ARTICLE ALERT # 11

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
2. Economic Issues
3. Democracy and Global Issues
4. U.S. Society and Values
5. U.S. Government and Think Tank Reports, Policy Papers

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

I. FOREIGN POLICY

Arms for the World: How the U.S. Military Shapes American Foreign Policy
By Michael A. Cohen
(*Dissent*, Fall 2009)

"The expanded role of the armed forces in key aspects of American foreign policy may seem like a temporary overreaction to the attacks of September 11, 2001. But the military's dominant role in fighting the "war on terror" is the outgrowth of developments that were underway well before the fall of 2001. First and foremost was the maintenance of a large standing military force in peacetime."
Full text available upon request

Changing North Korea
By Andrei Lankov
(*Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2009)

By exposing them to the truth about their impoverishment and about the prosperity of their South Korean cousins, the United States can encourage North Koreans to change the regime in Pyongyang.
Full text available upon request

China, Nuclear Security and Terrorism: Implications for the United States
By Steven Grogan
(*Orbis*, Fall 2009)

The author, with the Defense Intelligence Agency, describes Chinese strategic nuclear forces and the Chinese approach to nuclear security. He then focuses on the domestic conditions in China which could result in vulnerabilities to its nuclear forces. Based on these threats, Grogan outlines several scenarios involving a variety of terrorist or terrorist related events. These notional scenarios include overrun or attack, diversion, cyber terrorism and sabotage. He covers what these scenarios and the possible Chinese reaction to them may mean for the security, military and diplomatic strategies of the U.S.
Full text available upon request

The Economic Future of Nuclear Power

Fatah Resurrected
By Khalil Shikaki
(*National Interest*, November/December 2009)

The author, director of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research in Ramallah, notes that in recent years, Israel has argued that the peace process could not move forward because of weak and dysfunctional governance in the West Bank. Shikaki says that all that is about to change -- the old guard has been peacefully ousted from power in democratic elections, and the new leadership of Fatah, the largest nationalist group, is younger, better educated, and eager to push for a more moderate Hamas and better relations with Israel. The new leadership also has control over the security services. Heading up Fatah is an old-guard politician, Mahmoud Abbas; the author writes that the key question is if Abbas can effectively lead the Palestinian Authority. Shikaki notes that Israel and the U.S. now have a legitimate negotiating partner, and it is up to them not to undercut Abbas; this is the best chance for peace in a decade, and if the opportunity is wasted, it may not come back for another decade.
For full text follow the link: http://www.nationalinterest.org/Article.aspx?id=22326

How To Govern a Multipolar World
By David P. Calleo
(*Current History*, November 2009)

"Can Europe's postwar experience with multinational institutions help bring order to the increasingly plural world system that is unfolding in the twenty-first century? The constitutionalist perspective embodied in the European Union offers lessons for how to bring peace and stability to an increasingly plural world system."
Full text available upon request

How We Can Win in Afghanistan
By Max Boot
(*Commentary*, November 2009)

The terms counterterrorism and counterinsurgency have become common currency this decade in the wake of September 11, the invasion of Afghanistan, and the war in Iraq. To a layman's ear, they can sound like synonyms, especially because of our habit of labeling all insurgents as terrorists. But to military professionals, they are two very different concepts.
For full text follow the link: http://www.commentarymagazine.com/printarticle.cfm/how-we-can-win-in-afghanistan-15257

In Afghanistan, Training Up Is Hard to Do
By Sydney, Jr. Freedberg
(*National Journal*, October, 23, 2009)

In an article profiling the commander of the 4th Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division, the author notes that training Afghan soldiers will require more American advisors and troops, in order to reverse the years of underinvestment in security in Afghanistan after 2003. Freedberg writes that Afghanistan became an afterthought, with most of the attention on Iraq; as a result, the situation in Afghanistan today is probably worse than it was in Iraq several years ago. As U.S. experience in Iraq has shown, it is difficult to separate the advisory role from the fighting; American troops are necessary to serve alongside the Afghans in order to reduce the threat to a level where the Afghans can handle it on their own.
For full text follow the link: http://www.nationaljournal.com/njmagazine/cs_20091024_5750.php

The Kremlin Begs to Differ
By Dimitri K. Simes and Paul J. Saunders
(*National Interest*, November/December 2009)

