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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

AS OBAMA TAKES OFFICE, GLOBAL PRESS TURNS TO REGIONAL CONCERNS. Pew Global Attitudes Project. January 22, 2009.

The celebratory tone that characterized international media coverage of Barack Obama's historic election victory was again pervasive in many of the stories about his inauguration as the 44th American president. "The United States has got its groove back," according to Germany's Der Spiegel. However, many newspapers also noted the more somber tone of Obama's speech, and were themselves relatively somber about the enormous challenges and inflated expectations facing the new president.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1088/global-press-inauguration-reaction>

[HTML format, various paging].

Item#2

CHINA'S MILITARY POWER. Backgrounder, Council on Foreign Relations. Jayshree Bajoria. February 4, 2009.

Since the 1990s, China has dramatically improved its military capabilities on land and sea, in the air, and in space. Recently, China has begun to project its military power beyond the Pacific Ocean by deploying a flotilla of small warships in December 2008 to the Gulf of Aden to aid in international efforts to fight Somali piracy. Historically, the United States is most concerned about the possibility of a conflict between China and Taiwan, though tensions between the two have lessened since 2008. But looking decades ahead, U.S. military planners clearly see the potential for China to develop as a "peer competitor."

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/18459/chinas_military_power.html?breadc

[umb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fbackgrounder](http://www.cfr.org/publication/18459/chinas_military_power.html?breadc) [HTML format, various paging].

Item#3

COMMON CHALLENGE, COLLABORATIVE RESPONSES: A ROADMAP FOR U.S.-CHINA COOPERATION ON ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE. Pew Center on Global Climate Change. February 5, 2009.

The report presents a vision and a concrete roadmap for U.S.-China collaboration focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the effects of climate change. Experts and key stakeholders from the worlds of science, business, civil society, policy, and politics in both China and the United States contributed to the report, or "Roadmap," that explores the climate and energy challenges facing both nations and recommends a concrete program for sustained, high-level, bilateral engagement and on-the-ground action.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/US-China-Roadmap-Feb09.pdf> [PDF format, 58 pages].

Item#4

DOMESTICS TRENDS IN THE UNITED STATES, CHINA, AND IRAN: IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. NAVY STRATEGIC PLANNING. RAND Corporation. John Gordon IV et al. January 23, 2009.

How well the U.S. Navy prepares for a high-end future conflict against a powerful, well-armed opponent versus the so-called Long War against rogue nations and terrorist organizations depends on the evolution of U.S. relations with China and Iran. The report examines emerging nonmilitary trends in each of the three countries. The authors investigate current and projected domestic developments in the areas of demographics, economics, energy consumption, the environment, and education.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG729.pdf [PDF format, 234 pages].

Item#5

DOUBLE JEOPARDY: WHAT THE CLIMATE CRISIS MEANS FOR THE POOR. Brookings Institution. Vinca LaFleur et al. Web posted February 3, 2009.

More than fifty preeminent policymakers, practitioners, and thought leaders from around the world convened at the Aspen Institute to explore the links between global climate change and poverty alleviation. According to the report, the roundtable sought to shape a common agenda to tackle two of the greatest challenges, climate change and poverty, of our time.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/02_climate_change_poverty/02_climate_change_poverty.pdf [PDF format, 44 pages].

Item#6

EUROPE, THE UNITED STATES, AND MIDDLE EASTERN DEMOCRACY: REPAIRING THE BREACH. Saban Center for Middle East Policy, Brookings Institution. Tamara Wittes and Richard Youngs. January 2009.

Tensions between the United States and the European Union since the 2003 war in Iraq affected many arenas of Middle East policy, but perhaps none has come to encapsulate those tensions as much as the

quest to advance democracy in the region. The study looks beyond the Iraq-related deterioration in the transatlantic relationship in order to assess the real similarities and differences in the two actors' democracy promotion strategies in the Middle East.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2009/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/01_middle_eastern_democracy_wittes/01_middle_eastern_democracy_wittes.pdf

[PDF format, 34 pages].

Item#7

HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS OVER U.S. IMPORTS OF CHINESE PRODUCTS: AN OVERVIEW. Congressional Research Service, RS22713, Library of Congress. Wayne M. Morrison. Web posted January 29, 2009.

China is a major source of United States imports of consumer products, such as toys, and an increasingly important supplier of various food products. Reports of unsafe seafood, pet food, toys, tires, and other products imported from China over the past year or so have raised concern in the U.S. over the health, safety, and quality of imported Chinese products. The report provides an overview of this issue and implications for U.S.-China trade relations and will be updated as events warrant.

Full Text:

http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RS22713_20090113.pdf [PDF format, 10 pages].

Item#8

NORTH KOREA AFTER KIM. Council on Foreign Relations. Jayshree Bajoria. January 28, 2009.

Speculation over Kim Jong-Il's health has prompts discussion about the future of the isolated country and its nuclear weapons program. Most experts believe a post-Kim North Korea regime would remain a tough nuclear negotiator.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.cfr.org/publication/17322/north_korea_after_kim.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fbackgrounder [HTML format, various paging].

Item#9

OBAMA'S JOB CREATION PROMISE: A MODEST PROPOSAL TO GUARANTEE THAT HE MEETS AND EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS. Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. Pavlina R. Tcherneva. January 2009.

Job creation is once again at the forefront of policy action, and for advocates of pro-employment policies, President Obama's Keynesian bent is a most welcome change. However, there are concerns that Obama's plan simply does not go far enough, and that a large-scale public investment program may face shortages of skilled labor, put upward pressure on wages, and leave women and minorities behind. Both concerns can be addressed by a simple amendment to the Obama plan that will bring important additional benefits, suggest the report.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.levy.org/pubs/pn_09_01.pdf [PDF format, 7 pages].

Item#10

REVERSING THE DECLINE: AN AGENDA FOR U.S.-RUSSIAN RELATIONS IN 2009. Brookings Institution. Steven Pifer. January 2009.

The policy paper studies how renewing the spirit of cooperation between Russia and the United States might be achieved. The paper is divided into four chapters, including "What Does Russia Want?" and "Implementing the Agenda." Among other recommendations, the author suggests that the new presidential administration might offer a revived nuclear arms control dialogue and also work on expanding commercial links between the two countries.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/01_us_russia_relations_pifer/01_us_russia_relations_pifer.pdf [PDF format, 38 pages].

Item#11

VOLUNTEERING IN THE UNITED STATES, 2008. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. January 2009.

About 61.8 million people, or 26.4 percent of the population, volunteered through or for an organization at least once between September 2007 and September 2008, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Both the level and rate of volunteering were essentially unchanged from the prior year.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Full Text:

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/volun.nr0.htm> [HTML format, various paging].