

GLOBAL REALITY: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

You may not be interested in reality, but reality is interested in you.

Threat Summary

	<p>Environment. US completely isolated within the G8, alone in opposing carbon emissions controls.</p> <p>Inter-State Conflict. Iran-Iraq escalate, US botches attack on Muqtada al-Sadr, Afghanistan shaky.</p> <p>Proliferation. CIA nuclear device in Himalayas could make holy rivers radioactive. UK ships arms.</p>
	<p>Poverty. Swaziland food crisis, half the maize of 1990's. Horn of Africa pirates threaten relief ships.</p> <p>Infectious Disease. India, Bangladesh on high alert re H5N1. 42% die from resistant tuberculosis.</p> <p>Civil War. Zimbabwe police seize maize. Somalia has Iriqi-style insurgency. Tamil Tigers on a roll.</p> <p>Genocide. Nothing in media, but increasing evidence that CIA smuggles drugs for profit & genocide.</p> <p>Transnational Crime. Guyana drug transshipment. \$800M/mo cocaine from West Africa to Europe.</p>
	<p>Other Atrocities. Pope considered atrocious in Latin America. 68 nations focus on cluster munitions.</p> <p>Terrorism. Environmentalists classified as terrorists—US begins to realize it cannot label everyone so.</p>

Policy Summary

	<p>Diplomacy. Seymour Hersh breaks another story, US Government isolated and hated around the world.</p> <p>Security. DHS roadmap for infrastructure protection. Germans marking suspects with scent.</p> <p>Society. Australia's top lawyers found involved with cocaine.</p>
	<p>Education. 100% of the US schools are failing the current evaluation system—still in industrial-era.</p> <p>Health. Pilots findings toxins on passenger jets, blowing whistle but not yet a mainstream story.</p> <p>Immigration. See daily links.</p> <p>Water. Ghana warns of water wars. Zimbabwe now planning to move water 400 miles by railway.</p>
	<p>Agriculture. GM seed is killing the Kenyan maize industry.</p> <p>Economy. Argentina & Brazil will drop US currency for regional. Localized currency emerges in US!</p> <p>Energy. Hydrogen can be produced from fossil fuel, but GM and BP appear oblivious to costs.</p> <p>Family. .See daily links.</p> <p>Justice. USG tormented by web site disclosing names of 4,300 informers and 400 undercover police.</p>

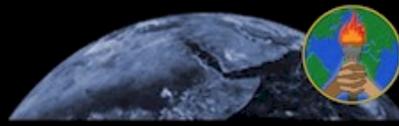
Major Player Summary

	<p>Iran. Foreigners barred from border province. Kyrgyzstan will close US base if used against Iran.</p>
	<p>Venezuela. Community police forces being trained and armed by national police. Colombia accused.</p>
	<p>Brazil. Calls for World Bank leadership to be open to all. New nuclear plant. Homeless moving up.</p> <p>China. Triangle of energy, water, and food security. Funds African Union HQ, audio bugs come free.</p> <p>India. India buys 350 Russian tanks, two divisions. Building strategic roads in NW. Bombs bigger.</p> <p>Indonesia. Decree issued against former President Suharto.</p> <p>Russia. Offering fifth-generation combat aircraft to fly by late 2008.</p> <p>Wild Cards. Two suicide bombers detained, miss one, worst in a decade. Pakistan nuances. Xinjiang!</p>

World Crises - from monthly assessments by *International Crisis Group* - MAY 2007

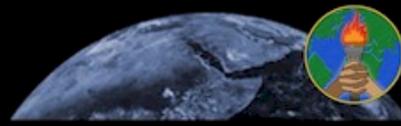
↗	Alert: [nil]
↓	Deteriorated: Chad, Nigeria, Philippines, Somalia, Turkey
↑	Improved: Cote d'Ivoire, Haiti, Uganda
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unchanged: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Basque Country (Spain), Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chechnya, Colombia, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Fiji, Georgia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India (non-Kashmir), Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel/Occupied Territories, Kashmir, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Macedonia, Maldives, Mauritania, Moldova, Morocco, Myanmar/Burma, Nagorno-Karabakh (Azerbaijan), Nepal, Niger, North Caucasus (non-Chechnya), North Korea, Northern Ireland, Pakistan, Peru, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somaliland, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Taiwan Strait, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Western Sahara, Yemen, Zimbabwe