The authors, president and executive director of the Nixon Center, analyze the political situation in Russia and its effect on relations with the U.S. Russia's political system, a popularly supported semiauthoritarian state capitalism, is the source of its problems. Corruption is deeply embedded and pervasive, severely limiting the country's modernization and sustainable economic growth. It makes the political system very resistant to change and also quite fragile, and it also combines with the uninhibited power of the government to discourage foreign investment in the country.
For full text follow the link: http://www.nationalinterest.org/Article.aspx?id=22344

Nuclear Power Without Nuclear Proliferation?
By Steven E. Miller & Scott D. Sagan
(*Daedalus,* Fall 2009)

Today, the Cold War has disappeared but thousands of those weapons have not. In a strange turn of history, the threat of global nuclear war has gone down, but the risk of a nuclear attack has gone up. More nations have acquired these weapons. Testing has continued. Black market trade in nuclear secrets and nuclear materials abound. The technology to build a bomb has spread. Terrorists are determined to buy, build or steal one. Our efforts to contain these dangers are

centered on a global non-proliferation regime, but as more people and nations break the rules, we could reach the point where the center cannot hold.
For full text follow the link: http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1162/daed.2009.138.4.7

The Nukes We Need
By Keir A. Lieber and Daryl G. Press
(*Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2009)

The Obama administration is right that the United States can safely cut some of its nuclear arsenal, but it must retain the right capabilities. Otherwise, the United States' adversaries might conclude -- perhaps correctly -- that Washington's nuclear strategy rests largely on a bluff.
Full text available upon request

The Role of a "Cyber Czar"
By Stanton Sloane
(*Armed Forces Journal*, September 2009)

The FBI reports that cybercrime is the third-greatest threat to U.S. national security, following right after nuclear war and weapons of mass destruction. The author, president of SRA International, writes that the magnitude of the cybersecurity problem is vastly misunderstood and underestimated, especially with respect to the theft of intellectual property. Apart from criminals and youthful hackers, foreign intelligence operations pose the greatest threat to critical infrastructure. Sloane predicts that any firm in possession of technology of interest has either been cyberattacked or will be. The new cyberczar, or cybersecurity coordinator, that President Obama has promised to appoint, "has his or her work cut out;" that person's most important assets will be the president's ear and money for cyberdefense improvements. Much has been written about the need for public-private cooperation in this field, and Sloane says that government and industry must promote and fund innovation.
For full text follow the link: http://www.armedforcesjournal.com/2009/09/4214383

Roosevelt, Truman and the Development of Postwar Grand Strategy
By Wilson D. Miscamble
(*Orbis*, Fall 2009)

The author, professor of history at the University of Notre Dame, argues that after the U.S. victory in World War II, it was clear that the country should move beyond the disastrous policies of the 1930s, but it was less clear how. In the final analysis, a lasting postwar strategy was forged under President Truman. He writes that appreciating how Truman moved well beyond Roosevelt's guiding assumptions is essential to understanding the evolution of American grand strategy; experience in wartime planning and grand strategy formulation can prove quite inadequate for dealing with postwar challenges. He concludes the Truman administration eventually developed and adopted containment and moved far beyond FDR's approach. This article is part of a special series, Debating American Grand Strategy After Major War.
Full text available upon request

Still Not Pushing Back: Why the European Union Is Not Balancing the United States
By Jolyon Howorth and Anand Menon
(*Journal of Conflict Resolution*, October 2009)

"A recent wave of scholarly literature has argued forcibly that the European Union's European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) represents an attempt on the part of the EU to 'balance' against the United States. According to such analyses, the EU is reacting to American global preeminence by building up its military capacities to enhance its own ability to play a significant, autonomous role in international affairs. This article takes issue with such claims and points to significant theoretical and methodological shortcomings inherent in the work of the 'soft balancers.'"
Full text available upon request

Trotsky in Baluchistan
By Ahmed Rashid
(*National Interest*, November/December 2009)

"Afghanistan is in crisis. Unless we redouble our efforts, the Taliban will take Kabul and throw the entire region into chaos. The group has already spread its influence throughout Pakistan and central Asia, inspiring Islamic militants to

wage war against autocratic, corrupt and unstable regimes. For the Taliban believes that if jihad is to succeed in Afghanistan, Kabul can only be the first of many victories."
For full text follow the link: http://www.nationalinterest.org/Article.aspx?id=22352

