I found 10 random topics by using LsiModel’s built-in “print\_model()” function, shuffling the results of the printed 300 topics, and selecting the first 10. Here, I have given them a name according to the overall tone of the topic. I then used a simple keyword search using grep in the command line to return documents containing, or not containing, certain words.

Cold war?

(3,

'-0.290\*"police" + 0.284\*"bush" + 0.244\*"soviet" + 0.199\*"dukakis" + 0.132\*"gorbachev" + -0.091\*"fire" + 0.091\*"reagan" + 0.088\*"trade" + 0.087\*"budget" + -0.085\*"killed"')

Documents with high proportions of this topic included: AP900420-0031, which is about concerns over donations to Dukakis’ political campaign from a businessman with bipartisan allegiances and ties to Mikhael Gorbachev, AP900530-0090, which is about a possible meeting between Reagan and Gorbachev and speculation that the subject would be “a treaty reducing superpower arsenals of long-range nuclear missiles”. Another document containing this topic is AP900530-0090, which is another article speculating on the outcome of a meeting between another U.S. head of state, President Bush. What this topic seems to capture, according to the documents, is a feeling of anxiety toward the outcome of meetings between Russia and the U.S. post-Cold War.

The absence of the Palestine-Israel conflict in news about Germany?

(17,

'-0.253\*"israeli" + -0.246\*"israel" + 0.206\*"german" + -0.155\*"palestinian" + -0.145\*"jewish" + -0.137\*"arab" + -0.136\*"plo" + -0.134\*"palestinians" + -0.124\*"occupied" + -0.122\*"inches"')

There are 127 documents that mention “German” without mentioning Israel, palestinian, Arab, Jewish, inches, occupied, Israeli or Palestine. After a glance through many of the documents, they often seem to have an economic focus. This hunch is somewhat confirmed through the data, with 31 of those documents containing the word “dollar”, 39 containing the word “trade” and 29 containing “deal”.

Dukakis is soft on drug crimes in the South?

(14,

'0.184\*"dukakis" + -0.181\*"police" + 0.162\*"company" + -0.160\*"trade" + 0.139\*"jackson" + -0.134\*"budget" + -0.130\*"bush" + -0.127\*"bill" + -0.111\*"drug" + 0.107\*"south"')

The “South” in this case actually corresponds to South Africa, and have not much to do with much else. The document containing Dukakis, company and South is AP880518-0054, where Dukakis was found to be a beneficiary of a trust fund with ties to South Africa. The article mentions that South Africa is “racially segregated”.

Cold war transition period?

(0,

'0.113\*"soviet" + 0.107\*"percent" + 0.105\*"bush" + 0.089\*"police" + 0.088\*"u.s." + 0.085\*"will" + 0.080\*"\_" + 0.080\*"million" + 0.078\*"new" + 0.077\*"government"')

The articles containing these terms do indeed cover a variety of topics, but all represent a sort of optimism about markets and a shift in the world order, with references to Moscow “moving toward a market-price system that would curtail (their) huge subsidies to Cuba”.

Non-economic news having to do with Soviets and Gorbachev?

(4,

'0.409\*"soviet" + -0.187\*"dukakis" + 0.182\*"gorbachev" + -0.154\*"percent" + 0.134\*"stock" + 0.132\*"index" + -0.103\*"bush" + -0.098\*"dollar" + 0.091\*"communist" + -0.083\*"billion"')

Articles containing a high proportion of this topic include: AP880609-0057, an article about U.S. citizens and Soviet sailors celebrating a U.S.-Soviet agreement, AP901004-0100, an article about Gorbachev privatizing elements of the economy, AP881114-0083, an article about President Reagan’s meeting with Andrei Sakharov and their disagreement over political prisoners and AP900525-0117, an article about rising food prices and consumers’ anxiety.

Police incidents under the Bush administration?

(18,

'0.228\*"police" + 0.182\*"bush" + 0.142\*"oil" + -0.136\*"percent" + -0.127\*"air" + 0.112\*"iraq" + -0.098\*"military" + -0.095\*"plane" + 0.092\*"students" + 0.092\*"billion"')

This topic does seem to relate to police incidents, but none involving the military except in the case of a protest and subsequent arrests in response to U.S. military presence in Central America (AP880915-0056). The other police incidents were related to biker gangs (AP900812-0010), and a death threat to then-vice presidential nominee Bush (AP880916-0216).

The South Africa question:

(16,

'-0.281\*"party" + 0.262\*"south" + 0.194\*"soviet" + 0.152\*"african" + -0.149\*"communist" + 0.133\*"africa" + 0.132\*"dukakis" + 0.117\*"trade" + -0.105\*"opposition" + 0.104\*"mandela"')

This topic does include articles about the South Africa question, especially as it applied to Michael Dukakis’ campaign platform (AP880719-0100), and pressures from Jesse Jackson and Michael Dukakis for South Africa to adhere to U.N. rules (AP880504-0011).

South Africa question rather than cold war jostling for Iraqi oil:

(11,

'0.299\*"south" + -0.191\*"percent" + -0.175\*"police" + 0.160\*"african" + 0.137\*"africa" + -0.121\*"iraq" + -0.120\*"soviet" + -0.114\*"iraqi" + -0.111\*"oil" + 0.105\*"inches"')

Articles containing this topic speak to a departure from Cold War rhetoric involving soviets and jockeying for contentious resources such as control over Iraqi oil.

Fall of the Berlin wall:

(12,

'0.375\*"german" + 0.324\*"east" + 0.294\*"west" + 0.207\*"germany" + -0.155\*"soviet" + 0.126\*"berlin" + 0.125\*"germany\'s" + -0.094\*"military" + -0.091\*"gorbachev" + 0.080\*"kohl"')

Student protests in Germany and police action:

(15,

'0.168\*"court" + -0.162\*"police" + 0.147\*"percent" + 0.140\*"inches" + -0.131\*"students" + 0.121\*"german" + 0.113\*"northern" + 0.108\*"rain" + 0.105\*"south" + 0.101\*"judge"')