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Threats		<i>see daily items with links to full stories on the web at PDB-Threats</i>
Poverty news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A maize harvest less than half that of the 1990s has left Swaziland with a food crisis. The UN WFP has appealed for international action to stamp out pirates off the Horn of Africa threatening delivery of humanitarian supplies to Somalia.
Infectious Disease news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least \$316M will be required annually for drugs to combat tuberculosis worldwide. [With the increase in occurrence of the multiple-resistant (MDR) strain, this estimate is liable to increase, as is the necessity to stem the renewed spread.] An Indian study finds MDR-TB has a death rate of 42%, and prevalence is higher in the younger, productive age-groups. In Bangladesh the situation with H5N1 is presently classed as "serious" and neighboring India is on high alert -- "Bangladesh has a real chance to get the virus under control, if it commits itself to a full-scale comprehensive national control campaign."
Environment news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ In strenuously opposing what the UK, Germany and others see as modest and doable on carbon emissions control, the US now stands alone among the G8 -- US 'opposes' G8 climate proposals
Inter-State Conflict news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A veteran jihadist has emerged as leader of al-Qaeda in Afghanistan following the death in battle of his predecessor. WFP says rising insecurity in Afghanistan is preventing delivery of food aid to about one million people. Pakistani carriers of fuel to US and NATO troops in Afghanistan have halted from a major refinery because of repeated militant attacks. "They are getting strategic guidance from Quetta but this is not translating on the ground" -- Taliban 'stalled by lack of commanders'. A UK Lieutenant-General's meetings with Sunni insurgents in Baghdad's Green Zone are designed to deepen their split with the foreign fighters once their allies. [At last, classic counter-insurgency.] Coalition forces are doing what several analysts have said they should avoid at all costs ... direct engagement against the Sh'ite militia. A redacted intelligence report suggesting what could happen after an invasion of Iraq, now released by a Congressional committee, is eerily prophetic; "Sadly, the administration's refusal to heed these dire warnings -- and worse, to plan for them -- has led to tragic consequences for which our nation is paying a terrible price." -- Intel Agencies Warned of Post-War Risks. "The US Army tried to kill or capture Muqtada al-Sadr, the widely revered Shia cleric, after luring him to peace negotiations at a house in the holy city of Najaf ..." -- Secret US plot to kill Al-Sadr. The US has carrier groups on the seas, but Iran has an agenda on the ground -- Iran's 'secret' plan to force US out of Iraq. More details on Turkey's opposition to a de facto Kurdish state in northern Iraq -- Turkish anxiety on Kirkuk may mean new conflicts.
Civil War news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ Zimbabwean police have mounted roadblocks to seize maize on the way to the black market as the country battles for grain supplies. Police arrested 200 opposition activists -- "they had no search warrant. They gave no reasons but they have taken in our members who were holding meetings there." Authorities say some activists are suspected of a series of petrol bombings in recent weeks -- many observers believe the bombings in question are the work of the security forces. In Somalia, police are about to take over patrols from troops in Mogadishu; there is little practical difference in equipment between the police and soldiers but residents have complained about the conduct of the military. With the halt in fierce fighting,

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some 90,000 residents have returned to *Mogadishu* -- but an *Iraqi-style insurgency* continues.

A UN military officer has been killed by robbers in *Darfur* [Sudan], the first UN death in the area.

Rockets said to be assembled locally in **Palestine** have a range of 14 miles, compared to the *Qassam (Kassam)* range of 4 miles. [The technology may transfer to **Iraq** and beyond.]

The **LTTE (Tamil Tigers)** of **Sri Lanka** are a unique insurgency, with *police, law courts, army, navy, air force*, international *intelligence network* and “consular” offices in all the Western countries, they are a text-book exemplar of *separatism* -- [*How the Tigers beat the Sri Lankan government.*](#)

Genocide
[news list|forecast](#)

- [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]

Other Atrocities
[news list|forecast](#)

- 68 nation states met in *Lima* to continue work towards a *treaty* on the ban of *cluster munitions* -- the world’s leading producers of cluster munitions, the **US, Russia** and **China**, did not attend.

Following criticism of his comments while in *Latin America*, the **Pope** attempted to redeem the outrageous comments, but this has not appeased at least one *indigenous group*.

Zimbabwe and **Venezuela** are reported to be not cooperating with the *Kimberley Process*, the international effort to stamp out trade in *conflict diamonds*.

Following the discovery of *illegal graves* in 2005, **Uruguay** is planning new excavations searching for remains of “*the disappeared*”.