What Do They Really Want? Obama's North Korea Conundrum
By Victor D. Cha
(*Washington Quarterly*, October 2009)

The author, inaugural holder of the Korea Chair at CSIS and deputy head of the U.S. delegation to the Six-Party Talks, describes negotiations with North Korea as "all about contradictions -- what can be important one day can become unimportant the next." President Obama's expressed interest in high-level negotiations, shown by the appointment of Stephen Bosworth as a special envoy, and his commitment to the multilateral negotiating forum mean that North Korea's provocative actions can no longer be rationalized as attempts to engage the United States.
For full text follow the link: http://www.twq.com/09october/docs/09oct_Cha.pdf

The World Still Needs a Leader
By Leslie H. Gelb
(*Current History*, November 2009)

"Constraints on the exercise of power are growing. Even so, other nations continue to need Washington's leadership to address global challenges."
Full text available upon request

Negative Views of U.S. Unchanged in Turkey
By Richard Wike, Erin Carriere-Kretschmer, Pew Global
(PewResearchCenter Publications, December 3, 2009)

…While overall ratings for the U.S. have improved throughout much of the world, in Turkey they remain dismal -- only 14% of Turks expressed a positive view of the U.S. in the spring 2009 Pew Global Attitudes survey, the lowest rating among the 25 nations included in the poll.
For full text follow the link: http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1429/negative-views-of-america-unchanged-in-turkey

President Obama meets with Prime Minister Erdogan
By Bulent Aliriza
(December 7, 2009, CSIS' Critical Questions)

On December 7, President Barack Obama will host Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey at the White House. It will be the first formal meeting between the two leaders since April, when Obama visited Turkey early in his administration.
For full text follow the link: http://csis.org/publication/president-obama-meets-prime-minister-erdogan

Balancing a Bullish Turkey
By Steven A. Cook, Hasib J. Sabbagh
(Council of Foreign Relations 4 December, 2009)

Although bilateral ties have improved markedly in the last two years as Ankara has demonstrated it is an asset to Washington in Iraq, the Caucasus, and Afghanistan, there are significant differences between the two countries in other areas, notably the Middle East.
For full text follow the link: http://www.cfr.org/publication/20904/balancing_a_bullish_turkey.html?breadcrumb=%2F

Europe: Integr ating Islam
(Council of Foreign Relations, 1 December, 2009)

Since 9/11, Western Europe's growing Muslim population has been the focus of debate on issues ranging from immigration policy to cultural identity to security. Several incidents in recent years have increased tensions between some Western European states and their Muslim populations: the 2004 Madrid and 2005 London attacks, the 2004 ban of the head scarf coupled with recent calls to ban the "burqa" in France, the 2005 Paris riots, the 2006 Danish cartoon incident, and several high-profile murders.
For full text follow the link: http://www.cfr.org/publication/8252/europe.html?breadcrumb=%2F

Public Diplomacy 2.0: Where the U.S. Government Meets "New Media"
By Helle C. Dale
(The Heritage Foundation, 8 December, 2009)

Can Facebook and Twitter change the world? Can all the nifty new social-networking sites promote democracy and a better understanding of American values around the world? The potential is certainly there -- as was seen in the invaluable Twitter updates during the post-election protests in Iran…
For full text follow the link: http://www.heritage.org/Research/PublicDiplomacy/bg2346.cfm

The Rise and Fall of Criticism Towards the United States in Transatlantic Relations: From Anti-Americanism to Obamania
By Tuomas Forsberg
(Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, November, 2009)

The article makes a useful distinction between anti-American opinion – which is governed by what the U.S. does, and can be modified through dialogue and argument, changes in U.S. policy, etc. – and bias, which is a more deep-seated and psychological response to the U.S. and what it stands for.
For full text follow the link: http://www.nupi.no/content/download/11084/109015/file/Forsberg-paper.pdf

II. ECONOMIC ISSUES

An *American* Lost Decade?
(*International Economy*, Summer 2009)

