

ARTICLE ALERT # 16

The Article Alert is a compilation of articles and reports published by different journals and Think Tanks. The following topics are covered by this alert:

1. [Foreign Policy](#)
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If you have questions, please contact us at: mkrtchyana@usa.am

August/September 2010

I. FOREIGN POLICY

Al Qaeda Targeting Israel: Between Rhetoric and Reality

By Matthew Levitt
(Orbis, Summer 2010)

"Al Qaeda leaders have often stated their desire to attack the state of Israel. But, while the intent and imperative of killing Israelis and Jews features prominently in al Qaeda rhetoric, it has rarely translated into operational attacks on the state of Israel, its citizens abroad, or Jews more generally."

[Full text available upon request](#)

America at War. Can Withdrawal from Afghanistan Begin Next July?

(CQ Researcher, August 13, 2010)

Americans' discontent over the war in Iraq helped propel Barack Obama into the White House. U.S. forces now are preparing to leave Iraq next year, but they may remain in Afghanistan longer than many Obama supporters had hoped. In recent weeks, heavy resistance has delayed anti-Taliban operations. At the same time, relations between the United States and Afghan President Hamid Karzai remain tense, partly because of U.S. worries over corruption in his government. Overall, Afghanistan is proving a bigger challenge than Obama might have anticipated when he said a military surge now under way would be followed by a troop "drawdown" in July 2011.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Bringing Israel's Bomb Out of the Basement

By Avner Cohen and Marvin Miller
(Foreign Affairs, September/October 2010)

Soon after its formation, Israel set out on a program to acquire nuclear weapons, out of fear of attack by hostile neighbors, yet was unsettled by the prospect of killing large numbers of innocent people, even to save their own. This led to a policy of nuclear opacity unique among nuclear weapons states; it was codified in a secret 1969 accord between President Richard Nixon and Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, in which the U.S. would shield Israel's nuclear program, as

long as Israel did not openly acknowledge it.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/66569/avner-cohen-and-marvin-miller/bringing-israels-bomb-out-of-the-basement>

Digital Diplomacy

By Jesse Lichtenstein

(New York Times Magazine, July 18, 2010)

On Twitter, Jared Cohen and Alec Ross are among the most followed of anyone working for the U.S. government, coming in third and fourth after Barack Obama and John McCain. This didn't happen by chance. Their Twitter posts have become an integral part of a new State Department effort to bring diplomacy into the digital age, by using widely available technologies to reach out to citizens, companies and other non-state actors. Traditional forms of diplomacy still dominate, but 21st-century statecraft is not mere corporate rebranding (swapping tweets for broadcasts).

For full text follow the link: http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/18/magazine/18web2-0-t.html?_r=3&emc=eta1

Does Europe End at the Bosphorus

By David Andelman

(World Policy Journal online, posted August 17, 2010)

The author, editor of the World Policy Journal, notes that Turkey, which has been pursuing the path of a secular, modern democracy, and which has been trying to join the European Union for years and has been consistently turned down, may be finally casting its lot with the Middle East. The most recent sign of Turkey's change of mind was the dramatic confrontation with Israel over the Gaza blockade. Andelman writes that it is ironic that Greece, Turkey's long-time archrival, was admitted to the EU, instead of Turkey -- and Greece's perilous finances now threaten to bring the EU down, while Turkey's growth rate is substantially higher than any other European country.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.worldpolicy.org/blog/does-europe-end-bosphorus>

Egypt's Wall with Gaza and the Emergence of a New Middle East Alignment

By Tally Helfont

(Orbis, Summer 2010)

"In December 2009, Egypt began construction of an underground steel wall on its border with Gaza in a move designed to halt the smuggling of illegal weapons and other contraband via the Hamas-run underground tunnel network. Egypt's initiative, which is being carried out in the name of its own strategic-national interests, has been the subject of intense criticism throughout the region. This article examines the emergence of a new alignment in the Middle East, based upon a new fault line between moderates and radicals. This alignment is manifested in Egypt's construction of its underground steel wall.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.fpri.org/orbis/5403/helfont.egyptandgaza.pdf>

How to Handle Hamas

By Daniel Byman

(Foreign Affairs, September/October 2010)

"Hamas is central to Israeli security and Palestinian politics, yet the international community refuses to work with it. This is a mistake. Hamas might possibly be convinced not to undermine progress on a peace deal. Israel and the international community should exploit Hamas' vulnerabilities with a mix of coercion and concessions -- including a further easing of

the siege of Gaza."

