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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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Reports

Item#1

2008 REPORT TO CONGRESS ON CHINA'S WTO COMPLIANCE. U.S. Trade Representative. December 2008.

The report is the statutorily-mandated annual report on China's compliance with its World Trade Organization accession obligations. The report highlights the status of China's ongoing efforts in such areas as intellectual property rights, industrial policy, agriculture, and services.

Full Text:

http://www.ustr.gov/assets/Document_Library/Reports_Publications/2008/asst_upload_file192_15258.pdf [PDF format, 115 pages].

Item#2

AMERICAN MOBILITY: WHO MOVES? WHO STAYS PUT? WHERE'S HOME? Pew Research Center. Paul Taylor et al. December 25, 2008.

As a nation, the United States is often portrayed as restless and rootless. Census data, though, indicate that Americans are settling down. Only 13% of Americans changed residences between 2006 and 2007, the smallest share since the government began tracking this trend in the late 1940s. The Pew survey finds that most Americans have moved to a new community at least once in their lives, although a notable number, nearly four-in-ten, have never left the place in which they were born. Asked why they live where they do, movers most often cite the pull of economic opportunity. The stayers most often cite the tug of family and connections.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://pewsocialtrends.org/assets/pdf/Movers-and-Stayers.pdf> [PDF format, 44 pages].

Item#3

BENCHMARKING FOR SUCCESS: ENSURING U.S. STUDENTS RECEIVE A WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION. International Benchmarking Advisory Group and National Governors Association. Web posted December 22, 2008.

Underscoring the link between a world-class education and a sound U.S. economy, leading education experts issue a report offering sweeping recommendations to internationally benchmark educational performance. The study provides states a roadmap for benchmarking their K-12 education systems against those of top-performing nations. The report explains the urgent need for action and outlines what states and the federal government must do to ensure U.S. students receive a world-class education that provides expanded opportunities for college and career success.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0812BENCHMARKING.PDF> [PDF format, 52 pages].

Item#4

CHINESE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE: HISTORY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK. RAND Corporation. Yong Kang et al. Web posted December 4, 2008.

The Chinese economy has been growing rapidly in recent years, as the nation has moved toward a stronger role for private enterprise and capitalism. As China has aligned itself more closely with the international economy, it has also sought to adopt more Western-style oversight mechanisms and legal standards concerning the operation of its corporations. Corporate governance is critically important to a country's economic growth and stability, because it provides the credibility and confidence in management that is fundamental to capital markets. The study provides an overview of corporate governance mechanisms in China.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2008/RAND_TR618.pdf [PDF format, 62 pages].

Item#5

COMING TO OUR SENSES: EDUCATION AND THE AMERICAN FUTURE. College Board. December 2008.

The board recommends that the United States must take immediate action to reverse its fall from the top ranks of countries with a college-educated workforce. If postsecondary success is not made a national priority, our country's economic and social health will continue to weaken. The report provides recommendations to strengthen our education system across, increase the number of students earning postsecondary degrees or certificates and regain our global competitive edge for the 21st century.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/coming-to-our-senses-college-board-2008.pdf> [PDF format, 51 pages].

Item#6

DYNAMIC GLOBALIZATIONS AND ITS POTENTIALLY ALARMING PROSPECTS FOR LOW-

WAGE WORKERS. National Bureau of Economic Research. Hans Fehr et al. December 2008.

According to the authors, incomes of low and high skilled workers continue to diverge as shown by dynamic, six-good, five-region, U.S., Europe, N.E. Asia (Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong), China, and India, general equilibrium, life-cycle model. The model predicts a near doubling of the ratio of high- to low-skilled wages over the century. Increasing wage inequality arises from a traditional source, a rising worldwide relative supply of unskilled labor, reflecting Chinese and Indian productivity improvements.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w14527.pdf> [PDF format, 40 pages].

Item#7

HAMAS AND ISRAEL: CONFLICTING STRATEGIES OF GROUP-BASED POLITICS. Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College. Sherifa Zuhur. December 2008.