Is America headed for a 1990s Japanese-style "lost decade" of economic stagnation? In this symposium of views, thirty experts, ranging from economists, journalists, academics and businessmen weigh in. The consensus among most of the group is that the U.S. government acted decisively and quickly, whereas the Japanese government dallied for much longer before taking action. The American and European experts interviewed generally express a more positive view of the U.S. prospects than the Japanese, one of whom states that the U.S. is in for "more than one lost decade."
For full text follow the link: http://www.international-economy.com/TIE_Su09_LostDecade.pdf

Anticipate the Next Crisis
By Atish Ghoshm, Jonathan Ostry and Natalia Tamirisa
(*Finance & Development*, September 2009)

The authors, all IMF officials, write that the global economic upheaval has sparked new interest in the financial version of an "early-warning system" that could anticipate a future crisis-in-the-making. Various proposals have been floated that have in common a means to identify underlying vulnerabilities and specific events likely to trigger a crisis, and policies that can be adopted to address the shortcomings that might lead to a collapse. They note that a more ambitious goal for such an early-warning system would be to spell out worst-case scenarios, and provide policymakers options for how to respond; but they acknowledge that no such system would be able to identify all financial crises, and may produce false alarms.
For full text follow the link: https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2009/09/pdf/ghosh.pdf

Death Cometh for the Greenback
By Joseph E. Stiglitz
(*The National Interest*, November/December 2009)

It has not taken long to become used to the idea of war as PlayStation. Pilots of Predator drones return home to their wives and children after working all day on the "battlefield." Cyber war promises a sanitized version of conflict, but it can take down power lines, poison water supplies and destroy financial markets. Battle by keystroke holds its own very real dangers.
For full text follow the link: http://www.nationalinterest.org/PrinterFriendly.aspx?id=22348

The Dollar and the Deficit
By C. Fred Bergsten
(*Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2009)

The global economic crisis has revealed the folly of large U.S. budget and trade deficits, as well as of the strong dollar that makes them possible. If it is serious about recovery, the United States must balance the budget, stimulate private saving, and embrace a declining dollar.
Full text available upon request

The Fiscal Crisis: Transatlantic Misunderstandings
By Bernard E. Brown
(*American Foreign Policy Interests*, September 2009)

"It is widely believed in Europe that the fiscal crisis was caused by the absence of government regulation of the financial sector in the United States. This belief, the article argues, is an oversimplification that encourages unrealistic hopes for quick solutions and for a drastic shift of the balance of power from the United States to the European Union and other actors. In conclusion, the article points to underlying problems of the 'market-state,' the dominant economic model in all advanced democracies today."
Full text available upon request

III. DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Does the Vaccine Matter?
By Shannon Brownlee and Jeanne Lenzer
(*The Atlantic*, November 2009)

"Whether this season's swine flu turns out to be deadly or mild, most experts agree that it's only a matter of time before we're hit by a truly devastating flu pandemic—one that might kill more people worldwide than have died of the plague and aids combined. In the U.S., the main lines of defense are pharmaceutical—vaccines and antiviral drugs to limit the spread of flu and prevent people from dying from it. Yet now some flu experts are challenging the medical orthodoxy and arguing that for those most in need of protection, flu shots and antiviral drugs may provide little to none. So where does that leave us if a bad pandemic strikes?"
For full text follow the link: http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200911/brownlee-h1n1

The Future of Cars: Industry Leaders Look Way Down the Road
(*Scientific American*, November 2009)

The car fleet of 2030 will use a patchwork quilt of different fuels and power trains, with some cars meant for short hops and city driving. As the years go by, vehicles will become increasingly connected to one another electronically, for crash prevention and social networking. Driver distraction will be an ongoing concern. Whether cars that run on hydrogen fuel cells will be common in 20 years remains an open question.
Full text available upon request

Giving Away Green Technologies
By Bruce Stokes
(*National Journal*, November 20, 2009)

"Scientists and climate experts say that faster dissemination of clean technology is needed to have a hope of meeting the target of limiting the rise in average global temperatures to less than 2 degrees Celsius, a level that should minimize potentially catastrophic climate changes. To achieve that ambitious goal, the current level of global emissions of CO2 must be cut by at least half by 2050. Installing climate-friendly technologies at an unprecedented pace is the only way to ensure that success." The author points to a recent study by Chatham House, the British think tank, that "concludes that the most important result from Copenhagen would not be some new technological aid program but merely a clear signal to global markets and investors that far-reaching change in business-as-usual technological development is imminent and inevitable. This, more than anything, would spur greater business investment and international collaboration to develop the technologies needed to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions."
Full text available upon request

