Publishing

Both in print and on-line, the Council publishes the results of its study groups and roundtables, reports of independent task forces and Council Policy Initiatives (CPIs), information about its staff and programs, and summaries and transcripts of selected events. The Council’s website—www.cfr.org—reaches an ever-growing audience nationally and internationally, while a steady stream of high-quality books and reports are read by increasing numbers of policymakers. Publishing via the web has greatly reduced the time between manuscript and publication, and has also increased readership, especially for shorter publications.

This past year, the Council published or co-published eleven books, which are marketed through the Brookings Institution to bookstores and for use in university classrooms. In addition, the Council published six independent task force reports—on India-Pakistan, Cuba, Northeastern Europe, strengthening Palestinian public institutions, nonlethal weapons, and transatlantic relations—as well as a Council Policy Initiative on the International Criminal Court, the report of an independent commission on the future international financial architecture, and the annual report.

Council publications frequently make a substantial impact on U.S. policy. For example, when the Clinton administration announced significant changes in policy toward Cuba in early 1999, the Washington Post noted that the changes mirrored in part the “sensible direction taken by a more ambitious new report from the Council on Foreign Relations.” The report, U.S.-Cuban Relations in the 21st Century, was the product of an independent task force co-chaired by Bernard W. Aronson and William D. Rogers.

In June, an independent task force chaired by former French Prime Minister Michel Rocard released its report, Strengthening Palestinian Public Institutions, at a high-profile press conference on the West Bank. The policy recommendations of the report received broad coverage in the United States, the region, and elsewhere.

For example, the New York Times reported that “the Task Force report suggested that it was a matter of great urgency for the Palestinian Authority to ‘acknowledge its own shortcomings’ and change. ‘Not to reform is not an option,’ Henry Siegman, the project director, said.”

The Jerusalem Post noted that “The report, sponsored by the New York–based Council on Foreign Relations with the participation of five European former prime ministers, said the PA needs to make extensive changes, including developing a participatory political system. But it also credited the PA for providing services under difficult conditions.”

And Reuters reported that “Nabil Shaath, Palestinian minister of planning and international cooperation, said the report was ‘professional and objective’ and promised it would be reviewed seriously.”

Detailed information on all publications is available on the Council’s website at www.cfr.org, which permits ordering on-line. The full text of all task force reports and CPIs is also available on the website, as is the full text of the introductory chapters of books.

David Kellogg
Publisher
Publications 1998–99

Council on Foreign Relations Press Books

Alliance Adrift, by Yoichi Funabashi (1999).


Independent Task Force Reports


Council Policy Initiatives


Papers


Preventive Action Reports


Other Publications by Council Fellows and Staff


