

ARTICLE ALERT # 13

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:

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If you have questions, please contact us at: mkrtychana@usa.am

I. FOREIGN POLICY

Asymmetric Interdependence. Do America and Europe Need Each Other?

By Beate Neuss

(*Strategic Studies Quarterly*, Winter 2009)

America's position with regard to the symmetry or asymmetry of the transatlantic relationship can be found, diplomatically formulated, between the lines of the vice president's speech. In short: "We're going to attempt to recapture the totality of America's strength." In other words, the United States retains its claim to the role of world's leading power—as first among equals. Consequently, the sort of dialogue between equals that Europeans so eagerly desire with the United States will not be based solely on interdependence—that is to say, on mutual dependence—and instead presupposes to a degree a symmetric distribution of power.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.au.af.mil/au/ssq/2009/Winter/Neuss.pdf>

Cracks in the Jihad

By Thomas Rid

(*Wilson Quarterly*, Winter 2010)

The author, a visiting scholar at the Shalem Center in Jerusalem, believes that the global jihad is fragmenting and that's not good news for the West. Al-Qaeda and the Taliban are at odds, and even Internet jihadis are taking fewer cues from Osama bin Laden, yet it is becoming more difficult to defeat the global jihad. The Taliban is moderating its tone and throwing an "ideological bridge" to parts of the Kabul elite while former firebrand imams have started questioning the theological justifications of holy war. Today, Al-Qaeda's latest recruits look more like a self-appointed elite than representatives of the Muslim "masses," Western-born but rootless, drawn to the identity-building certainties of radical Islam.

For full text follow the link: http://wilsoncenter.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=wq.essay&essay_id=587396

Europe Doesn't Matter

By Doug Bandow

(*National Interest*, February, 2010)

"Europe thought that it had answered Henry Kissinger's derisive question: what is the phone number for Europe? But the recently approved Lisbon Treaty has only increased confusion as to who speaks for the continent. As a result, President Obama recently announced that he will not attend the upcoming U.S.-European Union summit. If it stands united, Europe could become one of the world's three or four great powers, along with the U.S., China, and perhaps India. The European Union's GDP and population both exceed those of America." Doug Bandow is a senior fellow at the Cato Institute.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.nationalinterest.org/PrinterFriendly.aspx?id=22866>

Europe, the Second Superpower

By Andrew Moravcsik

(*Current History*, March 2010)

It has become fashionable to view the global system as dominated by the United States, China, and India. How often do we hear from leading politicians that "The most important relationship in the twenty-first century is that between Washington and Beijing"? Or that the "rise of the rest" is the great phenomenon of our time? Missing from this equation is Europe. The "Old Continent's" reputation for sluggish economic and demographic growth, political disunity, and weak militaries has convinced most foreign analysts that the future belongs to Asia and the United States.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Foreign Policy in an Age of Austerity: A Conversation with Brent Scowcroft

By Adam Garfinkle

(*American Interest*, January/February 2010)

In a "clear-and-plain-talk" interview with AI editor Adam Garfinkle, former National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft predicts that the U.S. is at the end of a period of growing defense and national-security budgets regardless of the state of the economy, partly due to growing sentiment that other public policy areas need more attention. Scowcroft notes that austerity "might make us think harder about priorities," forcing us to make decisions that we have put off since 9/11 "because there was enough money to do everything." He believes that the military will need to better match what they buy with what they need, noting that the services have traditionally favored technology, where they are strongest, rather than plan for the "messy, labor-intensive wars" that are more likely.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.the-american-interest.com/article.cfm?piece=733>

Iran's Foreign Policy Strategy after Saddam

By Kayhan Barzegar

(*The Washington Quarterly*, January 2010)

"Although the geopolitical changes following the Iraq and Afghanistan crises have created various new opportunities for Iran, they are also a source of serious security challenges. It is essential that Washington not misinterpret Iran's actions, which are outlined here."

For full text follow the link: http://www.twq.com/10january/docs/10jan_Barzegar.pdf

The Iranian Nuclear Riddle After June 12

By Shahram Chubin

(*The Washington Quarterly*, January 2010)

"There is a diplomatic conundrum in dealing with Iran: fixing the nuclear issue is urgent. Yet, even Tehran recognizes that the real issue is the regime, particularly after the elections, and any bargain is not feasible without a change in the regime's behavior or the regime itself."

For full text follow the link: http://www.twq.com/10january/docs/10jan_Chubin.pdf

Negotiating with Iran: Reflections from Personal Experience

By Dobbins, James.

(*The Washington Quarterly*. January 2010, pp. 149-162)

"As the United States conducts bilateral and multiparty negotiations with Iran, it is worth recalling the last, and perhaps only, occasion when the U.S. and revolutionary Iranian governments cooperated closely and effectively. It was almost eight years ago, immediately after the September 11, 2001 attacks. There is a popular perception that the United States spent that fall forming a broad international coalition and overthrowing the Taliban. It would be more accurate to state that, prompted by the attacks on New York and Washington, D.C., the United States moved to join an existing coalition that had been trying to overthrow the Taliban since the mid-1990s. That coalition consisted of India, Iran, and Russia, and within Afghanistan, the Northern Alliance insurgency. For thirty years, Washington and Tehran have communicated only intermittently and then usually at low levels. Given the distrust and misunderstanding that have built up on both sides, it would be remarkable if the recent reestablishment of higher level contact led to early breakthroughs.

For full text follow the link: http://www.twq.com/10january/docs/10jan_Dobbins.pdf

Obama's "Eisenhower Moment." American Strategic Choices and the Transatlantic Defense Relationship

By Edwina Campbell

(*Strategic Studies Quarterly*, Winter 2009)

Instilling confidence among Americans in his party's foreign policy competence and credibility requires that Obama articulate and implement diplomatic, military, and economic strategies, the ends of which attract broad-based support both at home and abroad, and the ways and means of which reflect the realities of a global economic crisis more profound than any since the 19 0s. But 20 years after the end of the Cold War, defining a framework for Euro-Atlantic cooperation and implementing tasks to accomplish common purposes will be even more difficult than for leaders of the Atlantic alliance in the 1950s. The greatest difficulties, both conceptually and practically, will arise over strategies projecting, and possibly using, military force.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.au.af.mil/au/ssq/2009/Winter/editorial.pdf>

Obama's War Over Terror

By Peter Baker

(*New York Times Magazine*, January 17, 2010)