Gore Out to Change the World
By Ronald Brownstein
(*National Journal*, November 13, 2009)

"With the domestic and international debates over climate change reaching a critical point, former Vice President Gore is back with a book on the issue. In Our Choice: A Plan to Solve the Climate Crisis, Gore argues that the prospect of disruptive climate change presents "a unique and unprecedented challenge" because its impact will unfold over decades and affect societies worldwide. Those are bigger units of measurement than political leaders usually work with when trying to build coalitions for action. "In other words, because of its planetary scope, this crisis masquerades as an abstraction," Gore writes, in one of his book's most memorable passages. [...] Gore spoke with Atlantic Media Political Director Ronald Brownstein [...] about his new book, the Senate climate debate, and the prospects for the international climate-change meeting that will open in Copenhagen on December 7."
Full text available upon request

A Path to Sustainable Energy by 2030
By Mark Z. Jacobson and Mark A. Delucchi
(*Scientific American*, November 2009)

"The article discusses how alternative energy sources, such as wind, water, and solar power, can provide all of the world's energy needs and eliminate fossil fuels. Topics include an in-depth discussion of how the construction of millions of wind turbines, water machines, and solar installations can provide energy, the need to use clean energy such as geothermal energy that has near-zero emissions, and statistics regarding the amount of installations needed worldwide to supply energy." Mark Z. Jacobson is professor of civil and environmental engineering at Stanford University and director of the Atmosphere/Energy Program there. Mark A. Delucchi is a research scientist at the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California, Davis.
For full text follow the link: http://www.stanford.edu/group/efmh/jacobson/sad1109Jaco5p.indd.pdf

Securing the Information Highway
By Wesley K. Clark and Peter L. Levin
(*Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2009)

Cyberwarfare is not an abstract future threat. The United States' electronic defenses are vulnerable and Washington must act quickly to secure computer networks, software, and hardware before it is too late.
Full text available upon request

Terrorism and the Internet. Should Web Sites that Promote Terrorism Be Shut Down?
(*CQ Global Researcher*, November 2009)

A decade ago, terrorist organizations operated or controlled only about a dozen Web sites. Today there are more than 7,000. Terrorist groups use the Internet for many activities, ranging from raising funds to explaining how to build a suicide bomb. They find the Internet appealing for the same reasons everyone else does: It's cheap, easily accessible, unregulated and reaches a potentially enormous audience. As terrorist content spreads to chat rooms, blogs, user groups, social networking sites and virtual worlds, many experts, politicians and law enforcement officials are debating how government and industry should respond. Some want Internet companies to stop terrorists from using the Web, while others say that is not the role of Internet service providers. As governments enact laws based on the belief that the Internet plays a significant role in promoting terrorism, critics say the new measures often overstep free-speech and privacy rights.
Full text available upon request

U.S. Energy Policy
By Max H. Bazerman
(*Environment*, November 2009)

"This article discusses the barriers preventing the U.S. government and its citizens from addressing energy problems despite clearly defined solutions and course of actions. The author notes that the issue of global warming has been recognized for decades but largely ignored by the media, politicians, and citizens. It focuses on how climate change is an energy-related problem whose relevance to enacting wise policies range across a variety of issues. He draws on the September 11, 2001 terrorists attacks as an example of human failure to act in time to prevent a catastrophe that he believes was foreseeable and cites the creation and implementation of policy recommendations that require an anticipation of change and the development of strategies to overcome barriers to action."
Full text available upon request

War From Cyberspace
By Richard Clarke

(*The National Interest*, November/December 2009)

It has not taken long to become used to the idea of war as PlayStation. Pilots of Predator drones return home to their wives and children after working all day on the "battlefield." Cyber war promises a sanitized version of conflict, but it can take down power lines, poison water supplies and destroy financial markets. Battle by keystroke holds its own very real dangers.