For full text follow the link : <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/66541/daniel-byman/how-to-handle-hamas>

The Importance of Actor Cleavages in Negotiating the European Constitution

By Madeleine O. Hosli and Christine Arnold

(International Studies Quarterly, September 2010)

This paper aims to explore government preferences and cleavages in the bargaining process on the European Constitution, across the range of 25 EU member states. The study focuses on preferences concerning socioeconomic policymaking and explores whether divisions can be discerned between preferences held by actors according to locations on the left-right policy scale, actors in older as compared to newer EU states, net EU budget positions, domestic rates of support for European integration, and smaller as compared to larger states. The analysis also controls for possible external effects, such as recent domestic macroeconomic developments.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Iran: The Fragile Promise of the Fuel-Swap Plan

By Mark Fitzpatrick

(Survival, June/July 2010)

"The deal could build mutual trust towards a longer-term solution to the nuclear crisis. It is likely to fail over the same disparity in goals that has frustrated all previous negotiations."

[Full text available upon request](#)

Iraq: A Vote Against Sectarianism

By Adeed Dawisha

(Journal of Democracy, July 2010)

"Although many Iraqi parties continue to be organized along religious or ethnic lines, both the tone and the results of the 2010 parliamentary election campaign show that most Iraqi voters prefer a broader national agenda over narrow sectarian appeals."

[Full text available upon request](#)

Latter-Day Sultans

By Daniel Byman

(The National Interest, July/August 2010)

"Armed with pitch-perfect talking points for the Facebook generation, a clique of fortunate sons in the Middle East is set to take over their fathers' sclerotic dictatorships. But this is not regime change. Monarchy is back. "

For full text follow the link: <http://nationalinterest.org/article/latter-day-sultans-3548>

Lessons from Afghanistan and Iraq

By Zalmay Khalizad

(Journal of Democracy, July 2010)

"After almost ten years of complex and costly efforts to build democracy in these two countries, where do things stand? What lay behind the critical choices that shaped events in these places, and what are their current prospects for success?"

For full text follow the link: <http://www.journalofdemocracy.org/articles/gratis/Khalilzad-21-3.pdf>

Living with a Nuclear Iran

By Robert D. Kaplan

(The Atlantic, September 2010)

"Iran can be contained. The path to follow? A course laid out half a century ago by a young Henry Kissinger, who argued that American chances of checking revolutionary powers such as the Soviet Union depended on our credible willingness to engage them in limited war."

For full text follow the link: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/09/living-with-a-nuclear-iran/8193/>

A New China Requires a New U.S. Strategy

By David Shambaugh

(Current History, September 2010)

"The worst thing Washington could do is to operate on autopilot, to assume that past strategies and policies (which have generally served the United States well) are ipso facto indefinitely useful."

[Full text available upon request](#)

The New Vulnerability

By Jack Goldsmith

(New Republic, June 24, 2010)

Cyber thefts, attacks and espionage by criminal organizations and foreign states have been growing at an unprecedented rate, and while the problem is largely invisible to the general public, the government is alarmed. Goldsmith, who teaches at Harvard Law School and is a visiting fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, reviews former U.S. government counterterrorism official Richard Clarke's new book *Cyber War: The Next Threat to National Security and What to Do About It*. The extraordinary complexity of computer systems and the insufficiently secure private-sector infrastructure is a huge vulnerability for a country heavily dependent on computer technology.

[Full text available upon request](#)

The Point of No Return

By Jeffrey Goldberg

(The Atlantic, September 2010)

For the Obama administration, the prospect of a nuclearized Iran is dismal to contemplate—it would create major new national-security challenges and crush the president's dream of ending nuclear proliferation. But the view from Jerusalem is still more dire: a nuclearized Iran represents, among other things, a threat to Israel's very existence. In the gap between Washington's and Jerusalem's views of Iran lies the question: who, if anyone, will stop Iran before it goes nuclear, and how? As Washington and Jerusalem study each other intensely, here's an inside look at the strategic calculations on both sides—and at how, if things remain on the current course, an Israeli air strike will unfold.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/09/the-point-of-no-return/8186>

The Shifting Sands of State Power in the Middle East

By Alastair Crooke

(The Washington Quarterly, July 2010)

"Three key events that took place more than 20 years ago are still overturning Middle East conventional state politics, economics, and Islam, requiring analysts and policymakers to reconceptualize what they think they know about Israel-Palestine, Iran, and the rest of the region."