The author, a White House correspondent for *The Times*, takes an inside look at the struggle to remake anti-terrorism policy. When President Obama was inaugurated in January 2009, he inherited two struggles: One with al-Qaeda and its ideological allies, and another that divided his own country over what it means to be an American. A series of events involving terrorist situations, most recently the Christmas Day incident in Detroit, has forced the president to question each decision he has had to make, especially after criticism that his advisers, led by his top counterterrorism official John Brennan, who set up the National Counterterrorism Center under former President George W. Bush, were not giving him the best advice. Still, during his first year, the president has continued to adopt the bulk of the counterterrorism strategy he inherited from his predecessor.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/17/magazine/17Terror-t.html>

The Sanctions on Iran Are Working

By Mark Dubowitz

(*Foreign Policy Online*, February 10, 2010)

The author, executive director of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and director of its Iran Energy Project, argues that Tehran is already feeling the heat of sanctions, and recent actions by the Obama administration and Congress will increase pressure on Iran's energy sector -- "the lifeblood of the men who rule Iran." The Treasury Department has targeted the four subsidiaries of Ghorb, a major engineering and construction firm, and the firm's commander, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Gen. Rostam Qasemi. The Treasury Department designations will discourage international firms from doing business with Ghorb and its affiliates, as has been the case with the more than 80 foreign financial firms that have terminated or reduced their dealings with Iran.

For full text follow the link: http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/02/10/the_sanctions_on_iran_are_working?page=0.0

The Sources of Russia's Insecurity

By Thomas Graham

(*Survival*, February 2010)

For the first time in the modern era, Russia is now totally surrounded by countries and regions that are more dynamic than it is.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Spoils of Babylon

By Joost R. Hiltermann

(*The National Interest*, January/February 2010)

Until recently, not many people outside of the Middle East had heard of Kirkuk. Rife with ethno-religious tensions, it is at the heart of the battle for oil. The very fate of Iraq may well rest with the disputed province - and its Arabs, Turkmen, Christians and Kurds. So far, the war between Baghdad and Kirkuk has taken place in a drawn-out political struggle. But with the American troop pullout to be finalized over the next year, will the Iraqis be able to resist the lure of violence for long?

[Full text available upon request](#)

Quadrennial Defense Review

(US Department of Defense. February, 2010)

"The Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) is a legislatively-mandated review of Department of Defense strategy and priorities. The QDR will set a long-term course for DoD as it assesses the threats and challenges that the nation faces and re-balances DoD's strategies, capabilities, and forces to address today's conflicts and tomorrow's threats. The 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review advances two clear objectives. First, to further rebalance the capabilities of America's Armed Forces to prevail in today's wars, while building the capabilities needed to deal with future threats. Second, to further reform the Department's institutions and processes to better support the urgent needs of the war fighter; buy weapons that are usable, affordable, and truly needed; and ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and responsibly.

For full text follow the link: http://www.defense.gov/qdr/images/QDR_as_of_12Feb10_1000.pdf

The Long Road to Zero: Overcoming the Obstacles to a Nuclear-Free World

By Ferguson, Charles D.

(Foreign Affairs. January/February 2010, pp. 86-94)

"Over the past three years, a remarkable bipartisan consensus has emerged in Washington regarding nuclear security. The new U.S. nuclear agenda includes renewing formal arms control agreements with Russia, revitalizing a strategic dialogue with China, pushing for ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, repairing the damaged nuclear nonproliferation regime, and redoubling efforts to reduce and secure fissile material that may be used in weapons. In order to speed the reduction of its own nuclear arsenal and encourage other countries' disarmament, the United States will have to confront three daunting obstacles: the insecurities of nations, including some currently protected under the U.S. nuclear umbrella and others that see a nuclear capability as the answer to many of their security problems; the notion that nuclear weapons are the great equalizer in the realm of international relations; and the proliferation risk that inevitably arises whenever nuclear supplier states offer to build civilian reactors for nonnuclear states."

[Full text available upon request](#)

Afghanistan and Pakistan Regional Stabilization Strategy

(U.S. Department of State, Office of the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan. January 21, 2010)

"Far from an exercise in "nation-building," the programs detailed here aim to achieve realistic progress in critical areas. They are aligned with our security objectives and have been developed in close consultation with the Afghan and Pakistani governments, as well as our international partners. When combined with U.S. combat operations and efforts to build Afghan and Pakistani security capacity, these programs constitute an innovative, whole-of-government strategy to protect our vital interests in this volatile region of the world. Achieving progress will require continued sacrifice not only by our military personnel, but also by the more than 1,500 U.S. government civilians serving in Afghanistan and Pakistan. But for the first time since this conflict began, we have a true whole-of-government approach. The Afghan and Pakistani governments have endorsed this strategy and are committed to achieving our shared objectives."

For full text follow the link: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/135728.pdf>

NEGOTIATIONS AND RECONCILIATION WITH THE TALIBAN: THE KEY POLICY ISSUES AND DILEMMAS

By Felbab-Brown, Vanda.

(Brookings Institution. January 28, 2010)

"London conference on Afghanistan where the Afghan government, Britain, and Japan have presented their plans for reconciliation with the Taliban has reignited a months-long debate about whether or not to negotiate with the salafi insurgents. But although passions run strong on both sides of the debate, in its abstract form— negotiate: yes or no – the discussion is of little policy usefulness. The real question about negotiating with the Taliban is what shape and content any such negotiation and reconciliation should have and what are the costs and benefits of such an approach." Vanda Felbab-Brown is a fellow in Foreign Policy and in the 21st Century Defense Initiative at Brookings. She is also an adjunct professor in the Security Studies Program, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University.

For full text follow the link:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/articles/2010/0128_taliban_felbabbrown/0128_taliban_felbabbrown.pdf

Fixing Intel: A Blueprint for Making Intelligence Relevant in Afghanistan

Flynn, Major General Michael T., et. al.

(Center for a New American Security. January, 2010)

"This paper critically examines the relevance of the U.S. intelligence community to the counterinsurgency strategy in Afghanistan. Based on discussions with hundreds of people inside and outside the intelligence community, it recommends sweeping changes to the way the intelligence community thinks about itself – from a focus on the enemy to a focus on the people of Afghanistan. The paper argues that because the United States has focused the overwhelming majority of collection efforts and analytical brainpower on insurgent groups, our intelligence apparatus still finds itself unable to answer fundamental questions about the environment in which we operate and the people we are trying to protect and persuade." Major General Michael T. Flynn has been Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence (CJ2), for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan since June 2009.

For full text follow the link:

http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/AfghanIntel_Flynn_Jan2010_code507_voices.pdf

The Future of NATO

By Goldgeier, James M.

