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CISSM Publications | Summer 2013

Featured Publication

["Media Coverage of Iran's Nuclear Program"](#)
Jonas Siegel and Saranaz Barforoush | April 2013

In analyzing recent English-language newspaper coverage of Iran's nuclear program, Siegel and Barforoush found that news coverage has had a distorting effect on public understanding and policy choices regarding the international dispute about Iran's nuclear program. By relying predominantly on government officials as sources and adopting official narratives about the dispute, news coverage often reinforces existing sentiments and perceptions about Iran and unnecessarily dismisses a range of alternative approaches to resolving the dispute.



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CISSM Working Papers and Policy Briefs

["Climate Change and its Impact on the Political Dynamics of Pakistan"](#)
Zafar Imran | July 2013

Imran argues that the link between climate change, resource scarcity, and conflict is not as straightforward as many studies suggest it to be. Piecing together publicly available data about Pakistan, this paper suggest that climatic changes disturb the social and political equilibrium of a society by either creating new fault lines in the social, political, or ethnic landscape of that society, or by exacerbating existing ones. In addition, Imran finds that the preexisting social and political configuration of a society determines how that society responds to climate change disturbing this equilibrium.

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About CISSM

The [Center for International and Security Studies at Maryland \(CISSM\)](#), which is based at the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland-College Park, is an interdisciplinary policy research center that develops [cooperative strategies](#) to address the emerging implications of globalization.

About CISSM Publications

CISSM researchers publish their work in an array of academic and general-audience publications. CISSM also publishes occasional working papers that relate to its ongoing [research projects](#).

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"Deteriorating Economic Condition and the Emergence of Social Instability"

Charles Harry | July 2013

Harry relies on an innovative agent-based model to argue that, contrary to prevailing understanding, economic inequality can have significant effects on the emergence of civil violence, but that the magnitude and direction of these effects depend on local conditions. He also finds that there is a delicate balance between implementing economic reforms (e.g. fuel subsidy reform) to generate long-term growth and the social instability that can ensue in the short-run due to deteriorating economic conditions of the most vulnerable. This brief is based on Harry's doctoral dissertation.

"Cybersecurity in Russian-U.S. Relations"

Pasha Sharikov | April 2013

Sharikov argues that differing definitions of what activities pose a cyber-threat complicate U.S.-Russian relations on this issue. Ongoing Russian-U.S. cooperation at the highest level demonstrates that the states recognize the common interests at stake, says Sharikov, but officials will have to work on a mutually beneficial basis to make any level of cooperation work.

Other CISSM Publications

Jonas Siegel and Saranaz Barforoush, ["Nuclear Narratives."](#) (*Cairo Review of Global Affairs*, July 2013)

Peter Dombrowski, Catherine Kelleher, Eric Auner, ["Demystifying Iron Dome."](#) (*The National Interest*, July 2013)

Paul C. Stern, Kristie L. Ebi, Robin Leichenko, Richard Stuart Olson, John Steinbruner & Robert Lempert, ["Managing Risk with Climate Vulnerability Science."](#) (*Nature Climate Change*, June 2013)

I.M. Destler, ["Susan Rice's Playbook."](#) (ForeignAffairs.com, June 2013)

Madiha Afzal, ["The Week After."](#) (*The Express Tribune*, May 2013)

John Steinbruner, ["Preparing to Manage Geoengineering Contingencies."](#) (Contribution to WBUR's Climate Change Series, April 2013)

Nickolas Roth and Janne Nolan, ["Strengthening Senate Oversight of Nuclear Security."](#) (The Hill's Congress Blog, March 2013)

Joseph Siegle, ["Managing Volatility with the Expanded Access to Information in Fragile States."](#) (in *Diplomacy, Development, and Security in the Information Age*, Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, March 2013)

Robert D. Lamb, Sadika Hameed, Joy Aoun, Kevin Jones, Kathryn Mixon, and Adam Parker, ["U.S. Policy Responses to Potential Transitions: A New Dataset of Political Protests, Conflicts, and Coups."](#) (CSIS Report, March 2013)

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