For full text follow the link: http://www.twg.com/10july/docs/10jul_Crooke.pdf

Smaller and Safer

By Bruce Blair, Victor Esin, Matthew McKinzie, Valery Yarynich and Pavel Zolotarev
(Foreign Affairs, September/October 2010)

"On April 8, sitting beside each other in Prague Castle, US Pres Barack Obama and Russian Pres Dmitry Medvedev signed the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START). Just two days earlier, the Obama administration had issued its Nuclear Posture Review, only the third such comprehensive assessment of the US' nuclear strategy. The two countries' nuclear command, control, and communication systems, and sizable portions of their weapon systems, will still be poised for "launch on warning" -- ready to execute a mass firing of missiles before the quickest of potential enemy attacks could be carried out."

[Full text available upon request](#)

The Strategic Failures of Al Qaeda

By Thomas R. McCabe
(Parameters, Spring 2010)

According to the author, a Defense Department analyst, al Qaeda and its allies have suffered a series of defeats – in Egypt, Algeria, and the Balkans (1980s and 1990s) and the crushing of an attempted uprising in Saudi Arabia. The majority of Iraqis feel that al Qaeda has no place in their future; recent gains in Afghanistan are due far more to the weakness of the Karzai government than to anything al Qaeda has done. Their misguided worldview has led to five critical mistakes by al Qaeda and the jihadis in general: misreading the situation in the Middle East and the role of the U.S.; misreading the weakness of the U.S.; expanding the war and bringing in additional enemies; alienating the local populace; and indifference to Muslim casualties.

For full text follow the link: http://www.carlisle.army.mil/usawc/Parameters/Articles/2010spring/40-1-2010_mccabe.pdf

Turkey, from Ally to Enemy

By Michael Rubin
(Commentary, July/August 2010)

"Traveling abroad on his first trip as president, Barack Obama tacked a visit to Turkey onto the tail end of a trip to Europe. "Some people have asked me if I chose to continue my travels to Ankara and Istanbul to send a message," he told the Turkish Parliament. "My answer is simple: Evet [yes]. Turkey is a critical ally." On the same visit, however, the president showed that he considered Turkey more firmly part of the Islamic world than of Europe."

For full text follow the link: <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm/turkey--from-ally-to-enemy-15464>

U.S. Intelligence at the Crossroads

By William Ellis
(Mediterranean Quarterly, Spring 2010)

The author, formerly with the Congressional Research Service, notes that the diffuse and opaque nature of the terrorist

threat has fundamentally changed the way U.S. intelligence agencies operate. Because many more individuals could be potential objects of interest, intelligence agencies must look at or listen to everyone and everything. Much of the colossal amount of data collected in the past decade has not been properly analyzed; says Ellis, "the US intelligence community can see and hear almost everything, but apparently cannot make heads or tails of it."

[Full text available upon request](#)

II. ECONOMIC ISSUES

Coping with China's Financial Power

By Ken Miller

(Foreign Affairs, July/August 2010)

China has been trying to make the best of its sudden financial might; it has been accumulating vast foreign currency reserves and spending it abroad on direct investment, aid and concessional loans to secure raw materials and new technologies that bolster domestic growth and the Communist Party's legitimacy, says Miller, the head of the banking firm Ken Miller Capital LLC. Miller calls these policies mercantilist, but acknowledges that the resources deployed overseas are relatively small and pale in comparison to what U.S. companies invest abroad.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Does the Financial Crisis Threaten Democracy?

By Iwan Davies

(SAIS Review, Winter/Spring 2010)

The author, at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, believes that as government stimulus packages taper off, there will be concerns on whether the world economy will enter a period of sustained recovery, or whether the wounds are deeper than anticipated.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Financial Industry Overhaul. Will the New Law Avert Another Crisis?

(CQ Researcher, July 30, 2010)

On July 15, three Republican senators crossed the aisle to help pass the most sweeping financial-regulation overhaul since the Great Depression. Supporters of the 2,300-page legislation say the new rules will rein in investment risk-taking by big financial firms that otherwise might endanger the economic system again. Trading in complex investments known as derivatives will also get closer scrutiny. But some critics say that the law's effectiveness depends on the same federal regulators who missed the signs of the last impending crisis. Other critics say the new law is nowhere nearly as tough as it needed to be.

[Full text available upon request](#)

The Future of the Euro

By Lorenzo Bini Smaghi

(Foreign Affairs, August 10, 2010)

"Many observers think the entire European construct -- its institutions and currency -- has been so damaged by the Greek financial crisis that it might not survive. But is forecasting the euro's demise premature?"