(Council on Foreign Relations [Council Special Report No. 51] February 2010)

In this Council Special Report, the author takes on the question of how NATO, having successfully kept the peace in Europe in the twentieth century, can adapt to the challenges of the twenty-first. Goldgeier contends that NATO retains value for the United States and Europe. He writes, though, that it must expand its vision of collective defense in order to remain relevant and effective. This means recognizing the full range of threats that confront NATO members today and affirming that the alliance will respond collectively to an act (whether by an outside state or a nonstate entity) that imperils the political or economic security or territorial integrity of a member state.

For full text follow the link: http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/NATO_CSR51.pdf

Principles of U.S. Engagement in the Asia-Pacific

Testimony of Kurt M. Campbell before the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Senate Foreign Relations Committee. January 21, 2010

Kurt M. Campbell, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, U.S. Department of State, briefly lists the steps the U.S. Government have undertaken over the past year to step up and broaden U.S. engagement in the region. "The Asia-Pacific region is of vital and permanent importance to the United States and it is clear that countries in the region want the United States to maintain a strong and active presence. We need to ensure that the United States is a resident power and not just a visitor, because what happens in the region has a direct effect on our security and economic well-being. Over the course of the next few decades climate change, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and widespread poverty will pose the most significant challenges to the United States and the rest of the region.

For full text follow the link: <http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2010/CampbellTestimony100121a.pdf>

IRAQI VOICES ENTERING 2010

By Barber, Rusty ; Taylor, William B. Jr.

(U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP). January 12, 2010)

As the U.S. prepares to leave Iraq, the U.S. Institute of Peace examines the impact of Iraq's emerging civil society on politics, and what the U.S. can and should do to ensure continued progress. This report is based on a visit to Baghdad in

December by the authors of this brief during which they met with a broad crosscut of Iraqi political and civil society leaders and with U.S and international officials." Since 2004, USIP has maintained an office in Baghdad staffed by Iraqis and Americans and dedicated to helping Iraq achieve peace and stability through reconciliation, expanded civil society and improved self-governance." Rusty Barber is USIP's Director of Iraq Programs, Center for Post-Conflict Peace and Stability Operations. William Taylor is the Vice President of the Center for Post-Conflict Peace and Stability Operations at USIP.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.usip.org/files/resources/PB%203%20Iraqi%20Voices%20Entering%202010.pdf>

Strategies for Engaging Political Islam

By Hamid, Shadi; Kadlec, Amanda.

(Project on Middle East Democracy; Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. January 2010)

"Political Islam is the single most active political force in the Middle East today. Its future is intimately tied to that of the region. If the United States and the European Union are committed to supporting political reform in the region, they will need to devise concrete, coherent strategies for engaging Islamist groups. The U.S. and EU have a number of programs that address economic and political development in the region – among them the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), the Union for the Mediterranean, and the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) – yet they have little to say about how the challenge of Islamist political opposition fits within broader regional objectives. U.S. and EU democracy assistance and programming are directed almost entirely to either authoritarian governments themselves or secular civil society groups with minimal support in their own societies. The time is ripe for a reassessment of current policies. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, supporting Middle East democracy has assumed a greater importance for Western policymakers who see a link between lack of democracy and political violence.

For full text follow the link:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2010/01_political_islam_hamid/01_political_islam_hamid.pdf

International Terrorism and Transnational Crime: Security Threats, U.S. Policy, and Considerations for Congress

By Rollins, John, et. al.

(Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. January 5, 2010)

"U.S. efforts to combat the relationship between crime and terrorism are a subset of broader policy responses to transnational crime and international terrorism individually. While numerous U.S. strategies and programs are designed to combat international terrorism and transnational crime separately, fewer efforts focus specifically on addressing the confluence of the two. Those efforts that do exist focus mainly on (1) human smuggling and clandestine terrorist travel, (2) money laundering and terrorist financing, and (3) narcoterrorism links between drug traffickers and terrorists. This report provides a primer on the confluence of transnational terrorist and criminal groups and related activities abroad. It evaluates possible motivations and disincentives for cooperation between terrorist and criminal organizations, variations in the scope of crime-terrorism links, and the types of criminal activities—fundraising, material and logistics support, and exploitation of corruption and gaps in the rule of law—used by terrorist organizations to sustain operations.

For full text follow the link: http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R41004_20100105.pdf

TROUBLED PARTNERSHIP: U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS IN AN ERA OF GLOBAL GEOPOLITICAL CHANGE

By Larrabee, F. Stephen.

(RAND Corporation. February 3, 2010)

"A strong security partnership with Turkey has been an important element of U.S. policy in the Mediterranean and the Middle East since the early 1950s. It is even more important today. Turkey stands at the nexus of four areas that have become increasingly critical to U.S. security since the end of the Cold War: the Balkans, the Middle East, the Caucasus/Central Asia, and the Persian Gulf region. In all four areas, Turkey's cooperation is vital for achieving U.S. policy goals. However, in the last few years—and especially since 2003—U.S.-Turkish relations have seriously deteriorated. The arrival of a new administration in Washington presents an important opportunity for repairing the

fissures in the U.S.-Turkish security partnership and putting relations on a firmer footing. This monograph examines the causes of recent strains in the U.S.-Turkish security partnership and options for reducing these strains." F. Stephen Larrabee is Distinguished Chair in European Security at the RAND Corporation.

For full text follow the link: http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG899.pdf

Obama in the Americas: Searching for an Effective Strategy

By Noriega, Roger F.

(American Enterprise Institute. January 2010)

"President Barack Obama's policy toward the Americas in 2009 seemed more improvisational than purposeful, but 2010 is likely to bring challenges that require a strategic U.S. response. It is hoped that the Obama administration has learned from several events and circumstances of the past year and will make U.S. policy in the region more effective going forward. The Obama administration must be prepared to respond to growing instability in Venezuela, improve relations with Brazil during a presidential transition, strengthen ties with Colombia, and provide more robust antidrug assistance to Mexico." Roger F. Noriega a senior State Department official from 2001 to 2005, is a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.aei.org/docLib/1LAO2010g.pdf>

THE WORLD ORDER IN 2050

By Dadush, Uri; Ali, Shimelse.

(Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. February 2010)

"The world's economic balance of power is shifting, as emerging countries rapidly overtake traditional Western powers as the predominant world economies. The recent global recession has only accelerated this trend. Traditional Western powers will remain the wealthiest nations in terms of per capita income, but will be overtaken as the predominant world economies by much poorer countries. Given the sheer magnitude of the challenge of lower-wage competition, protectionist pressures in advanced economies may escalate. The global economic transformation will shift international relations in unpredictable ways. To retain their historic influence, European nations will be pressed to conduct foreign policy jointly—an objective implied by their recently ratified constitution—and will need to reach out to emerging powers. Japan and Russia will seek new frameworks of alliances. The largest emerging nations may come to see each other as rivals." Uri Dadush is senior associate and director in Carnegie's new International Economics Program. Bennett Stancil is a junior fellow in Carnegie's International Economics Program.

