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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**

Building a Digital Europe. [RAND Corporation]. June 3, 2009

**Item#1**

Economic Slowdown Widespread Among States in 2008. [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis]. June 2, 2009.

**Item#2**

The Effects Of Proposals To Increase Cost Sharing In TRICARE. Congressional Budget Office. June 2009.

**Item#3**

International Volunteer Service: A Smart Way to Build Bridges. [Brookings Institute]. June 2009.

**Item#4**

Iran's Presidential Election: What To Watch For. Brookings Institute. June 5, 2009.

**Item#5**

Justice Interrupted: Historical Perspectives on Promoting Democracy in the Middle East. [U.S. Institute of Peace]. June 2009.

**Item#6**

Muslims Loved Obama's Words, But Are Waiting For Actions. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. June 8, 2009.

**Item#7**

New Challenges For 'Made In China.' Knowledge at Wharton, University of Pennsylvania. June 2009.

**Item#8**

North Korea Collapse Scenarios. Brookings Institute. June 2009.

**Item#9**

Obama in Mideast: A Focus on Arab Peace Plan and Reform. [Council on Foreign Relations]. June 2, 2009.

**Item#10**

Transforming Our Schools. American Association of School Administrators. June 4, 2009.

**Item#11**

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**Reports**

**Item#1**

BUILDING A DIGITAL EUROPE. RAND Corporation. Neil Robinson et al. June 3, 2009.

This paper presents pointers on what is required to deliver a secure e-Government environment for mobile European citizens, based on the lessons learned from existing services and initiatives and identified challenges in the national and pan-European environments.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical\\_reports/2009/RAND\\_TR597.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2009/RAND_TR597.pdf) [PDF format, 39 pages].

**Item#2**

ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN WIDESPREAD AMONG STATES IN 2008. U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. June 2, 2009.

New statistics released by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis show that economic growth slowed in most states and regions of the U.S. in 2008 as economic growth overall slowed. Real GDP growth slowed in 38 states, with downturns in construction, manufacturing, and finance and insurance restraining growth in many states. Growth in real U.S. GDP by state slowed from 2.0 percent in 2007 to 0.7 percent in 2008.

Full Text:

[http://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/regional/gdp\\_state/2009/gsp0609.htm](http://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/regional/gdp_state/2009/gsp0609.htm) [HTML format, various paging].

**Item#3**

THE EFFECTS OF PROPOSALS TO INCREASE COST SHARING IN TRICARE. Congressional Budget Office. June 2009.

With the growth of health care costs outstripping the rate of growth of the economy, many policymakers worry that the current TRICARE program, which provides health care for the uniformed services, military retirees, and their families, will become unaffordable in the future. In its budget submissions for 2007, 2008, and 2009, the Department of Defense (DoD) proposed that the enrollment fees, deductibles, and copayments of some TRICARE beneficiaries be increased to encourage more efficient use of the system and to reduce medical spending. The President's budget request for fiscal year 2010 did not include a similar proposal, but the issue of how to address the military's growing health care costs remains unresolved.

Full Text:

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/102xx/doc10261/TRICARE.pdf> [PDF format, 34 pages].

**Item#4**

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE: A SMART WAY TO BUILD BRIDGES. Brookings Institute. David Caprara et al. June 2009.

President Obama has proposed expanding the Peace Corps and building a global network of volunteers, "so that Americans work side-by-side with volunteers from other countries." The authors examine alternative service models, both domestic and foreign, and offer recommendations to the Obama Administration for harnessing the energy and skills of Americans eager to engage in volunteer work in foreign countries as part of a multilateral mobilization effort and smart power diplomacy.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/06\\_volunteering\\_caprara/06\\_volunteering\\_caprara.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/06_volunteering_caprara/06_volunteering_caprara.pdf) [PDF format, 10 pages].

**Item#5**

IRAN'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: WHAT TO WATCH FOR. Brookings Institute. Suzanne Maloney. June 5, 2009.

Iranians go to the polls on June 12 in what is shaping up to be the most contentious ballot in the thirty years since the overthrow of the Pahlavi monarchy and the establishment of the world's first modern theocracy. The ballot will determine the political fate of Iran's provocative president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and more broadly will signal the future of the country's volatile political course and the prospects for improvement in its long-troubled relationship with Washington, according to the report.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

[http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0605\\_iran\\_elections\\_maloney.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/0605_iran_elections_maloney.aspx) [HTML format, various paging].