For full text follow the link : <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/66509/lorenzo-bini-smaghi/the-future-of->

[the-euro](#)

Gesture Politics? Explaining the EU's Response to the Financial Crisis

By James Buckley and David Howarth

(Journal of Common Market Studies, September 2010)

The most significant development in internal market legislation in 2009 concerned the regulation and supervision of financial services. This focus is understandable. The worst European financial crisis and economic decline since the Great Depression and unprecedented EU Member State government bail-outs and credit guarantees for a large number of banks created a strong political and populist backlash in many EU Member States against financial institutions, and banks in particular. While the future stability of the financial sector is a chimera, particularly in a world of highly complex financial innovation, governments have individually and collectively – at both the EU and international level – looked to the reinforcement and creation of mechanisms that will decrease both the risk of systemic collapse and the future burden of bank failures upon governments and taxpayers.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Notes on Europe's Economic Decadence

By James K. Glassman

(Commentary, July/August 2010)

In 1930, with the Great Depression in its early stages and British unemployment already around 15 percent, John Maynard Keynes wrote an essay about the economic glory to come. He wanted, he said, "to disembarass myself of short views and take wings in the future," and his conclusion was that "the economic problem may be solved, or be at least within sight of solution, within a hundred years." Indeed, he argued, the economic problem would turn out to be trivial in comparison with the "permanent problem," which was how to occupy all the leisure that prosperity would bring: how to "cultivate into a fuller perfection, the art of life itself."

For full text follow the link : <http://www.commentarymagazine.com/viewarticle.cfm/notes-on-europe-s-economic-decadence-15465>

Nothing Left

By Barbara Demick

(New Yorker, July 12, 2010)

On November 30, 2009, North Korea enacted a currency revaluation, decreeing that it would exchange existing currency for new currency at the rate of 100 to 1, with the aim of curbing private markets and solidifying state control. The plan was announced to the public with little advance warning, and caused panic in North Korea. The hard-earned savings of a nascent middle class was reduced to next to nothing; many people suffered heart attacks or strokes, or committed suicide. The unprecedented public backlash against the currency-reform effort led to an equally-unprecedented admission of failure by North Korean Premier Kim Jong-il, and the reported execution of finance minister Pak Nam-gi.

[Full text available upon request](#)

The Volcker Rule

By John Cassidy

(New Yorker, July 26, 2010)

"President Obama's financial reform bill may have passed on July 15 with the support of three Republican senators, including newly elected Massachusetts Sen. Scott Brown, but the "Volcker rule" seems to have been a casualty. As negotiations over financial reform legislation proceeded in Congress, a major point of contention emerged — the so-

called Volcker rule, the New Yorker magazine reports in a feature story by writer John Cassidy. Named for former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, now an economics adviser to the Barack Obama administration, the Volcker rule restricted banks from engaging in risky investments like derivatives, private-equity funds, and hedge funds."

For full text follow the link : http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2010/07/26/100726fa_fact_cassidy

III. DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Beyond Gridlock: Green Drift in American Environmental Policymaking

By Christopher Grory McKlyza and David Sousa

(Political Science Quarterly, Fall 2010)

The authors argue that environmental policy in the United States has moved in the direction favored by environmentalists over the last two decades, despite efforts by many conservatives to roll back these policies. This green drift is based on the combination of major environmental laws and institutional structures created in the 1960s and 1970s and frozen in place by the legislative gridlock of the last two decades.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Immigration Statistics for the Twenty-First Century

By Douglas S. Massey

(Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, September 2010)

"Of the three main contributors to population growth--fertility, mortality, and net migration--the latter is by far the most difficult to capture statistically. This article discusses the main sources of federal statistical data on immigration, each with its own characteristic set of strengths, weaknesses, possibilities, and limitations in the context of the interested social scientist. Among the key limitations, the article argues, are the elimination of parental birthplace from the census and the lack of complete data concerning the legal statuses of the U.S. population. This article concludes with suggestions on remedying such deficiencies, at relatively low marginal cost, such as the inclusion of questions on parental birthplace, instituting a regular survey of randomly selected legal immigrants, and the use of the "two-card method" in statistical data."

[Full text available upon request](#)

Impact of the Internet on Thinking. Is the Web Changing the Way We Think?

(CQ Researcher, September 24, 2010)

Due to the growing dominance of the Internet as the primary medium for commerce, entertainment and social communications, Americans are using more electronic media than ever. Some worry that the Internet, with its visual stimulation and constant distractions, is altering the way we think — and not for the better. Some studies indicate that it may alter physical mechanics of the brain that lead to long-term memory formation.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Living in Limbo: The Asylum Problem

By Krista Mahr and Tanjung Pinang

(Time, July 5, 2010)

According to the U.N., there were over 15 million recognized refugees around the world at the beginning of 2009, and another 826,000 asylum seekers. Most are fleeing bloodshed, repression or poverty; many end up in countries where governments are ill-equipped both legally and economically to handle the volumes of people requesting protection at their borders. Many of those governments are increasing their efforts to keep out economic migrants and ramp up

security. Refugees that do escape their home country can expect a long wait for settlement in a third country; no state is obligated to offer permanent homes to refugees in transit countries. So what can be done?