For full text follow the link: http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/The_World_Order_in_2050.pdf

A World Free of Nuclear Weapons

Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. February 2010.

"Since the first atomic bombs exploded in 1945, some have tried to rid the world of nuclear weapons. President Obama has embraced this goal with new vigor. This electronic journal examines the challenges to achieving nuclear disarmament. It conveys the hopes of some thinkers, and explains the doubts of others. Our contributors approach the issue from every angle. Most agree with President Obama's objective, although one, a former U.S. national security adviser, argues that the world may be safer with a few acknowledged nuclear weapons than with promises that all have been foresworn. Feature essays explore the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and consider what a treaty abolishing nuclear weapons might look like. We review Obama administration policy, and also how the issues look from the Russian vantage point, and from the perspective of nations that choose not to proliferate. We outline past arms control efforts — some produced better results than others."

For full text follow the link: <http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa/0210.html>

New Treaty, New Influence?: Europe's Chance to Punch Its Weight

By Luzzatto Gardner, Anthony; Eizenstat, Stuart E.

(Foreign Affairs. March/April 2010, pp.104-120)

"From the founding of the European Economic Community in 1958 until the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, Washington supported ever-increasing European integration. In doing so, its goal was to contain rivalries between European states, promote Europe's economic dynamism, and strengthen Europe's ability to resist Soviet domination. The approaches of recent U.S. administrations toward the EU have varied. The Clinton administration (in which we both served)

unambiguously favored the development of a common EU foreign and security policy, even one that might sometimes conflict or compete with that of the United States. The George W. Bush administration supported EU integration rhetorically, but many of its policies had the effect, if not the intent, of driving wedges between EU member states over certain issues, particularly the invasion of Iraq. In the neoconservative view of some Bush administration officials, the United States was more likely to achieve its foreign policy goals if Europe was divided and if the United States worked through "coalitions of the willing" than if Europe was unified and able to coordinate its policy centrally.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Resetting U.S.-Russian Relations: It Takes Two

By Kramer, David J.

(The Washington Quarterly. January 2010, pp.61-79)

"Since Obama's trip to Moscow, provocative visits to Abkhazia and South Ossetia by Medvedev and Putin respectively, Medvedev's renewed threats to target Iskander missiles against the Czech Republic and Poland if U.S. missile defense plans move forward in those two countries, and the murders of human rights activists and charity heads in Chechnya have cast a shadow over the relationship. At the end of the day, Russia's current leadership—corrupt, revisionist, and insecure as it is—will likely decide that perpetuating the image of the United States as a threat is more important to maintaining the Kremlin's grip on power than a new, more positive chapter in U.S.—Russia relations. Four issues are likely to dominate the relationship for the foreseeable future: policy toward Russia's neighbors, missile defense, strategic challenges such as Iran, and developments inside Russia. Alas, none of these issues offers much promise for building a strong foundation for the bilateral relationship." David J. Kramer is a senior transatlantic fellow with the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

For full text follow the link: http://www.twq.com/10january/docs/10jan_Kramer.pdf

Obama and Latin America: New Beginnings, Old Frictions

By Shifter, Michael.

(Current History. February 2010, pp. 67-73)

"Obama's debut on the regional stage was highly successful in improving the mood in US–Latin American relations. Obama's likeability contrasted sharply with his predecessor's, significantly enhancing the favorable image of the United States. This shift mirrors a global upward trend and represents no meager accomplishment for the new administration. Improvement in America's image, though no substitute for substantive policy gains, is an essential step toward repairing the damage of preceding years and rebuilding trust in US foreign policy... The continuing irritations in relations between the United States and Latin America make it all the more urgent that the Obama administration extensively consult with and even more deeply engage the most significant and largely friendly governments in the region, such as Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Colombia, and Peru—as well as some select nations like El Salvador and the Dominican Republic in too often overlooked Central America and the Caribbean. Bolstering such ties and offering concrete reassurances of genuine partnership should be at the top of Washington's agenda in the Americas.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Cuba's Brave New World

By Erikson, Daniel P.; Wander, Paul J.

(Fletcher Forum of World Affairs. Fall 2009, pp. 9-28)

"Cuba, once a lonely communist outcast, is now enjoying a wave of international engagement that was virtually inconceivable even a decade ago. Since Raúl Castro took over as provisional president of Cuba in July 2006, Havana has hosted over seventy heads of state, including high profile leaders such as Hu Jintao of China, Dmitry Medvedev of Russia, and Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil, in addition to influential officials like former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and EU Development Commissioner Louis Michel. While some regions give the island more attention than others, Cuba's foreign policy is truly global. In Asia, China recently became Cuba's second largest trading partner while African leaders continue to praise Cuban solidarity and medical diplomacy. Last June, Latin American diplomats recently came together to revoke Cuba's suspension from the Organization of American States (OAS), with the tacit agreement of the United States and Canada. The European Union has initiated a new dialogue aimed at normal relations with Cuba and the island's relations with Canada remain strong.

For full text follow the link: http://www.thedialogue.org/PublicationFiles/Erikson-Wander_Forum%2033-2.pdf

II. ECONOMIC ISSUES

The Financial Crisis and the Scientific Mindset

By Paul J. Cella, III

(*New Atlantis*, Fall 2009/Winter 2010)

The author writes that what is becoming clear about the financial collapse in 2008-2009 is that the U.S. economy has been driven by a financial system that relies on a complicated structure of speculative debt, that is enabled by modern technology, is totally dependent on abstractions and mathematical formulas and, as it turned out, can only be kept alive by the intervention of the government. On the surface, the development of the shadow banking system appears as a technocratic revolution in capitalism, but on a deeper level is "a failure of the modern mind ... and of the reckless grandiosity of modern technological civilization". Cella observes that Wall Street was infatuated with "the engineered abstraction, produced by mathematical brilliance and computing capacity", believing that the untidy reality of the everyday world could be made predictable by their formulas. He notes that this mindset "is singularly susceptible to falsely imagining that ideas are more real than men . . . This is the simple wisdom that modern finance forgot."