For full text follow the link: http://www.nationalinterest.org/PrinterFriendly.aspx?id=22340

The Women's Crusade
By Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn
(*New York Times Magazine*, August 23, 2009)

In the lead article of a special issue of the magazine entitled "Saving the World's Women," the authors argue that the paramount moral challenge of this century may be the appalling brutality inflicted on millions of women and girls around the world, such as sex trafficking, physical attacks, mass rape and bride burning. They cite estimates that there are about 100 million missing women and girls worldwide -- more than all the men killed in conflicts of the past century -- due to abuse, neglect, sex-selective abortion and infanticide. In much of the developing world, girls are uneducated and women marginalized -- and it is no accident that those countries are mired in poverty and chaos. The authors adapted this essay from their new book, *Half the Sky: Turing Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*.

For full text follow the link: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/23/magazine/23Women-t.html?pagewanted=1

IV. U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

Online Privacy. Do Americans Need Better Protection?
(*CQ Researcher*, November 6, 2009)

The Internet has become not only a primary means of communication but a place where millions of Americans store important personal data, from credit-card numbers and bank account information to family photos and histories of their online purchases. But that data does not have the same legal protection as data that Americans store in their homes. What's more, powerful new technologies are creating unexpected challenges to privacy online. Advertisers, for example, can now track the Web sites you visit, and actions you take on those sites, to analyze how to more effectively sell products to you. And they may sell the information they collect to others. Privacy advocates, and some lawmakers in Congress, say the growing threats to online privacy point to the need for stronger laws to protect users' data. But Republicans in Congress warn that overregulation may cripple the economic foundation of the Internet.
Full text available upon request

Pillars of the Next American Century
By James Kurth
(*The American Interest*, November/December 2009)

The 20th century was famously called "the American century", yet its being so called occurred in an improbable way. The phrase itself was actually not used until Time publisher Henry Luce coined it in a special issue of Life magazine in 1941—by which time 40 percent of the 20th century had already passed. Moreover, 1941 was a year in which the superiority of America and of the American way of life appeared decidedly problematic.
For full text follow the link: http://www.the-american-interest.com/article.cfm?piece=688

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

"An Alleyway in Hell": China's Abusive "Black Jails"
(Human Rights Watch, November 12, 2009)

Since 2003, large numbers of Chinese citizens have been held incommunicado for days or months in secret, unlawful detention facilities. These facilities, known informally as "black jails" or "black houses," are created and used primarily by local and provincial officials to detain petitioners who come to Beijing and provincial capitals seeking redress for complaints that are not resolved at lower levels of government. Public security officials in Beijing and other cities have not intervened to close the jails and, in at least some instances, have directly assisted black jail operators. The report details what happens to individuals once inside.

For full text follow the link: http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/china1109webwcover_1.pdf

America's Place in the World 2009: An Investigation of Public and Leadership Opinion About International Affairs
(Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, December 3, 2009)

The general public and members of the Council on Foreign Relations are apprehensive and uncertain about America's place in the world. Growing numbers in both groups see the United States playing a less important role globally, while acknowledging the increasing stature of China. And the general public, which is in a decidedly inward-looking frame of mind when it comes to global affairs, is less supportive of increasing the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan than are CFR members, according to the survey.

For full text follow the link: http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/569.pdf

Avoiding Elections at any Cost in Iraq
By Rachel Schneller
(Council on Foreign Relations, December 3, 2009)

The author says that Iraqi political factions should be given time to sort out their power-sharing rules rather than be rushed into elections in January 2010, a date pegged to U.S. troop withdrawals.
For full text follow the link:
http://www.cfr.org/publication/20879/avoiding_elections_at_any_cost_in_iraq.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fregion_issue_brief

The Cost of War: Afghan Experiences of Conflict, 1978-2009
(Oxfam International, November 17, 2009)

To better understand how Afghans have experienced and understand the devastating conflict of the last thirty years, eight nongovernmental organizations operating in Afghanistan conducted research in 14 provinces across the country. The research focused on individual experiences of the past thirty years of conflict, perceptions of the current conflict and recommendations for alleviating the violence and addressing its root causes.
For full text follow the link: http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/afghanistan-the-cost-of-war.pdf

Empire State Exodus: The Mass Migration of New Yorkers to Other States
By Wendell Cox and E.J. McMahon
(Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, October 27, 2009)