For full text follow the link : <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1999274,00.html>

Securing Foreign Oil: A Case for Including Military Operations in the Climate Change Impact of Fuels

By Adam J. Liska and Richard K. Perrin

(Environment, July/August 2010)

Military operations are major industrial activities that use massive amounts of fuel and materials that significantly contribute to climate change. In this article, we assert that military activity to protect international oil trade is a direct production component for importing foreign oil- as necessary for imports as are pipelines and supertankers-and therefore the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from that military activity are relevant to U.S. fuel policies related to climate change.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Social Networking. Are Online Social Networks Eroding Privacy?

(CQ Researcher, September 17, 2010)

The number of people sharing personal information online and spending more time communicating via social networking sites is growing by quantum leaps. This summer Facebook membership soared over 500 million — a meteoric rise from its mere 1 million members in 2005. The “micro-blogging” social site Twitter — where posts must total 140 characters or fewer — recently passed the 140-million-member mark. The rising dominance of social media sites means that users' lives — both online and offline — will be increasingly more transparent, with full information about their doings available for everyone to see, including parents and bosses, according to Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg.

[Full text available upon request](#)

IV. U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

Closing the Digital Frontier

By Michael Hirschorn

(Atlantic Monthly, July/August 2010)

The Internet's founding ideology -- that information should be free, and that attempts to constrain it are not only hopeless but immoral -- is crumbling under the onslaught of applications (“apps”), smart phones, and pricing plans. The shift of the digital frontier from the Web, where the browser ruled supreme, to the smart phone, where the “app” and the pricing plan now hold sway, is far from a given, however, especially with the under-30 crowd accustomed to free content. The prospect of paying hundreds or thousands of dollars yearly for print, audio, and video on expensive new devices is not going to be an easy sell.

For full text follow the link : <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/07/closing-the-digital-frontier/8131/>

Inside America's Mosques

By Akbar Ahmed

(Foreign Policy, September 9, 2010)

The ninth anniversary of 9/11 is almost upon us, and the relationship between Muslims and non-Muslims in the United States is as fraught as ever. Witness Florida pastor Terry Jones, whose planned "International Burn a Koran Day" held

the nation shocked and riveted for weeks until he finally agreed to cancel the event. In this environment of heightened intolerance, people focus on symbols, and no symbol is more representative of Islam than the mosque. But most outsiders have no idea what actually goes on inside mosques.

For full text follow the link :

http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/09/09/inside_americas_mosques?print=yes&hidecomments=yes&page=full

Reality TV. Is it Harmless Entertainment or a Cultural Threat?

(CQ Researcher, August 27, 2010) • Volume 20, Issue 29

In the blink of an eye, it seems, reality television has become a certifiable global pop-culture phenomenon. Critics generally dismiss it as a crude form of entertainment that appeals to the lowest common denominator, but reality television's high ratings and ability to create pop culture icons (and its low production costs) are undeniable. While "unscripted" reality television shows have replaced many scripted shows, the genre has been tarnished by accusations of racism and stereotyping. Questions have also been raised about reality television's social value — or lack thereof — and its ability to distort young viewers' perception of life.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Ronald Reagan

By Peter Beinart

(Foreign Policy, July/August 2010)

"The Gipper wasn't the warhound his conservative followers would have you think."

For full text follow the link : http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/06/07/think_again_ronald_reagan

Social Welfare in Europe. Can EU Nations Still Afford Expensive Welfare Programs?

(CQ Global Researcher, August 2010)

The Euro debt crisis and calls for fiscal austerity are putting a harsh new light on Europe's gold-plated welfare and pension programs. According to some economists, Europeans pay for their generous welfare programs — such as national health insurance and universal preschool — with more sluggish economies and higher unemployment than in the United States, which has among the industrialized world's least generous welfare safety nets. But in recent years, Scandinavian countries, the most generous with subsidized child care and paid parental leave, have grown at least as fast as the free-market United States.

[Full text available upon request](#)

V. U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THINK TANK REPORTS, POLICY PAPERS

After the Fall

By Carmen M. and Vincent R. Reinhart

(American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, August 27, 2010)

The paper examines the behavior of real GDP (levels and growth rates), unemployment, inflation, bank credit, and real estate prices in a twenty one-year window surrounding selected adverse global and country-specific shocks or events. The episodes include the 1929 stock market crash, the 1973 oil shock, the 2007 U.S. subprime collapse and fifteen severe post-World War II financial crises. The focus is not on the immediate antecedents and aftermath of these events but on longer horizons that compare decades rather than years.