Proliferation
[news list|forecast](#)

- Despite some earlier indications to the contrary, **Australia** has decided not to sell *uranium* to **India** until it signs the *NPT*.

At least one *radioactive nuclear detection device* placed in the *Himalayas* during the 1960s by the **CIA** has gone missing; at least one other should be retrieved; “*the device could not only lead to contamination of mountain for the next 300 years but can also make radioactive waters of Nepalese and Indian holy rivers ...*”-- [*Nuclear Spy Device On Everest Could Contaminate Rivers.*](#)

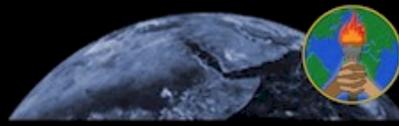
The **UK** government is being urged by some of its own members of Parliament to meet the *NPT* obligation to *disarm* -- “*to meet the country’s commitment under the Non- Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to disarm instead of building a new generation of ballistic missile submarines.*” [i.e. **Trident**]

The present **US** position is to let the *START nuclear treaty* expire in 2009; “*the pact is cumbersome and its complicated reporting standards have outlived their usefulness.*” -- but whoever forms the administration in 2009 can review this position.

A report finds that the **UK** government has repeatedly breached its own guidelines on *arms exports* -- “*In the three years up to 2006, arms exports were approved to 19 of 20 states identified as “countries of concern”, including Colombia and Israel.*”

Terrorism
[news list|forecast](#)

- There is controversy over whether *violent environmental activists* [ELF, and others] should be dealt with under “terrorist” legal provisions; is it the *act* or the *agenda* that makes it terrorism? -- [*Environmentalists Classified as Terrorists, Get Stiff Sentences.*](#)
[*Bush Declassifies Alert on Al-Qaeda \[Intelligence of unknown validity in early 2005 that Osama bin Laden would like to attack the US seems barely worth the press release.\]*](#)



A "terrorist accomplice" was detained in **Tajikistan** for recruiting teenagers to study in a **madrasah** -- "*In the recent months, Tajikistan has launched struggle with Islamic manifestations different from traditional ones.*"

Despite war in **Gaza**, **Israel** says it has "*nothing to discuss*" with **Hamas** -- although founded through "terrorism", against the **British**, Israel now affects a high moral stance on the tactic.

Remembering David Galula's "*Counterinsurgency Warfare*" of 1964; "*thus, a mimeograph machine may turn out to be more useful than a machine gun*" -- *Excerpt: The Counter Insurgency Bible.*

A rift over *tactics* [similar to that thought to have emerged in **JI** in **Indonesia**] is seen in **Algeria**'s militant **Islamists** and may offer a means of fragmenting the group.

Over 100 **Islamist militants** who campaigned against the **Egyptian** government in the 1990s have been released after more than 10 years in prison after agreeing to renounce **violence**.

Transnational Crime
[news list|forecast](#)

- A review of the progression of organized crime in **Guyana**, a key point on **drug routes** into the **US** -- *Organised crime.*
- The UN says \$800M in **cocaine** is now trafficked to **Europe** from **West Africa** monthly.

Policy

Agriculture
[news list|forecast](#)

- The once robust **Kenya maize** industry has become precarious due to **deregulation** and the intrusion of **GM seed** -- a case study relevant beyond Kenya; *Growing maize is not what it used to be.*

Diplomacy
[news list|forecast](#)

- ↓ Seymour **Hersh** comes out with some more outrageous claims ... which may, or may not, be true -- *Fatah al-Islam had support from US, claims Hersh.*
- "*The US government now lives in its own, strange, insulated world*" -- *Why the US Government Is Hated All Over the World [Opinion].* **Amnesty International** adds that the **US** now treats the whole world as its own **battlefield**; "*the US administration's double-speak has been breathtakingly shameless*" -- *US treats world as 'giant battlefield', says Amnesty.* Vice president **Cheney** is well suited to a role in what some see as a new "good cop - bad cop" approach to world affairs -- *Cheney Stands Alone As Hard-Liner.*

Economy
[news list|forecast](#)

- **Latin America**'s two largest economies, **Argentina** and **Brazil**, plan to drop the **US dollar** for a **regional currency**.

