



## Forecast

## this week: **Terrorism**

The “war on terror” must fail because it is a self-defeating slogan. To make war on a tactic -- a raid, a breakout, an asymmetric attack on civilians, the use of chemical weapons -- makes no sense. These tactics have worked well throughout history and will continue to. “Terrorist” tactics were used by Americans against the British in the 1770’s, by the Israelis against the British, by Algerians against the French. Progress is only possible if the problem is clearly defined ... as **global militant Islam**. It may be political correctness that prevents that definition, or it may be that there is a genuine misunderstanding of the problem. Once confronted, the origins of **global militant Islam** are largely well-defined and, with sufficient cooperation by a range of nations, is a relatively simple problem to treat.

Near-Term	Mid-Term	Long-Term
In the near-term, the US may find it necessary to consolidate a broader support base in its global campaign against “terrorism” and will find it necessary to reach détente <i>en-bloc</i> with entities such as the <b>European Union</b> and the <b>Organization of the Islamic Conference</b> . But much depends on how the situations in <b>Iraq</b> and <b>Afghanistan</b> develop. How each is <i>perceived</i> within one or two years -- as a job well done, a quagmire, or a strategic withdrawal – will affect US credibility for several administrations.	Nations such as <b>Saudi Arabia</b> , <b>Indonesia</b> , and <b>Turkey</b> are best placed to depict violent Islamic militantism in clear contrast with global Islam but they can not join the “war on terror” to the extent the US expects while it remains a US war rather than a universal hazard because that would sacrifice their credibility at home. It seems unavoidable that the only way to build a general resilient consensus against <b>global militant Islam</b> is at the <b>United Nations</b> level and with the consent of concerned nations.	In the mid to longer term, the <b>United Nations</b> will either grow in stature and its ability to respond to crises or, for practical purposes, cease to exist. In this time scale there will be increasing pressure on the voting rules of the <b>Security Council</b> so that global interests are expressed as a consensus or some majority rather than the often sordid interests of one of the veto Powers. Through such reforms the UN would have a new legitimacy to tackle global challenges such as the “terrorism” of that day, or worse challenges such as epidemics and climate change.

### World Crises: latest assessments by *International Crisis Group*

!!!	Alert	Israel/Occupied Territories, Somalia, Sri Lanka
↓	Deteriorated	Afghanistan, Chad, Ethiopia, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Guinea, Israel/Occupied Territories, Macedonia, Morocco, North Caucasus (non-Chechnya), North Korea, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan
↑	Improved	Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Peru

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=4194&l=1>

#### LEGEND

Hazard Level	Change Codes
	↓ Deteriorated
	• Steady
	↑ Improved
	!!! Alert



# Public Daily Brief



## Threats

Summary

see daily items on the web at

<http://meta2.com/PDB/pdbDetail.asp?THREATS>

<b>Poverty</b>	<p>↓ Prime Minister Tony Blair (<b>UK</b>) and others acknowledge that G8 nations have not met last year's commitments to the world's poorest countries. Reform of trade arrangements had been particularly neglected. In some cases debt write-off had been counted as aid.</p>
<b>Infectious Disease</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cholera outbreak in <b>Angola</b> demonstrated that the means to prevent disease may be available in-country but corruption and incompetence may prevent it being deployed.</li> </ul>
<b>Environment</b>	<p>↓ The scientific consensus grows further that (a) climate change through global warming is real, and (b) to a lesser consensus, that CO2 and other greenhouse gases are directly responsible. Irrespective of the causation arguments, climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and notched-up disaster preparedness (fires, storms, floods, droughts) are new burdens for all governments.</p>
<b>Inter-State Conflict</b>	<p>↓ <b>DPR Korea</b> continues its missile standoff; <b>Iran</b> builds a consensus of support in the <b>Non-Aligned Movement</b> for its nuclear standoff; the <b>Israel/Palestine</b> conflict suddenly reverted to maximum acrimony; both anti-Islamists wars, in <b>Afghanistan</b> and <b>Iraq</b>, deteriorated. With the exception of DPR Korea, all developments has a West/Islam polarity, a fact lost on none of the participants.</p>
<b>Civil War</b>	<p>↓ The <b>Conservative Council of Islamic Courts</b> defeated war-lords in much of Somalia – the <b>African Union</b> has agreed to provide a peace-keeping force. Some observers believe that civil war is possible between <b>Hamas</b> and anti-Hamas forces in <b>Palestine</b>, but the sense of <b>Israel</b> as a common enemy at present may defer this. <b>Sri Lanka</b> deteriorated to what some see as a new level of low intensity war.</p>
<b>Genocide</b>	<p>↓ The <b>Darfur</b> racial cleansing escalated when Arab militias pursued African refugees into neighboring <b>Chad</b>.</p>
<b>other Atrocities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some police successes and programmes in many countries has rapidly increased awareness of human trafficking / modern slavery issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Proliferation</b>	<p>↓ Illegal nuclear sales by <b>Ukraine</b>, <b>Iran</b>'s posture, <b>DPRK</b> brinkmanship, the <b>US</b> arrangement with <b>India</b>, and <b>Indonesia</b>'s decision to go nuclear for energy – these and other developments indicate the <b>NPT</b> is in tatters and a new round of post-Cold War world summits is necessary.</p>
<b>Terrorism</b>	<p>↓ An increasing amount of serious literature suggest the 'War on Terror' is dangerously misconceived and that a thorough détente between the West and the Muslim world is precondition for any resolution of the several conflicts associated with the 'War on Terror'. Terrorism is a tactic, not a cause.</p>
<b>Transnational Crime</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [nothing significant to report]</li> </ul>