For full text follow the link: <http://www.thenewatlantis.com/publications/the-financial-crisis-and-the-scientific-mindset>

How a New Jobless Era Will Transform America

By Don Peck

(*Atlantic Monthly*, March 2010)

The author notes that the official unemployment figures in the U.S. understate the magnitude of the jobs crisis; the percentage of unemployed and underemployed have approached the highest figure since the 1930s. Despite official pronouncements that the recession is over, a prolonged era of high joblessness is just beginning. Peck writes that it will have a profound effect on the prospects, character and behavior patterns of a generation of young people who are just now trying to enter the workforce. For the first time in U.S. history, the majority of the jobs in the country will be held by women, as the shrinking of the traditional manufacturing industries and trades falls disproportionately on men. Peck fears that the longer the jobless period lasts, the greater the negative effect it will have on the stability of households and communities around the country.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/03/how-a-new-jobless-era-will-transform-america/7919/>

Poverty, Disconnected

By Ravi Kanbur

(*Finance & Development*, December 2009)

The author, professor of economics at Cornell University, notes that relying on official statistics such as GDP numbers often paints too rosy a picture of the incidence of poverty; economists have long sought ways to provide a more complete picture of the state of the poor. He notes that the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress, established by the French government, goes a long way to address this discrepancy. Kanbur highlights the numerous ways in which the disconnect between the optimistic picture on poverty painted by official data and the more pessimistic assessment by grassroots activists manifests itself.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2009/12/kanbur.htm>

PUBLIC'S PRIORITIES FOR 2010: ECONOMY, JOBS, TERRORISM

Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. January 25, 2010

"As Barack Obama begins his second year in office, the public's priorities for the president and Congress remain much as they were one year ago. Strengthening the nation's economy and improving the job situation continue to top the list. And, in the wake of the failed Christmas Day terrorist attack on a Detroit-bound airliner, defending the country from future terrorist attacks also remains a top priority. At the same time, the public has shifted the emphasis it assigns to two major policy issues: dealing with the nation's energy problem and reducing the budget deficit. About half (49%) say that dealing with the nation's energy problem should be a top priority, down from 60% a year ago. At the same time, there has been a modest rise in the percentage saying that reducing the budget deficit should be a top priority, from 53% to 60%."

For full text follow the link: <http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/584.pdf>

III. DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Climate Change. Will the Copenhagen Accord Slow Global Warming?

(*CQ Global Researcher*, February 2010)

Delegates from around the globe arrived in Copenhagen, Denmark, for the U.N. Climate Change Conference in December hoping to forge a significant agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and temper climate change. But despite years of diplomatic preparation, two weeks of intense negotiations and the clamor for action from thousands of protesters outside the meeting, the conferees adopted no official treaty.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Cyber Warriors

By James Fallows

(*The Atlantic*, March 2010)

When will China emerge as a military threat to the U.S.? In most respects the answer is: not anytime soon—China doesn't even contemplate a time it might challenge America directly. But one significant threat already exists: cyberwar. Attacks—not just from China but from Russia and elsewhere—on America's electronic networks cost millions of dollars and could in the extreme cause the collapse of financial life, the halt of most manufacturing systems, and the evaporation of all the data and knowledge stored on the Internet.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/03/cyber-warriors/7917/>

Labor Shortage

By Katie Paul

(*Newsweek*, February 1, 2010)

In Haiti, children are regularly loaned to other households to work as domestic servants in exchange for food, housing and an education, but many treated like slaves. According to this article, some 225,000 Haitian children are living as indentured servants -- known as "restaveks" -- and their conditions may become worse in the aftermath of the Jan. 12 earthquake. "For families struggling in the wake of a catastrophe, restavek kids are the first to go," said Glenn Smucker, an anthropologist who specializes in development work in Haiti.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.newsweek.com/id/232865>

Making Cap-and-Trade Work: Lessons from the European Union Experience

By Daniel C. Matisoff

(*Environment*, January/February 2010)

With members of Congress currently debating instituting a market-based carbon dioxide emission regulatory system, it behooves policy makers to learn from the lessons of those who went before them. Using interviews of individual businesses, industry trade groups, and government agencies, Matisoff makes a close examination of the successes and failures of the European Union's cap-and-trade system, providing the United States with a launching point for its own discussions.

[Full text available upon request](#)

Press Freedom. Should Partisan Bloggers Get Free-Press Protections?

(*CQ Researcher*, February 5, 2010)

Wrenching changes in the news business are starting to alter the legal landscape for journalists. The federal Freedom of Information Act and "shield" laws in many states give reporters access to official documents and offer some protections against prosecutors who demand to know their confidential sources or information that reporters have gathered. But amid catastrophic revenue declines, media companies struggling to stay afloat have less money to throw into court fights to enforce their journalistic rights.

[Full text available upon request](#)

The Role of the Military in Presidential Politics

By Steve Corbett and Michael J. Davidson
(*Parameters*, Winter 2009/2010)

The authors, both retired military officers, are concerned by the public endorsement of presidential candidates by retired general officers. They worry that it reflects "a disturbing trend toward the politicization of the American military" as well as a move away from the traditional nonpartisan professional military ethic. They believe that this practice should be discouraged because of its potential damage to the U.S. armed forces, noting that "political neutrality is essential to the military's ability to survive in its present form."

For full text follow the link: <http://www.carlisle.army.mil/usawc/Parameters/09winter/corbett%20and%20davidson.pdf>

CONFRONTING THE LONG CRISIS OF GLOBALIZATION: RISK, RESILIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL ORDER

By Evans, Alex; Jones, Bruce; Steven, David.

(Brookings Institution; Center on International Cooperation, New York University. January 26, 2010)

"The nature of risks to global security has changed dramatically since the fall of the Berlin Wall, but our mechanisms for preventing, responding and adapting to them have lagged far behind. While there have been limited efforts to develop more effective international responses, these have been piecemeal and have produced only modest increases in global resilience. The past twelve months have increased pressure on the international system. The arrival of a new US administration, the more assertive multilateral stance taken by China, India, Russia and Brazil, and above all the credit crunch and subsequent global downturn, have increased demand for more effective management of global challenges – while at the same time creating fresh obstacles to achieving this goal. In this think piece, we explore how current opportunities can be used to catalyze the transformation we need to create a more effective international system.

For full text follow the link:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2010/01_globalization_evans_jones_steven/01_globalization_evans_jones_steven.pdf

Global Governance Reform: An American View of US Leadership

By Patrick, Stewart.

