

GLOBAL REALITY: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Destabilizing Threats, Stabilizing Policies, and Global Powers at a Glance

Threat Summary

<p>Environment. Global warming could bring hurricanes to the Mediterranean. Inter-State Conflict. Iraq appears to be the battleground everyone loves. Chinese missiles entering. Proliferation. See links.</p>
<p>Poverty. Africa not receiving promised assistance. New emphasis on need for knowledge-aid. Infectious Disease. Malaria drugs in Tanzania at 10% of normal (inflated) cost. Hand-held detection. Civil War. Lebanon may once again be on the verge of being the central battlefield. Genocide. Losses in Africa approach those of the Jews at hands of Nazis, not a Western eye lifted. Transnational Crime. Somali pirates holding four ships. Guinea-Bissau a narco-state. Gangs grow.</p>
<p>Other Atrocities. Philippine slave brokers, criminals prey on unsuspecting rural families. Terrorism. US discovers it has been chasing a ghost, Abu Omar al-Baghdadi never existed?</p>

Policy Summary

<p>Diplomacy. US on the sidelines, not setting agendas. Still dealings with states, not sects—out of touch. Security. Big story: anti-virus manufacturers may be collaborating with US to allow “official” viruses. Society. Veterans, and amputee veterans especially, remain at the bottom of the Pentagon food chain.</p>
<p>Education. See links. Health. Castro scores on Bush: Cuba can do health care as a service of common concern, Bush cannot. Immigration. It would take 20 years to return the 632,189 fugitives.” American government collapsing. Water. Climate change could wipe out much of Latin America’s rain.</p>
<p>Agriculture. GM potatoes refused entry to Peru. Smart move. Time to close down Monsanto as well. Economy. Could go ORANGE soon. US is insolvent, war costs going toward \$2 trillion. Energy. Refineries failing. Russia builds floating nuclear plant, evidently not worried about subs.. Family. See links. Justice. Bush, Justice, and CIA continue to flail on interrogation and torture legalities.</p>

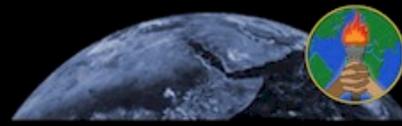
Major Player Summary

<p>Iran. Turkey’s gas deal with Iran surprises US, US flounders on all fronts in the region.</p>
<p>Venezuela. Chavez has it right: oil is going straight to \$100 a barrel, and then some. Drugs help.</p>
<p>Brazil. 1% own 54% of assets. When will indigenous peoples going to figure out they can take back? China. See links. India. First woman president, 72. First military outpost outside India. Nepal a zone of conflict. Indonesia. .Government doing well—capturing all the terrorists, restoring freedom of expression. Russia. Retired generals predict war planned by US against Russia. Wild Cards. Kurds threatened with Turkish invasion. Pakistan on edge, Waziristan back on warpath.</p>

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

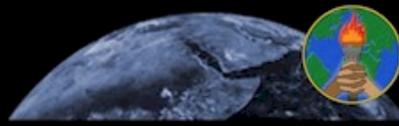
<p>↗ Alert: Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Pakistan</p>
<p>↓ Deteriorated: Afghanistan, Basque Country (Spain), Comoros Islands, Israel/Occupied Territories, Lebanon, Niger, Pakistan, Somalia, United Kingdom</p>
<p>↑ Improved: Burundi, North Korea, Yemen</p>
<p>• Unchanged: Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chechnya (Russia), Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Fiji, Georgia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India (non-Kashmir), Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kashmir, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liberia, Macedonia, Mali, Mauritania, Moldova, Myanmar/Burma, Nagorno-Karabakh (Azerbaijan), Nepal, Nigeria, North Caucasus (non-Chechnya), Northern Ireland (UK), Philippines, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somaliland (Somalia), Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Taiwan Strait, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Western Sahara, Zimbabwe</p>

