 pages].

Item#2

BANK SURVEY SHOWS TIGHTENING LENDING STANDARDS. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Web posted September 2, 2008.

The credit crunch that has constricted the economy in 2008 continues, according to the survey. The survey, which covers 52 U.S. banks with combined assets of \$6.1 trillion and 21 foreign financial institutions doing business in the United States, finds increasing caution in banks' approaches to making loans. For example, about three-quarters of U.S. banks said they became stricter on prime mortgage loans, which is an increase from 60 percent who cited stricter standards in the April survey.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.frbatlanta.org/invoke.cfm?objectid=E688C172-5056-9F12-12342630347D617A&method=display_body [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF IMMIGRATION: A SURVEY. Harvard Business School. Sari Pekkala Kerr and William R. Kerr. Web posted September 2, 2008.

The paper surveys recent empirical studies on the economic impacts of immigration. Particular emphasis is given to the experiences of Northern Europe and Scandinavia. The survey first examines the

magnitude of immigration as an economic phenomenon in various host countries. The second part deals with the assimilation of immigrant workers in host-country labor markets and the use of social benefits by immigrants. The survey then considers the effect of immigration on the labor market outcomes of natives. The paper concludes with studies of immigration's impact for the public sector of host countries.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://www.hbs.edu/research/pdf/09-013.pdf> [PDF format, 37 pages].

Item#4

EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2008: OECD INDICATORS. Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development. Web posted September 9, 2008.

Across OECD countries, governments are seeking policies to make education more effective while searching for additional resources to meet the increasing demand for education. The study enables countries to see themselves in the light of other countries' performance. It provides a comparable and up-to-date array of indicators on the performance of education systems and represents the consensus of professional thinking on how to measure the current state of education internationally.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.oecd.org/document/9/0,3343,en_2649_39263238_41266761_1_1_1_1_00.html#5 [HTML format, Individual Chapter PDF files].

Item#5

MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA TODAY: A REFORM PLAN FOR A NEW ADMINISTRATION. Common Cause Education Fund. Web posted August 29, 2008.

The report lays out a plan of action for the next President and Congress to take to ensure the media performs its appropriate role in our democracy. Congress is currently considering a "Resolution of Disapproval" of the Federal Communication Commission's new media ownership rules. The report calls for the passage of House Joint Resolution 79, which would overturn the FCC's new rules and halt further media consolidation.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://www.commoncause.org/atf/cf/%7Bfb3c17e2-cdd1-4df6-92be-bd4429893665%7D/MEDIAPLAN082108.PDF> [PDF format, 32 pages].

Item#6

OIL'S TROUBLE SPOTS. Council on Foreign Relations. Toni Johnson. Web posted August 29, 2008.

Rising dependence on oil and soaring gasoline costs have the potential for oil supply disruptions. Hence, the stability of energy-rich regions poses major concerns. Certain areas are particularly vulnerable, one of which is the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf, through which tankers carry 20 percent of the world's oil. Analysts say the Niger Delta, Iraq, and Venezuela remain vulnerable as well. With global

supplies of oil already tight, potential supply disruptions could lead to significant increases in already volatile oil prices.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/17068/oils_trouble_spots.html?breadcrumb=%2F [HTML format, various paging].

Item#7

A REPORT ON THE 2008 PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS ADS: ADS MORE NEGATIVE THAN PREVIOUS YEARS. Brookings Institution. September 4, 2008.

Few aspects of campaigns attract as much discussion as television advertisements. Political spots generally represent the largest single expenditure by candidates and often generate considerable news coverage. According to the report, many observers are not happy with the quality of information presented in ads or the tone of political discourse. Critics worry that the emergence of 30-second commercials undermines substantive discourse and leads to campaigns that are overly negative. Both raise potential problems for democratic elections.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2008/0630_campaignads_west.aspx [HTML format, various paging].

Item#8

RISING INCOME INEQUALITY IN CHINA: A RACE TO THE TOP. World Bank. Xubei Luo and Nong Zhu. Web posted August 27, 2008.

Income inequality in China has risen rapidly in the past decades across regions, between rural and urban sectors, and within provinces. The dynamics of divergence across these sub-national areas have taken the form of a "race to the top." An analysis based on household income determination shows that the increase in returns to education explains two-thirds of income changes in urban areas and one-sixth in rural areas. The widening income gaps are the consequence of higher growth in leading urban and coastal areas and that the skilled population has benefited more from the economic reforms carried out during the last 25 years.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/IW3P/IB/2008/08/25/000158349_20080825160141/Rendered/PDF/WPS4700.pdf [PDF format, 26 pages].

Item#9

SECURING THE FUTURE: A PRIMER ON SECURITY SECTOR REFORM IN CONFLICT COUNTRIES. U.S. Institute of Peace. Sean McFate. September 2008.

The report serves as a primer toward understanding security sector reform (SSR) in societies emerging from conflict, a rapidly expanding field of importance. The report provides background on SSR today. It is based on statements by panelists at a public forum held at the United States Institute of Peace and on interviews conducted by the author

with government agencies, commercial contract firms, international organizations, and host governments that participate in the SSR programs.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr209.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages].

Item#10

SOUTH KOREA'S MIRACULOUS DEMOCRACY. RAND Corporation. Hahm Chaibong. Web posted August 31, 2008.

According to the author, despite South Korea's messy democratic trajectory, it has miraculously achieved consolidation. South Korea's democracy has turned obstacles into opportunities for reform and development. The major development is that the turnover of power during the past two decades has enabled all major political figures, factions, and parties to take turns governing the country, making them "responsible stakeholders."

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.rand.org/pubs/reprints/2008/RAND_RP1370.pdf [PDF format, 16 pages].