(The Stanley Foundation [Policy Analysis Brief] February 2010)

"President Barack Obama has trumpeted a "new era of engagement" for the United States. The central components of his strategy include a world order characterized by peaceful accommodation between established and rising powers; the collective management of transnational problems; and the overhaul of international institutions to reflect these shifting power dynamics and the new global agenda. Placing less emphasis than his predecessor on the pursuit of American primacy, Obama envisions—indeed, insists—that other global powers assume new responsibilities. Notwithstanding its multilateral instincts, though, the Obama administration is limited in its practical ability to promote and embrace sweeping reforms to global governance. Therefore, rather than casting its lot entirely with universal organizations like the United Nations, the United States will adopt a pragmatic approach to international cooperation that combines formal institutions with more flexible partnerships to achieve US national interests.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.stanleyfoundation.org/publications/pab/PatrickPAB210.pdf>

NUCLEAR DISORDER

By Allison, Graham.

(Foreign Affairs. January/February 2010, pp. 74-85)

"The global nuclear order today could be as fragile as the global financial order was two years ago, when conventional wisdom declared it to be sound, stable, and resilient. In the aftermath of the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, a confrontation that he thought had one chance in three of ending in nuclear war, US Pres John F. Kennedy concluded that the nuclear order of the time posed unacceptable risks to mankind. The current global nuclear order is extremely fragile, and the three most urgent challenges to it are North Korea, Iran, and Pakistan. If North Korea and Iran become established nuclear weapons states over the next several years, the nonproliferation regime will have been hollowed out. Most of the foreign policy community has still not absorbed the facts about North Korean developments over the past eight years. One of the poorest and most isolated states on earth, North Korea had at most two bombs' worth of plutonium in 2001."

Graham Allison is Douglas Dillon Professor of Government and Director of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

[Full text available upon request](#)

IV. U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

Obama's First Year

Sabato, Larry J. Sabato's Crystal Ball. January 21, 2010.

"As we look back on a tumultuous first year for President Barack Obama, three questions matter. What have we learned about him? What has he learned about his job? And how much does the first year foretell about the Obama presidency? In many ways Obama in office has acted much as advertised on the campaign trail. He is methodical, cerebral, professorial, and unusually focused. "No Drama Obama", as he is called, isn't given to angry outbursts, emotionalism of any kind, or snap decisions. Many people prefer this kind of governing style, though it limits his effectiveness at times of national anguish and prevents him from employing populist tactics that could aid him politically. Obama trusts and follows his instincts even when he pays a political price. He took months to formulate a clear approach on Afghanistan, and the more criticism he received for the length of his policy review, the more determined he seemed to dot every "I" and cross every "T" before announcing his plans." Larry J. Sabato, Director of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.centerforpolitics.org/crystalball/articles/ljs2010012102/>

The Thirteen Races to Watch

By Fortier, John C.

(The American. February 12, 2010)

"Republicans' prospects for major pickups in the Senate have improved significantly over the past year. What once looked like more possible Republican seat losses due to retirements and open seats now looks like a very good year for the GOP. Picking up ten seats and the majority is almost certainly out of reach for Republicans, although, with a few more strong recruits and some breaks, what recently seemed an impossible dream has become a remote possibility. Here are the top 13 Senate races that Republicans have a strong chance to win in 2010."

For full text follow the link: <http://www.american.com/archive/2010/february/the-thirteen-races-to-watch>

For Democrats, It's Time to Worry

By Cook, Rhodes.

(Sabato's Crystal Ball. January 28, 2010)

"For Democrats, it is officially time to worry. The party's gubernatorial losses in Virginia and New Jersey last fall could be partially explained away as the states' usual off-year swing to the "out" party. But Republican Scott Brown's come-from-behind victory last week in the special Massachusetts Senate election for Ted Kennedy's Senate seat is something else – a harshly delivered slap in the face from voters in one of the most loyally Democratic states in the country. The enthusiasm gap that favored Barack Obama and the Democrats in 2008 has shifted to his opponents. The independents that buttressed Democrats in the last two election cycles have moved in large numbers to the other side. And President Obama has been unable to stem the tide, even with the investment of his political capital into each losing campaign. A look at the numbers shows the sharp reversal of fortune that has taken place in the last year. Obama swept Virginia, New Jersey and Massachusetts in the 2008 presidential balloting by a combined margin of more than 1.5 million votes. Since then, Republicans have won the major statewide races in the three states by an aggregate plurality in excess of 500,000 votes." Rhodes Cook, Senior Columnist.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.centerforpolitics.org/crystalball/articles/frc2010012801/>

REPUBLICAN RENAISSANCE?

Wood, Isaac. Sabato's Crystal Ball. February 18, 2010.

"The last two U.S. House of Representatives elections have been Democratic landslides that have left them with a 79-seat majority. In 2006, Democrats picked up 29 seats on election night (exactly as the Crystal Ball predicted, by the way) and didn't lose a single seat of their own, even adding another pick-up in a December runoff. The winning streak continued in 2008, with Democrats netting 21 new seats in what was a Blue year across the board. A month and a half into the midterm year of 2010, already Republicans can feel the tide turning. The electoral disasters of 2006 and 2008,

due to the toxic unpopularity of George W. Bush and the war in Iraq, represented the dark ages for the GOP, but now they sense a Republican Renaissance in 2010." Isaac Wood is the editor of Sabato's Crystal Ball.
For full text follow the link: <http://www.centerforpolitics.org/crystalball/articles/itw2010021801/>

The Four Quadrants Of Congress

By Brownstein, Ronald.
(National Journal. February 6, 2010)

"In the competition to control the House, demography increasingly appears to be destiny. Across the country, race and education levels have emerged as central fault lines in the division of House seats between Republicans and Democrats, a National Journal analysis of recently released census data shows. Although regional differences still matter, demographic factors that transcend region now play powerful roles in shaping each party's representation in the House. Generally, the greater the district's nonwhite population and the higher the education level of its white residents, the more likely it is to be represented in the House by a Democrat. In contrast, the analysis found, the whiter the district and the lower its number of white college graduates, the more likely it is to elect a Republican. The pattern vividly captures the class inversion that has remade the two parties' electoral coalitions over the past several decades."

[Full text available upon request](#)

HOW THE RECESSION HAS CHANGED AMERICAN MIGRATION

By Barone, Michael.
(The American. February 17, 2010)

"America's changing demography has had enormous consequences in every realm of life. Americans historically have been a mobile people. But the old saying that Americans have been moving from the Snow Belt to the Sun Belt fails to capture what has been happening from 1990 to the onset of the current recession in 2007. And there are entirely new realities due to the recession that are remaking states and regions in important ways." Michael Barone is a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.american.com/archive/2010/february/how-the-recession-has-changed-american-migration>

The Power of Open Government

Remarks by Cass Sunstein at the Brookings Institution. March 10, 2010

President Obama pledged to make his administration the most open and transparent in history and signed the Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government to make government more accountable soon after taking office. In December, the Office of Management and Budget released the Open Government Directive, instructing federal agencies to improve the quality of government information and to embrace a culture of open government. At the center of that effort is Cass Sunstein, administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) at the White House. On Wednesday, March 10, Brookings Co-Director of Economic Studies Ted Gayer moderated an event with Cass Sunstein. Sunstein discussed the implementation of this new initiative and addressed some of the fundamental questions facing modern government, including ways to increase participation and transparency in rulemaking and how to democratize data. He explained how his office is striving for regulation that supports fairness, equity and the role of cost-benefit analysis and behavioral economics in regulation.