Education
[news list|forecast](#)

- "*You have to question the accountability system when 100% of your schools are going to be failing, by definition.*"; **Washington** is still not listening -- *How to Fix No Child Left Behind.*

Energy
[news list|forecast](#)

- ↑ **GE**, **BP** and **Rio Tinto** have committed to developing a **full-scale** process that will produce **hydrogen** and captured **carbon dioxide** from **fossil fuel**.

Family
[news list|forecast](#)

- [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]

Health
[news list|forecast](#)

- ↓ **Pilots** acting as **whistle-blowers** have found **toxins** on **passenger jets** -- "*The neuro-toxin is on the walls of the passenger cabin and in the flight deck....*"

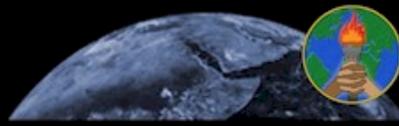
Immigration
[news list|forecast](#)

- ↑ [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]

Justice
[news list|forecast](#)

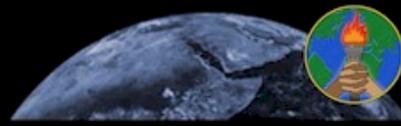
- **US** authorities are trying to block a **website** that names **informers**; "**WHOSaRAT.com** claim it has identified 4,300 informers and 400 **undercover**

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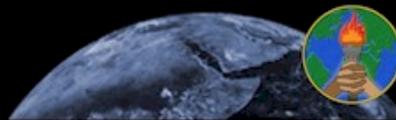
	<p>police and FBI agents". [This brings into sharp contrast the fundamentalist US notion of "free speech" and what makes a <i>civilized society</i>.]</p>
<p>Security news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As one of his final initiatives, UK prime minister Blair hopes to give new "anti-terrorist" powers for police -- "<i>Tony Blair plans to push through a new anti-terrorism law before he steps down next month giving 'war-time' powers to police to stop and question people</i>". Controversially, German police have taken <u>scent</u> samples from G8 protesters -- "<i>metal rods placed on the hands of suspects after a series of raids ... are meant to help identify future violators in a similar way to a fingerprint ...</i>" [German police have used <u>scent</u> for some time – in the absence of <i>fingerprints</i> or <i>DNA</i>, dogs can readily match a suspect to the smallest scent sample.] "<i>It is alleged that the CIA flew their planes to 29 different countries and that there were 300 CIA landings in Europe alone, 80 in Britain</i>" -- Shedding light on CIA mystery flights. New York City is "super-sizing" the electricity grid -- "<i>the pilot project ... will tie together two midtown Manhattan substations, so that one can handle the load of the other in the event that individual circuits are disrupted.</i>" DHS sets road map to secure infrastructure [The DHS framework to protect the 17 sectors of critical infrastructure is <u>advisory</u> rather than <u>regulatory</u>, a true test of whether public interest plays a role in the free market.]
<p>Society news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Massive income, no socially-useful skills, parasitic guilt -- no surprise Australia's top lawyers [barrister/s] have been found involved with cocaine.
<p>Water news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ghana Minister for Water Resources warns conflict is the alternative to protection and better use of water resources throughout Africa. Soon it will necessary to carry water by rail to Zimbabwe city -- "<i>the train would bring water from the Zambezi River in the north of Zimbabwe, around 400 kilometres away.</i>"
<p>Challengers see daily items with links to full stories on the web at PDB-Challengers</p>	
<p>Brazil news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brazil's Treasury issued a statement urging an "<i>open and transparent process, without restricting candidacy to one nationality</i>" in appointing the next head of the World Bank. Under (moderate) socialist President Lula, Brazil's huge homeless population are giving a political dimension to their occupation of derelict buildings -- Homeless squatters find 'social function' for empty buildings. Protesters threatened to shut down the country's second-largest hydro power plant over unsettled claims for flooding 23 years ago, but ended the protest peacefully when the army became involved. Work will resume on a third nuclear plant which began in 1984 but was suspended due to financing problems and concerns over nuclear security.
<p>China news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ Do bananas spread SARS? China gripped by health scare – an excellent update on the crisis of confidence in food quality sweeping China; with the Olympiad looming this is a serious issue. An update on China's dilemma between food security and energy security -- China's low-key jump onto biofuel bandwagon.</p> <p>Villagers attacked government offices after officials imposed heavy fines on families in breach of one-child policies, leading to an ugly riot.</p> <p>China's pledge of \$20B in infrastructure and trade financing for Africa eclipses</p>