For full text follow the link : <http://www.aei.org/docLib/Reinhart-After-the-Fall-August-17.pdf>

Americans Spending More Time Following the News

(Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, September 12, 2010)

There are many more ways to get the news these days, and as a consequence Americans are spending more time with the news than over much of the past decade. Digital platforms are playing a larger role in news consumption, and they seem to be more than making up for modest declines in the audience for traditional platforms. As a result, the average time Americans spend with the news on a given day is as high as it was in the mid-1990s, when audiences for traditional news sources were much larger.

For full text follow the link : <http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/652.pdf>

The Arctic: A View from Moscow

By Dmitri Trenin and Pavel Baev

(Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, September 20, 2010)

The Arctic is emerging as the world's next hot spot for oil and gas development. As the melting ice cap opens new shipping lanes and makes it easier to access strategic energy reserves, countries are racing to gain control over the Arctic's abundant natural resources. The authors offer a view from Moscow on what the opening of the Arctic means. While there is a strong desire to compete over the resources in order to meet increasing energy demands, the authors argue that all countries, with Russia in a leading role, can benefit more through cooperation.

For full text follow the link : http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/arctic_cooperation.pdf

Assessing the Terrorist Threat

By Peter Bergen and Bruce Hoffman

(Bipartisan Policy Center, September 10, 2010)

The report details how the terrorist threat has evolved since the attacks in 2001, including the development of homegrown networks and the increasingly diverse and decentralized nature of terrorism.

For full text follow the link :

<http://www.bipartisanpolicy.org/sites/default/files/NSPG%20Final%20Threat%20Assessment.pdf>

Blogs and Bullets: New Media in Contentious Politics

By Sean Aday et al.

(U.S. Institute of Peace, September 2010)

The report, in cooperation with scholars from Harvard University and Morningside Analytics, critically assesses both the "cyberutopian" and "cyberskeptical" perspectives on the impact of new media on political movements.

For full text follow the link : <http://www.usip.org/files/resources/pw65.pdf>

Challenges for a Squabbling Europe - Part I

By Katinka Barysch

(YaleGlobal, September 22, 2010)

Even after the devastation of the Second World War, bitterly fought by Europeans, the continent united in rebuilding its economy. Now, as internal challenges combine with external competition, Europe struggles to find a common vision for economic initiatives, suggests this series. The failure of European leaders to reform governance could endanger the euro as single currency, notes the author. Member nations could vigorously enforce fiscal rules and coordinate macroeconomic

policies; nations that rely on exports can't expect all nations to be savers. Europe lacks leaders who can rally citizens and member nations behind a common agenda for economic reform, euro rescue and other initiatives that can keep crises at bay and solidify integration.

For full text follow the link : <http://www.usip.org/files/resources/pw65.pdf>

Conventional Arms Transfers to Developing Nations, 2002-2009

By Richard F. Grimmett

(Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, September 10, 2010)

This report is prepared annually to provide Congress with official, unclassified, quantitative data on conventional arms transfers to developing nations by the United States and foreign countries for the preceding eight calendar years for use in its policy oversight functions. All agreement and delivery data in this report for the United States are government-to-government Foreign Military Sales (FMS) transactions. Similar data are provided on worldwide conventional arms transfers by all suppliers, but the principal focus is the level of arms transfers by major weapons suppliers to nations in the developing world. Developing nations continue to be the primary focus of foreign arms sales activity by weapons suppliers. During the years 2002-2009, the value of arms transfer agreements with developing nations comprised 68.3% of all such agreements worldwide. More recently, arms transfer agreements with developing nations constituted 72.8% of all such agreements globally from 2006-2009, and 78.4% of these agreements in 2009.

For full text follow the link : <http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/147273.pdf>

The European Union's Response to the 2007-2009 Financial Crisis

By Walter W. Eubanks

(Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, August 13, 2010)

The report assesses the response of the European Union (EU) to the 2007-2009 financial crisis in terms of the financial regulatory changes the EU has made or is planning to make. The financial crisis began in the United States with a sharp increase in U.S. bank losses due to subprime mortgage foreclosures. Because the U.S. and EU banks were using a similar business model, the EU banks experienced similar distressed financial conditions that U.S. banks faced. Large banks on both sides of the Atlantic found themselves severely undercapitalized and holding insufficient liquidity. However, finding and implementing effective remedies for the causes of the financial crisis have been slower and different in EU than the United States.