Efforts to separate HAMAS from its popular support and network of social and charitable organizations have not been effective in destroying the organization, nor in eradicating the will to resist among a fairly large segment of the Palestinian population. According to the author, it is important to consider this Islamist movement in the context of a region-wide phenomenon of similar movements with local goals, which can be persuaded to relinquish violence or which could become more violent. The Palestinian-Israeli conflict bears similarities to a long-standing civil conflict, even as it has sparked inter-Palestinian hostilities in its most recent phase.

Full Text:

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdf/files/PUB894.pdf> [PDF format, 107 pages].

Item#8

IT'S NOT JUST ECONOMY: TACKLING THE CRISIS OF GLOBAL ORDER. Brookings Institution. Bruce Jones et al. December 9, 2008.

The heads of state of the world's twenty leading economies came together in November to begin the process of enhancing the ability of international financial institutions to ensure the stability of capital markets. The leaders were spurred to action by the deepest crisis of the global economy since the Great Depression. Fortunately, there is another truism of politics: leadership matters. President-elect Obama has written incisively that protecting American security depends on promoting global security. The international response to the election shows a pent-up demand for U.S. leadership. The job ahead is daunting but do-able. Forging effective cooperation against transnational threats is the leadership challenge of our time, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2008/1209_global_crisis_mgi.aspx [HTML format, various paging].

Item#9

MEMO TO THE PRESIDENT: REDEFINE AMERICA'S GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION. Brookings Institution. Colin I. Bradford. December 10, 2008.

America has made an awkward entrance into the 21st century. Bradford claims that the U.S.'s biggest security threat has become the United States itself. The unilateralist foreign policy of recent years has generated opposition and weakened our global standing. At the same time, the financial crisis has increased doubts about whether globalization really has a human face. The challenge now is to reverse these trends and redefine America's role in the world. To effectively address global expectations, U.S. must launch a fresh start to U.S. relations with the non-Western, developing world, recommends the study.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2008/1210_global_development_memo.aspx
[HTML format, various paging].

Item#10

PACIFIC CURRENTS: THE RESPONSES OF U.S. ALLIES AND SECURITY PARTNERS IN EAST ASIA TO CHINA'S RISE. RAND Corporation. Evan S. Medeiros et al. Web posted November 24, 2008.

China's economic, military, and diplomatic power has been on the rise, and many worry that it is nudging aside U.S. influence in the Asia-Pacific region. The authors examine six specific U.S. allies and partners: Australia, Japan, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, and Thailand. They examine the responses in each nation to China's rise and assessed the implications for U.S. regional security interests. The six nations see China primarily as a source of economic opportunity, but many have concerns about China's regional goals. They want China to be engaged regionally in productive ways but do not want to allow it to become dominant. They find U.S. security commitments reassuring, bolstering their ability to engage China with confidence.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG736.pdf [PDF format, 309 pages].

Item#11

PROSPECTS FOR THE U.S. AND THE WORLD: A CRISIS THAT CONVENTIONAL REMEDIES CANNOT RESOLVE. Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. Wynne Godley et al. December 2008.

The economic recovery plans currently under consideration by the United States and many other countries seem to be concentrated on the possibility of using expansionary fiscal and monetary policies alone. The Levy Institute's Macro-Modeling Team argues that, however well coordinated, this approach will not be sufficient; what's required, they say, is a worldwide recovery of output, combined with sustainable balances in international trade.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.levy.org/pubs/sa_dec_08.pdf [PDF format, 11 pages].

Item#12

WHEN GIANTS FALL. Economic Policy Institute. Robert E. Scott. December 2008.

If bankruptcy shuttered one or more U.S. auto-makers, the effect would be the loss of up to 3.3 million jobs in the U.S. within the next year, according to a study. Michigan alone could lose over 400,000 jobs, and stands to be the hardest hit state both in the number of jobs lost and the share of total state employment (8.9%) lost. The report lists possible job losses in each state and the District of Columbia. When the wages from those auto sector jobs dry up, an additional 576,700 to 2.1 million "re-spending" jobs would be lost. These are jobs that would have been supported by the spending of auto and related workers. Tax losses and increased government payments would exceed \$150 billion in the first three years following bankruptcy of all three domestic auto companies. Without cars to export, the U.S. trade deficit would rise by \$109.3 billion, according to the author.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://www.epi.org/briefingpapers/227/bp227.pdf> [PDF format, 14 pages].