↓ deteriorated

• steady

↑ improved

!!! ALERT



# Public Daily Brief



## Policy Summary

see daily items on the web at  
<http://meta2.com/PDB/pdbDetail.asp?POLICY>

<b>Debt</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The growing deficit is a disaster-in-waiting or sensible statecraft, depending on the school of economic thought.</li> </ul>
<b>Diplomacy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenges to US-led foreign policy range from the provocative (Iran) to the polite assertion of sovereignty (Indonesia), but recent weeks saw increasing self-awareness of large blocs that see themselves as a “balance” to the US – the <b>European Union</b>, the <b>Arab World</b>, the <b>Muslim World</b>, the “<b>Moderate Muslim World</b>” (centered on <b>Indonesia</b> and <b>Malaysia</b>) and a mooted <b>Asia-Pacific Commonwealth</b> including the US and <b>China</b> but dominated by neither of them.</li> </ul>
<b>Economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some continue to claim that handsome domestic aggregates hide increasing societal dysfunctions. In world trade regimes, US contradictory positions are being challenged.</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government says succeed or change: teachers say assistance not punishment.</li> </ul>
<b>Energy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Much of the alternative energy debate is over – it has moved from an obsession of fringe groups to a main-stream imperative.</li> </ul>
<b>Family</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As in all developed nations, US demography is becoming increasingly polarized between urban liberal non-traditional living units and the traditional family of the heartland.</li> </ul>
<b>Immigration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↓ The subtext of the “immigration debate” – code for Mexico border – is economic and religious, with border control and security coming a distant third.</li> </ul>
<b>Justice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Supreme Court asserted its role in the Three Estates with the Guantanamo judgement.</li> </ul>
<b>Revenue</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[nothing significant to report]</li> </ul>
<b>Security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North Korea claim to be a threat to US security, but is not: the panoply of US domestic security measures undertaken by a panoply of agencies is said to be on track, but is not.</li> </ul>
<b>Social Security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↓ There is inexplicable upsurge of crime in the “exburbs” and several signs of deterioration in public health care.</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↓ The three-state “water war” over the Apalachicola River is a taste of the sort of water crisis that will face the US in future.</li> </ul>

↓ deteriorated	• steady	↑ improved	!!! ALERT
----------------	----------	------------	-----------



# Public Daily Brief



## Challengers

Summary

see daily items on the web at

<http://meta2.com/PDB/pdbDetail.asp?CHALLENGERS>

<b>Brazil</b>	• Lula's administration seems set for continuing domestic success and, at present, is content with hurling only abuse at the US.
<b>China</b>	• China -- the world's largest dictatorship -- is arming, forming strong ties with energy suppliers in <b>Africa</b> and <b>South America</b> , remains criminally irresponsible in environmental and intellectual property matters, and remains inscrutable as to its medium and long-term intentions.
<b>India</b>	• India the world power in-waiting has almost achieved the nuclear cooperation agreement with the <b>US</b> but remains highly vulnerable to realities such as world grain supply.
<b>Indonesia</b>	• Indonesia – the world's largest Islamic nation – continues to march to its own tune. It condemns <b>Israel's</b> actions in Palestine, refuses any attempt by the <b>US</b> to guide anti-terrorism policy, but remains a key moderate-Islamic ally.
<b>Iran</b>	• Iran has successfully marshaled support in the Non-Aligned Movement ( <b>NAM</b> ) and in <b>Africa</b> for its confused nuclear stance and has consolidated its position as a leading developing nation.
<b>Russia</b>	• Russia succeeds in gaining observer status to the significant Organization of the Islamic Conference ( <b>OIC</b> ), solidifies ties with <b>Turkey</b> , and test launches a ballistic missile.
<b>Venezuela</b>	↓ Chavez continues his mission as a rallying point for Latin American socialist regimes and, with <b>Iran</b> as an unlikely ally, has positioned itself as a leader of non-aligned and developing nations.
<b>[wild-card]</b>	• <b>Turkey</b> continued to encourage its image as the <i>de facto</i> bridge between <b>The West</b> and the <b>Islamic World</b> .

↓ deteriorated	• steady	↑ improved	!!! ALERT
----------------	----------	------------	-----------

.oOo,