The Empire State is being drained of an invaluable resource, the people. From 2000 to 2008, in both absolute and relative terms, New York experienced the nation's largest loss of residents to other states, a net domestic migration outflow of over 1.5 million, or 8 percent of its population at the start of the decade.
For full text follow the link: http://www.empirecenter.org/Documents/PDF/RBTemptResearch-Bulletin-Migration-2009-3.pdf

The End of Chimerica
By Niall Ferguson
(Harvard Business School, November 2009)

For the better part of the past decade, the world economy has been dominated by a world economic order that combined Chinese export-led development with U.S. over-consumption. The financial crisis of 2007-2009 likely marks the beginning of the end of the Chimerican relationship. The paper looks at this era as economic historians, trying to set events in a longer-term perspective.
For full text follow the link: http://www.hbs.edu/research/pdf/10-037.pdf

Europe: Integrating Islam
By Toni Johnson

(Council on Foreign Relations, November 18, 2009)

The report says that the Western Europe's burgeoning Islamic population continues to spark concerns about Muslim assimilation and a cultural divide.
For full text follow the link:
http://www.cfr.org/publication/8252/europe.html?breadcrumb=%2Fpublication%2Fby_type%2Fbackgrounder

Fixing a Failed Strategy in Afghanistan
By Gilles Dorronsoro
(Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, November 2009)

As the debate on future U.S. strategy draws to a close, the war in Afghanistan is spreading to the North , an area that had previously been relatively quiet, the balance of power in Afghanistan has shifted in the Taliban's favor, and the Afghan government continues to lose legitimacy in the eyes of the population and international community. In order to correct a failing strategy, the United States and its allies need to protect cities and reallocate more resources to the North, according to the report.
For full text follow the link: http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/fixing_failed_strategy.pdf

Global Fraud Report 2009/2010
(Kroll and Economist Intelligence Unit, October 2009)

Companies lost an average $8.8 million to fraud over the past three years, an increase of seven percent over last year's figure which stood at $8.2 million, according to the 2009/2010 Annual Edition of Kroll's Global Fraud Report. The findings are the result of a survey Kroll commissioned from the Economist Intelligence Unit of more than 700 senior executives worldwide.
For full text follow the link: http://www.kroll.com/library/fraud/FraudReport_English-US_Oct09.pdf

Iran and the West at a Crossroad - Part I
By Jamsheed K. Choksy
(YaleGlobal, October 30, 2009)

Despite Iran's recent equivocation over a deal crafted to lower the threat of the country producing nuclear weapons, there are signs that the Islamic Republic could, nevertheless, settle the issue, according to the author. First, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's regime is feeling the pressure exerted by international sanctions not just in terms of the economy but also in participating in the international community. Second, administrators within Ahmadinejad's camp are growing frustrated with theocratic rule and note the advantages to be reaped from engaging with the world. Third, Iranian citizens yearn for unfettered contact with the West and the benefits that could confer.
For full text follow the link: http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/iran-and-west-crossroad-part-i

Obama Seen as More Friendly Than His Party: GOP Seen as Friendlier to Religion Than Democrats
(The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, December 1, 2009)

More Americans continue to view the Republican Party as friendly toward religion (48%) than rate the Democratic Party that way (29%). President Barack Obama's administration, however, is seen as friendly toward religion by more people (37%) than the Democratic Party as a whole. And all three get higher ratings for friendliness toward religion than the news media (14%), scientists (12%) or Hollywood (11%).
For full text follow the link: http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/568.pdf

Obama's Afghanistan Rating Declines: A Year Out, Widespread Anti-Incumbent Sentiment
(Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, November 11, 2009)

The mood of America is glum, according to the Pew survey. Two-thirds of the public is dissatisfied with the way things are going in the country. Fully nine-in-ten say that national economic conditions are only fair or poor, and nearly two-thirds describe their own finances that way – the most since the summer of 1992. An increasing proportion of Americans say that the war in Afghanistan is not going well, and a plurality continues to oppose the health care reform proposals in Congress.
For full text follow the link: http://people-press.org/reports/pdf/561.pdf

The Outlook for Consumer Spending and the Broader Economic Recovery

By Karen E. Dynan
(Brookings Institution, October 29, 2009)