For full text follow the link : <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R41367.pdf>

Growing Number of Americans Say Obama Is a Muslim

(Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, August 19, 2010)

A substantial and growing number of Americans say that Barack Obama is a Muslim, while the proportion saying he is a Christian has declined. More than a year and a half into his presidency, a plurality of the public says they do not know what religion Obama follows. The survey finds that nearly one-in-five Americans (18%) now say Obama is a Muslim, up from 11% in March 2009. Only about one-third of adults (34%) say Obama is a Christian, down sharply from 48% in 2009. Fully 43% say they do not know what Obama's religion is. The survey was completed in early August, before Obama's recent comments about the proposed construction of a mosque near the site of the former World Trade Center.

For full text follow the link : <http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/645.pdf>

How You Feel About Midterms Depends on Your Party

(Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, September 22, 2010)

Republicans are more likely to say this year's election is more important than most and that news coverage of politics

makes them angry. They are also more upbeat about their preferred candidates' chances in November than are Democrats or independents.

For full text follow the link: <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1738/politics-makes-me-angry-depressed-electoins-more-important-intereseting-pay-attention>

Iran's Global Ambitions

(YaleGlobal, September 17, 2010)

The series examines Iran's big power ambitions and its ability to divide the international community to achieve its goal. As Iran rejects demands to end high level enriching nuclear fuel, the UN Security Council in June approved a fourth round of sanctions aimed against the country's dominant military. China and Russia, both expressing concern about US intervention, resist the toughest proposals for sanctions.

For full text follow the links:

Part I, September 13. <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/irans-global-ambitions-part-i> ,

Part II, September 15 - <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/irans-global-ambitions-part-ii>

Part III, September 17 - <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/irans-global-ambitions-part-iii>

Iraq in Focus

By Charles Allen

(Homeland Security Policy Institute, August 30, 2010)

Experts answer some key questions: What are the security implications of the transition, both short- and long-term? How can these implications be best managed? What's needed to achieve "success" in Iraq in the long run?

For full text follow the link : <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/irans-global-ambitions-part-iii>

Pakistan's Future: The Bellagio Papers

By Stephen P. Cohen

(Brookings Institution, September 2010)

The following papers are one component of a project conducted at the Brookings Institution in 2010. They were written by the participants in a conference in Bellagio, Italy in May 2010 that examined the future of Pakistan. These included the continuation of the "establishment" dominated Pakistan, a state in which democratic forms—if not democracy—were maintained. This is also a state with stable if not good relations with two of its neighbors, Afghanistan and India. Overt military rule was also discussed, as was the emergence of a truly "Islamic" state, or even a full-fledged democracy.

For full text follow the link :

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2010/09_bellagio_conference_papers/09_bellagio_papers.pdf

Proactive Transparency: The Future of the Right to Information?

By Helen Darbshire

(World Bank Institute, September 14, 2010)

The paper identifies four primary drivers of proactive disclosure throughout history. The first is the need to inform the public about laws and decisions and the public's right to be informed, to know their rights and obligations. The second is the public's demand for the information needed to hold governments accountable both at and between elections. The third is the demand for information in order to participate actively in decision-making. The fourth is the provision to the

public of information needed to access government services, which has expanded significantly in the past decade with growth of electronic access to services or 'e-government.'

For full text follow the link : <http://www->

wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2010/09/16/000333038_20100916002141/Rendered/PDF/565980WP0Box351roactiveTransparency.pdf

The Rise of Apps Culture

By Kristen Purcell et al.

(Pew Internet & American Life Project, September 15, 2010)

Some 35% of U.S. adults have software applications or "apps" on their phones, yet only 24% of adults use those apps. Many adults who have apps on their phones, particularly older adults, do not use them, and 11% of cell owners are not sure if their phone is equipped with apps. Among cell phone owners, 29% have downloaded apps to their phone and 13% have paid to download apps." An apps culture is clearly emerging among some cell phone users, particularly men and young adults," say the authors.

For full text follow the link: [Full text](#)

Short Sale Bans: Shooting the Messenger?

By Laurence Copeland

(Cato Institute, September 14, 2010)

In response to the recent financial crisis, many governments chose to ban or restrict short sales, hoping to mitigate the impact of the stock market downturn. Stock markets function as a continuous election, held to determine the allocation of resources with buyers voting for and sellers voting against investment in particular stocks. Banning short selling is akin to disenfranchising the "no" voter, thereby creating a distortion in the resource allocation process, says the author. Ban-induced price distortions damage the integrity of stock prices among investors and potentially cause stocks to expand beyond what is optimal for the firms and the economy. Despite these costs, short sales bans continue to be pursued.