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	<p>most previous assistance in one agreement. Separately, China is able to gratify <u>all of Africa</u> with one project – by a \$150M deal to build a new <i>headquarters</i> for the African Union (AU).</p> <p>China announces it will launch a <i>lunar probe</i> this year -- "<i>every small move in the space is of strategic importance and affects state security</i>".</p>
<p>India news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A <i>high-intensity bomb</i>, "<i>one of the ghastliest Guwahati has ever witnessed</i>", was probably the work of <i>Assamese</i> separatists. [Guwahati in <i>Assam</i> is the “gateway” to the remote <i>north-east</i> provinces.] <u>10 kg</u> of <i>explosives</i> were recovered from <i>Faizabad rail station</i> during routine checks. <p>India is to buy 350 main <i>battle tanks</i> from Russia -- "<i>As a result of the tank deals India will have two divisions fully equipped with latest Russian T-90 tanks.</i>"</p> <p>India is building <i>strategic roads</i> in the <i>north-west</i> -- <i>45 yrs after China conflict, Delhi to build roads linking Ladakh outposts.</i></p> <p><i>Sikh</i> hardliners have threatened to form <i>suicide squads</i> to attack a Sikh sect <i>Sacha Sauda</i> – the head of the sect, <i>Baba Gurmeet Ram Raheem Singh</i>, triggered a controversy by appearing in the attire of 10th Sikh Guru <i>Gobind Singh</i> in an advertisement [a <i>blasphemy</i>].</p>
<p>Indonesia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under pressure to punish previous <i>corruption</i>, President Yudhoyono has now issued the <i>presidential decree</i> necessary to take action against former president Suharto.
<p>Iran news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [As a <i>counter espionage</i> measure] Iran has banned <i>foreigners</i> from a <i>border province</i>-- "<i>No legal or illegal foreign nationals are allowed to live, work and travel in any cities of Sistan-Baluchestan province ...</i>" <p>Kyrgyzstan says it will close a US base if it is used against Iran -- "<i>Kyrgyzstan will close a U.S. military base on its territory if the United States uses it for purposes other than to support an antiterrorism campaign in Afghanistan...</i>"</p>
<p>Russia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK says give us alleged <i>poisoner</i> Andrei Lugovoy; Russia says give us billionaire tax-evader in-exile Boris Berezovsky-- <i>UK-Russia relations strained by Litvinenko.</i> <p>Russia's <i>fifth generation combat aircraft</i> is scheduled to fly by late 2008 -- "<i>the development of a new generation aircraft will certainly boost the authority and competitiveness of the Russian defense industry on global markets.</i>"</p>
<p>Venezuela news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Guard soldiers retrieved <u>480kg</u> of <i>cocaine</i> from a <i>Cessna</i> that crashed in eastern Venezuela. <p>President Chavez is planning for a <i>community police force</i> to make inroads on <i>crime</i> which is now the top polling public concern -- national police will supply <i>training</i> and <i>equipment</i> to local communities.</p> <p>Colombia denies it is plotting with the US to prepare "an ambush" against Venezuela -- <i>Colombian FM denies plot with US against Chávez.</i></p>
<p>Wild Cards news list forecast</p>	<p>✓ In separate incidents, Turkish police detained two <i>suicide bombers</i>, in one case a <i>woman</i> was arrested in southern Turkey with 5kg of A4. A successful bombing injured over 100 in Ankara and was the <i>worst bombing in a decade</i>; it took place shortly before the chief of General Staff and others were due to pass the area. Turkey's control of the headwaters of Tigris and Euphrates rivers, and Kurdish separatist refuges in northern Iraq, ensure continuing uncertain relations between Turkey and Iraq -- <i>Turks Take The War Into Iraq.</i></p> <p>Any analysis of the <i>Great Game</i>, <i>Central Asia</i>, and the <i>New Silk Road</i> is incomplete</p>

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without China's western largely Islamic province of **Xinjiang**; "*the European Union, post-imperial Russia, the new independent actors in Central Asia and China's Xinjiang are the key components of the new Silk Road ...*" -- *The Xinjiang factor in the new Silk Road*.

A good analysis showing why more subtle developments rather than misplaced **nukes** or actual takeover by **Islamists** are the risks in **Pakistan**, "*Unfortunately, unfounded fears about Pakistan's nuclear weapons have obscured more pressing threats.*"-- *Are Pakistani nukes secure*.

Another review of the **Pakistan** situation suggests it's Musharraf or an *apres-moi le deluge* moment -- *Clock is ticking for Musharraf*.

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