How long will the economic recovery take? Karen Dynan testified before the Joint Economic Committee that there is a great deal of uncertainty about the strength and speed of the nation's recovery, with gradual expansion being the most likely economic scenario. She says that consumer spending is likely to grow modestly over the next few years because of weak income growth, higher saving and lower borrowing. Policymakers have options to bolster the recovery but they should be mindful of the long-run costs, particularly in terms of the budget deficit, she says.
For full text follow the link:
http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/Files/rc/testimonies/2009/1029_recovery_dynan/1029_recovery_dynan.pdf

Report to U.S. and EU Leaders
(Atlantic Council, November 2009)

Given the considerable smart grid investments already underway in the U.S. and Europe, the U.S., the EU Commission and the EU's 27 member states should engage with each other in this promising field. The report recommends the establishment of an appropriate transatlantic liaison with these existing efforts to ensure compatible standards and regulations based on international standards wherever possible.
For full text follow the link: http://www.acus.org/files/publication_pdfs/65/AtlanticCouncil-USEUSmartGrid.pdf

Shoulder to Shoulder: Forging a Strategic U.S.-EU Partnership
By Daniel S. Hamilton and Frances G. Burwell
(Atlantic Council, December 1, 2009)

The report outlines a comprehensive plan for renewing U.S.-EU relations. According to the report, the world that created the transatlantic partnership is fading fast. The United States and Europe must urgently reposition and recast their relationship as a more effective and strategic partnership. It is a moment of opportunity, to use or to lose.
For full text follow the link: http://www.acus.org/files/publication_pdfs/65/US-EUPartnership.pdf

The Shriver Report: A Woman's Nation Changes Everything
By Maria Shriver
(Center for American Progress, October 2009)

The report describes how a woman's nation changes everything about how we live and work today. Now for the first time in the U.S. history, women are half of all U.S. workers and mothers are the primary breadwinners or co-breadwinners in nearly two-thirds of American families. This is a dramatic shift from just a generation ago. It changes how women spend their days and has a ripple effect that reverberates throughout our nation. It fundamentally changes how we all work and live, not just women but also their families, their co-workers, their bosses, their faith institutions, and their communities.
For full text follow the link: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/10/pdf/awn/a_womans_nation.pdf

Taxes Around the World: A Brief History of World Tax Policy, 1981-2007
By Kevin A. Hassett and Aparna Mathur
(American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, December 3, 2009)

The paper traces the historical changes in virtually all forms of taxation across countries and over time. It describes trends in 10 different tax rates between 1981 and 2007 across all the 30 OECD countries. The simple agenda guiding the analysis is to provide a description of how taxes have changed around the world since 1981.
For full text follow the link: http://www.aei.org/docLib/Taxes%20Around%20the%20World%2012-2-9.pdf

Understanding the Role of Deterrence in Counterterrorism Security
By Andrew R. Morral and Brian A. Jackson
(RAND Corporation, December 7, 2009)

Deterrence, a central feature of counterterrorism security systems and a major factor in the cost-effectiveness of many security programs — is not well understood or measured. To develop a simple analytic framework for evaluating the relative value of deterrent measures, the authors build on a growing literature that examines terrorist decision making by examining the role of deterrence in counterterrorism strategy.
For full text follow the link: http://rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2009/RAND_OP281.pdf

Understanding the World Trade Collapse
By Calista Cheung and Stephanie Guichard
(Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, October 29, 2009)

The paper shows that world demand, to which trade has become more responsive in recent decades, can explain most of the collapse in world trade, but that tight credit conditions have likely amplified the short-term trade response.
For full text follow the link: http://www.olis.oecd.org/olis/2009doc.nsf/LinkTo/NT00006C2A/$FILE/JT03273213.PDF

Vision for Victory in Afghanistan – Part I & II
By Michael E. O'Hanlon
(Brookings Institution, November 18, 2009)

On a recent weeklong visit to Afghanistan sponsored by the U.S. military, Michael O'Hanlon met with Afghan and foreign officers and officials whose mood countered the overall dismal outlook and recent reports of violence there. O'Hanlon's visit left him with guarded optimism about our prospects for creating a safe and stable Afghanistan.
Part I (http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/1118_afghanistan_ohanlon.aspx)and Part II (http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2009/1119_afghanistan_ohanlon.aspx)