For full text follow the link:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/events/2010/0310_open_government/20100310_open_government_sunstein.pdf

HOW WOULD STATES BE AFFECTED BY HEALTH REFORM?

By Holahan, John; Linda Blumberg.
(Urban Institute. January 25, 2010)

The report examines various pathways through which individuals could gain coverage through the Senate and House health reform proposals. "We show that large shares of the population, particularly the uninsured, could potentially gain coverage under health reform through one pathway or another, depending on income and employment status. The number of individuals who would gain coverage and how they would gain coverage varies considerably among states. The benefits of the reform would be disproportionately in southern and western states due to their current low levels of

coverage and low incomes." John Holahan, Ph.D., is the director of the Health Policy Center of the Urban Institute. Linda Blumberg is a senior fellow at the Health Policy Center.

For full text follow the link: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412015_affected_by_health_reform.pdf

RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION IN AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE: A JOINT STATEMENT OF CURRENT LAW

Center for Religion and Public Affairs, Wake Forest University School of Divinity. January 2010

"In January, 2010 a diverse working group of religious and secular leaders unveiled a joint statement about current laws regarding religious expression in the United States. This document does not focus on what the law should be, but rather what the law is today. The joint statement seeks to provide accessible and useful information for Americans about this area of law, and enrich the conversation surrounding religious liberties. While there is disagreement among the drafters about the merits of some of the court decisions and laws mentioned in the document, the drafters agree that current law protects the rights of people to express their religious convictions and practice their faiths on government property and in public life as described in the statement. Signatories discussed current legal protections of religious expressions, including issues such as religion and politics; religious gatherings on government property; chaplains in legislative bodies, prisons and the military; and religion in the workplace. They also discussed the history and future of common-ground projects in the religious freedom field."

For full text follow the link: <http://divinity.wfu.edu/pdf/DivinityLawStatement.pdf>

FACING OUR FUTURE: CHILDREN IN THE AFTERMATH OF IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

By Chaudry, Ajay,

(Urban Institute. February 2, 2010)

"The report examines the consequences of parental arrest, detention, and deportation on 190 children in 85 families in six locations, providing in-depth details on parent-child separations, economic hardships, and children's well-being. The contentious immigration debates around the country mostly revolve around illegal immigration. Less visible have been the 5.5 million children with unauthorized parents, almost three-quarters of whom are U.S.-born citizens. Over several years, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) intensified enforcement activities through large-scale worksite arrests, home arrests, and arrests by local law enforcement. The report provides recommendations for stakeholders to mitigate the harmful effects of immigration enforcement on children." Ajay Chaudry is a researcher at the Urban Institute.

For full text follow the link: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412020_FacingOurFuture_final.pdf

SOCIAL NETWORKING IN GOVERNMENT: OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

Human Capital Institute. January 2010

"Social networking (SN) has become the new online rage. Blogs, wikis, RSS feeds and social networking sites like Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn have provided creative ways to recruit, engage, connect and retain employees. They have also provided an opportunity to facilitate strategic knowledge sharing across organizations and government agencies. Most SN tools are Web-based and provide a variety of ways for users who share interests and/or activities to interact. Users can share best practices and build communities of practice. These tools provide email and instant messaging services — constant connectivity. SN tools can help with the current challenges facing today's government agencies such as brain drain from a retiring workforce, the need to create inter-agency knowledge sharing and an increased need to imbed talent tools where the work is getting done." According to the report, Sixty-six (66) percent of government workplaces use some type of SN tool — and sixty-five (65) percent of those are using more than one tool."

For full text follow the link: http://www.hci.org/files/field_content_file/SNGovt_SummaryFINAL.pdf

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

2009 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices

(U.S. Department of State, March 11, 2010)

"The idea of human rights begins with a fundamental commitment to the dignity that is the birthright of every man, woman and child. Progress in advancing human rights begins with the facts. And for the last 34 years, the United States has produced the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, providing the most comprehensive record available of the condition of human rights around the world," says the Secretary of State introducing the report.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2009/index.htm>

2009 Internet Crime Report

(Internet Crime Complaint Center, March 11, 2010)

The report covers fraudulent activity on the Internet today. Online crime complaints increased substantially once again last year, according to the report. The IC3 received a total of 336,655 complaints, a 22.3 percent increase from 2008. The total loss linked to online fraud was \$559.7 million; this is up from \$265 million in 2008."

For full text follow the link: http://www.ic3.gov/media/annualreport/2009_IC3Report.pdf

Arsenal's End? American Power and the Global Defense Industry

By Ethan B. Kapstein

(Center for a New American Security, February 19, 2010)

The recent firing of the F-35 Program Manager by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has heightened concerns in the policy community that the plane is failing to meet its economic and military objectives. But in the report, Ethan Kapstein suggests that the multinational F-35 exemplifies the complexity of the Pentagon's global acquisition strategy.

For full text follow the link: http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/ArsenalsEnd_Kapstein_Feb2010_code324.pdf

Can Iran's Accelerating Nuclear Program Be Stopped?

By Leonard S. Spector

(YaleGlobal, March 10, 2010)

Iran appears to have stepped up its efforts to produce a nuclear weapon amid new information about its level of technological expertise and its dealings with North Korea, according to nonproliferation expert Leonard S. Spector. Iran has been able to enrich uranium to the 19.75 percent level, a significant step toward producing weapons-grade uranium. That Iran wants to enrich all of its uranium supply to this level, beyond what it would likely need for medical isotopes, suggests the desire and wherewithal to build a nuclear weapon.

For full text follow the link: <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/can-iran%E2%80%99s-accelerating-nuclear-program-be-stopped>

Economic Report of the President

(Council of Economic Advisers, February 11, 2010)

The Economic Report of the President is an annual report written by the Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers. An important vehicle for presenting the Administration's domestic and international economic policies, it provides an overview of the nation's economic progress with text and extensive data appendices.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/economic-report-president.pdf>

Five Years of Kyoto

By Nathan Hultman

(Brookings Institution, February 9, 2010)

On February 16th, the Kyoto Protocol will reach the fifth anniversary of its entry into force, the date at which it received enough ratifications to become legally active. While technically not a "birthday," the Protocol was negotiated in December 1997, this milestone provides an opportunity to reflect on the wider meaning and significance of this instrument into which perhaps too many expectations were invested.