#### **Item#6**

JUSTICE INTERRUPTED: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON PROMOTING DEMOCRACY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. U.S. Institute of Peace. Elizabeth F. Thompson. June 2009.

Foreign affairs experts routinely use historical analogy to develop and justify policy. However, as professional historians have long noted, attractive analogies often lead to bad policies. Officials regularly choose analogies that neglect or distort the historical case they aim to illuminate. Nonetheless, history can be used effectively in international relations, says the author.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

<http://library.usip.org/articles/1012235.1110/1.PDF> [PDF format, 12 pages].

#### **Item#7**

MUSLIMS LOVED OBAMA'S WORDS, BUT ARE WAITING FOR ACTIONS. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Amr Hamzawy. June 8, 2009.

Arab governments greeted Barack Obama's much-anticipated Muslim world at Cairo University last week as a clear sign of the new U.S. administration's intention to reset America's relations with the Arab and Muslim worlds. But there are significant differences between the reactions of America's moderate friends in the region and those of its radical foes.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

<http://www.carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=23237&prog=zgp&proj=zme> [HTML format, various paging].

#### **Item#8**

NEW CHALLENGES FOR 'MADE IN CHINA.' Knowledge at Wharton, University of Pennsylvania. June 2009.

Manufacturers in China, whether foreign or domestically owned, face a series of key challenges in the years immediately ahead. Major tests involving product quality and safety, energy costs and environmental viability all come against the backdrop of a difficult world economy. Yet, while world

demand for Chinese products has dipped in the short term, the long-term need to hold down costs while meeting shifting customer requirements has never been greater. In the report, experts from Wharton and The Boston Consulting Group look at how this growing list of challenges will change the way manufacturers must think about their operations in China.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

<http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/papers/download/BCGChina20090603.pdf> [PDF format, 22 pages].

#### **Item#9**

NORTH KOREA COLLAPSE SCENARIOS. Brookings Institute. Michael E. O'Hanlon. June 2009.

Regime change in North Korea is inevitable, according to the report. It is impossible for analysts to know how or when the current leadership will cease to rule the country; a stable and incremental evolution to a more humane regime is hoped for, but we cannot rule out the possibility of a sudden collapse of the North Korean state. Such a scenario is only one of many, and it is probably not even the most likely one, but North Korea's continued development of nuclear devices makes the cost of mishandling a possible collapse so high that all contingencies must be planned for.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

[http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/06\\_north\\_korea\\_ohanlon.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/06_north_korea_ohanlon.aspx) [HTML format, various paging].

#### **Item#10**

OBAMA IN MIDEAST: A FOCUS ON ARAB PEACE PLAN AND REFORM. Council on Foreign Relations. Bernard Gwertzman interviews Steven A. Cook. June 2, 2009.

Middle East expert Steven A. Cook says President Barack Obama's trip to Saudi Arabia and Egypt this week will attempt to bring new energy to resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and has an opportunity to deliver a message on democracy in the Muslim world. On specific concerns, Cook says, he will seek to reassure allies like King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia that the United States will not forsake Saudi and other Gulf security concerns as it tries to engage Iran in negotiations on its nuclear program.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

[http://www.cfr.org/publication/19550/obama\\_in\\_mideast.html?breadcrumb=%2F](http://www.cfr.org/publication/19550/obama_in_mideast.html?breadcrumb=%2F) [HTML format, various paging].

**Item#11**

TRANSFORMING OUR SCHOOLS. American Association of School Administrators. June 4, 2009.

The report takes an in-depth look at the challenges facing today's school superintendents as they work to transform the nation's public schools. The report summarizes discussions held among the country's top public school superintendents at the 2008 National Superintendent of the Year Forum, an intensive, three-day leadership event. The 2008 State Superintendents of the Year from urban, suburban and rural school systems participated in interactive discussions on best practices for transforming their schools to meet the needs of all students. Transforming a school district takes leadership, commitment and time. It also requires the support of stakeholders, the participants noted.

[Note: contains copyright material].

Full Text:

<http://www.aasa.org/files/PDFs/Awards/SOY/2008SOYForum.pdf> [PDF format, 20 pages].