For full text follow the link:

http://www.pewinternet.org/~media//Files/Reports/2010/PIP_Nielsen%20Apps%20Report.pdf

Squaring the Circle: Palestinian Security Reform under Occupation

(International Crisis Group, September 7, 2010)

Who could be against Palestinian security reform? In the past few years, the Palestinian Authority (PA) largely has restored order and a sense of personal safety in the West Bank, something unthinkable during the second intifada. Militias no longer roam streets, uniformed security forces are back, Palestinians mostly seem pleased; even Israel – with reason to be sceptical and despite recent attacks on West Bank settlers – is encouraged. Initial steps, long overdue, have been taken to reorganise an unwieldy security sector, where overlapping, unaccountable branches had become fiefdoms of powerful chiefs.

For full text follow the link :

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/Middle%20East%20North%20Africa/Israel%20Palestine/98%20squaring%20the%20Circle%20--%20Palestinian%20Security%20Reform%20under%20Occupation.ashx>

Whistleblower Protection: Sustained Management Attention Needed to Address Long-Standing Program Weaknesses

(U.S. Government Accountability Office, Web posted September 16, 2010)

Workers who "blow the whistle" on prohibited or unlawful practices that they discover during their employment can play

an important role in the enforcement of federal laws. However, these whistleblowers may also risk reprisals from their employers, sometimes being demoted, reassigned, or fired. Federal laws establish whistleblower protection processes, whereby workers who believe that they have faced retaliation for blowing the whistle can report their allegations to the appropriate federal agency, which then determines the merit of their claims. The Whistleblower Protection Program at the Department of Labor's (Labor) Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is responsible for receiving and investigating most whistleblower complaints filed by nonfederal workers.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10722.pdf>

Why Do Terrorists Blow Themselves Up?

By Riaz Hassan

(YaleGlobal, September 9, 2010)

Nine years after the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the world shares a perception that suicide attacks are unusual acts committed by the poor, the psychologically impaired, the morally deficient, the uneducated or the religious fanatics. Yet analysis of more than 1500 suicide attacks between 1981 and 2008 by author Riaz Hassan reveals far more complex motivations. Instead, altruism emerges as one of the major driving forces among young terrorists who previously demonstrated exemplary conduct. Sadly, evil can be ordinary, as noted by philosopher Hannah Arendt. Terrorists, shaped by their social environment, show a common tendency to abide by collective wisdom and follow orders. Daily life is difficult, unjust, even tenuous, in war zones or refugee camps – nurturing resistance and hatred among youth. Increasing numbers of youth in conflict zones, feeling helpless to shape a larger, uncaring world, view suicide attacks as a way to call attention to the plight of their community.

For full text follow the link : <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/terrorists-blow-themselves-up>

READY, SET, GROW

By Kotkin, Joel

(Smithsonian, vol. 41, no. 4, July/August 2010, pp. 60-67)

The population of the United States will likely grow by 100 million people over the next several decades, and urban development expert Joel Kotkin offers a few projections on how the country may be affected. Kotkin predicts this level of population growth will keep the U.S. vibrant while population drops in other developed world nations will lead them into decline. Excerpting his 2010 book THE NEXT HUNDRED MILLION, Kotkin agrees with other demographic predictions that the U.S. growth will be concentrated in immigrant populations. As a result, Hispanic Americans will comprise a larger proportion of the population, and the white population will slide below 50 percent. Contrary to the predictions of others, Kotkin doesn't see this increased population concentrating in major urban centers. Rather, he thinks Americans will continue to choose the suburbs in the future, and predicts that "super fuel efficient cars of the future are likely to spur smart sprawl." Fulfilling the promise of upward mobility for that growing population will be the major national challenge, the author predicts, and reviving the nation's manufacturing sector will be a key factor in doing so.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/specialsections/40th-anniversary/The-Changing-Demographics-of-America.html> (under the title THE CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS OF AMERICA)

Iran: U.S. Concerns and Policy Responses

By Kenneth Katzman

(CRS - Report for Congress)

The Obama Administration has adopted the long-standing assessment of Iran as a "profound threat to U.S. national security interests." This threat perception is generated not only by Iran's nuclear program but also by its military assistance to armed groups in Iraq and Afghanistan, to the Palestinian group Hamas, and to Lebanese Hezbollah. In its first year, the Obama Administration altered the previous U.S. approach by expanding direct diplomatic engagement with Iran's government and by offering Iran's leaders an alternative vision of closer integration with and acceptance by the West. To try to convince Iranian leaders of peaceful U.S. intent, the Obama Administration downplayed discussion of potential U.S. military action against Iranian nuclear facilities and repeatedly insisted that it did not seek to change Iran's

regime. It held to this position even at the height of the protests by the domestic opposition "Green movement" that emerged following Iran's June 12, 2009, presidential election.

For full text follow the link: <http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/148800.pdf>