For full text follow the link: http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/0209_kyoto_hultman.aspx

The Future of the Internet

By Janna Quitney Anderson et al.

(Pew Internet & American Life Project, February 19, 2010)

"Experts and stakeholders say the Internet will enhance our intelligence – not make us stupid. It will also change the functions of reading and writing and be built around still-unanticipated gadgetry and applications. The battle over control of the internet will rage on and debates about online anonymity will persist," say the authors.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2010/Future%20of%20internet%202010%20-%20AAS%20paper.pdf>

Getting to the Territorial Endgame of an Israeli-Palestinian Peace Settlement

By Edward P. Djerejian

(James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, February 2010)

The author says that the guidelines will be needed for introducing a United States oversight function for Israeli settlement activities. The purpose will be to assess gradual progress, including planning the sequence of settlement evacuation/relocation and providing ways and means to assist the parties concerning agreements and disagreements.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.bakerinstitute.org/publications/BI-pub-IPTerritorialEndgame-020210.pdf>

U.S.-Iranian Relations: An Analytic Compendium of U.S. Policies, Laws, and Regulations

(Atlantic Council, web posted on March 9, 2010)

This Compendium contains the text of major regulations, laws, and other documents governing U.S. interactions with Iran. Also provided are the text of U.N. Security Council Resolutions, agreements between Iran and several other countries on various issues, and other documents that represent major policy decisions in U.S. relations with Iran. The publication was launched at an Atlantic Council panel discussion on U.S.-Iran relations.

For full text follow the link: http://www.acus.org/files/publication_pdfs/65/US-IranRelations.pdf

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT ON PROGRESS IMPLEMENTING THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

Vice President Joe Biden. The White House. February 2010

"A year ago on February 17, 2009, Congress passed, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. One year after the passage of the Act, we can report that approximately 2 million jobs have been created or saved thanks to the Act's impact on hiring in the private sector, by local and state governments and by non-profits. By design, the Act had three primary purposes: Rescue, Recovery and Reinvestment. The enclosed report reviews our progress in each of these three areas. Almost 20 million Americans have gotten extended unemployment benefits thanks to the Act, and over 95 percent of working families have had their taxes cut. Jobs have been created thanks to tens of thousands of projects now underway nationwide. And the groundwork for the economy of the next century is being put in place as we invest in high speed rail, health technology, broadband, a smarter electrical grid, clean cars and batteries, and renewable energy."

For full text follow the link: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/20100216-annual-report-progress-recovery-act.pdf>

POLICIES FOR INCREASING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT IN 2010 AND 2011

By Yang, Susan.

(Congressional Budget Office (CBO). January 2010)

"At the request of the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has examined the potential role and efficacy of fiscal policy options in increasing economic growth and employment, particularly over the next two years. This paper summarizes the current economic outlook, reviews criteria for setting fiscal policy under

such economic conditions, and assesses the potential impact on output and employment of a variety of policy options. Some options would reduce taxes on individuals or increase aid to the unemployed and others, increasing the disposable income of households and thus boosting demand. Other options would increase cash flow and reduce taxes for firms, which would encourage firms to invest and hire and thus increase employment. Additional options would increase federal spending by investing in infrastructure or providing aid to state governments, which would strengthen demand for goods and services and reduce further losses of state and local government jobs. CBO concludes that further policy action, if properly designed, would promote economic growth and increase employment in 2010 and 2011.

For full text follow the link: <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/108xx/doc10803/01-14-Employment.pdf>

THE BEIGE BOOK 2010

The Federal Reserve Board. March 3, 2010

Commonly known as the Beige Book, this report is published eight times per year. Each Federal Reserve Bank gathers anecdotal information on current economic conditions in its District through reports from Bank and Branch directors and interviews with key business contacts, economists, market experts, and other sources. Reports from the twelve Federal Reserve Districts indicated that economic conditions continued to expand since the last report, although severe snowstorms in early February held back activity in several Districts. Nine Districts reported that economic activity improved, but in most cases the increases were modest. The demand for services was generally positive across Districts, most notably for health-care and information technology firms. Of the five Districts reporting on transportation, three characterized activity as improved over the previous survey. Manufacturing activity strengthened in most regions, particularly in the high-tech equipment, automobile, and metal industries.

For full text follow the link: <http://federalreserve.gov/fomc/beigebook/2010/20100303/FullReport.htm>

MIDDLE CLASS IN AMERICA

Economics and Statistics Administration,
(U.S. Department of Commerce. January 2010)

The Department of Commerce issued this report for Vice President Biden's Middle Class Task Force. The report, which identifies what it means to be middle class in America today, uses a host of measures to show that it is more difficult today to both attain and maintain a middle-class lifestyle than it was two decades ago. "Most Americans consider themselves middle class. This raises the question, what does it mean to be middle class? This report examines various definitions, discusses middle class values and aspirations, and presents hypothetical budgets showing how these aspirations might be achieved with different incomes. The report also looks back two decades to examine whether it is more or less difficult to attain a middle class lifestyle today. "While incomes for married-couple and single-parent families with two children have increased significantly, much of this rise occurred in the 1990s. In part, these increases occurred because parents are working more hours in order to maintain higher income levels.

For full text follow the link:

http://www.commerce.gov/s/groups/public/@doc/@os/@opa/documents/content/prod01_008833.pdf

The Suburbanization of Poverty: Trends in Metropolitan America, 2000 to 2008

Kneebone, Elizabeth; Garr, Emily. Metropolitan Policy Program, the Brookings Institution. January, 2010

The authors analyze recent American poverty trends, finding that suburbs are now home to the largest and fastest growing poor population in the country. The suburban poor population grew by 25 percent between 2000 and 2008—almost five times faster than cities and 10 points above the national growth rate. "In light of the ongoing economic challenges facing communities throughout the country, this study builds on previous Brookings research to examine how city and suburban poverty trends have changed since 2000, and whether recent events have further altered the spatial distribution of the poor. Using the most recent American Community Survey data, the authors update the analysis to 2008 and broaden the geographic scope to include not only cities and suburbs in the largest metro areas, but smaller metro areas and non-metropolitan areas as well, for a complete geographic picture of changes in America's poor population since 2000.

For full text follow the link: http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2010/0120_poverty_kneebone.aspx#