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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"> Former UN secretary-general Kofi Annan has condemned both the <i>brutal regimes</i> of Africa and G8 group of developed nations for <u><i>not keeping promises</i></u> to Africa -- <i>Annan slams African regimes</i>. <p>Maintaining <i>subsistence</i> will never be enough; <i>United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)</i> is encouraging donors to increase support for what it describes as "<i>knowledge aid</i>" that can make and maintain substantial contribution to <i>development</i> -- <i>Anti-Poverty Strategies 'Must Embrace Innovation'</i>.</p>
Infectious Disease news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former President Clinton has launched a pilot scheme in Tanzania for distribution of subsidized <i>malaria</i> drugs -- "<i>The project will make life-saving ACT drugs available at 90 percent less than the current market price to a national drug wholesaler, which will then distribute them to rural shops.</i>" <p>A group at Harvard Medical School have developed a <i>hand-held device</i>, soon to be tested in Rwanda, that revolutionizes the detection of HIV, hence the treatment -- "<i>A handheld device that can deliver results in real time could have a profound impact on HIV treatment in these countries.</i>"</p>
Environment news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malaysia is now using <i>police helicopters</i> to track <i>illegal loggers</i> in remote Sarawak -- "<i>Our investigations have also found some elements of gangsterism involved in illegal logging</i>". <p><i>Global warming</i> may bring <i>hurricanes</i> to the Mediterranean -- "<i>Most models in our study show increasing storm intensity and if you combine this with rising sea levels, as are projected, this could be damaging for many coastal settlements.</i>"</p>
Inter-State Conflict news list forecast	<p>↓ The US says Chinese missiles are being smuggled through Iran into Iraq -- "... there are secret cells, rogue elements of Jaish al-Mahdi that we consider to be extremists, to be terrorists or that are <u><i>not answerable to any higher authority</i></u> ..."</p> <p>A year ago commander of international forces in Afghanistan, General David Richards, said "<u><i>We could actually fail here</i></u>"; now observers say "<i>The costs of failure in Afghanistan are much more dangerous than Iraq. ... Failure is not yet inevitable. But it is now likely ...</i>" -- <i>We are failing in Afghanistan</i>. The [UK] House of Commons Defence Committee highlights a series of concerns, including Taliban resurgence in some provinces -- <i>Taliban growing stronger in Afghanistan - UK report</i>.</p> <p><i>Iraq announces it is holding more than 2,000 foreign suspects</i> -- "<i>Fighters from Saudi Arabia are thought to have carried out more suicide bombings than those of any other nationality ...</i>" [See the item; the breakdown of <i>nationalities</i> is confusing.] Also: "<i>The U.S. military believes 45 percent of all foreign militants are Saudi, another 15 percent are from Syria and Lebanon and 10 percent from North Africa ...</i>" -- <i>Report: Saudis Are Primary Iraq Jihadists</i>.</p>
Civil War news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thailand has one of the most violent <i>anti-coup</i> protests so far -- <i>Anti-coup mob goes berserk</i>. <p>In northern Lebanon, the army clears <i>booby traps</i> and advances slowly into the Nahr al-Bared refugee camp fortified by <i>Islamic militants</i> "<i>The deaths brought to 117 the number of soldiers killed in the battles that began on May 20. More than 90 militants and at least 41 civilians have also died.</i>"</p> <p>Ethiopia is thwarting international <i>food aid</i> to the <i>rebel region</i> in the east -- "<i>the blockade takes aim at the heart of the Ogaden region, a vast desert on the Somali</i></p>

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border where the government is struggling against a growing rebellion ..."

The **Somalia Reconciliation Conference** -- "a make-or-break opportunity for Somalia's troubled transitional government" -- opened, but "top opposition leaders did not show up, and the session was quickly postponed."

Alleged **coup plot**: **Arrests over Liberia 'coup plot'** -- "There is hard evidence that this man was trying to plan a coup."

The **US** is offering **food aid** to basket-case **Zimbabwe** -- "Its irresponsible economic policies will only worsen inflation, unemployment, growing food shortages and poverty," said the **White House**.

Chairman of the **Gulf Research Center** argues very articulately that not all military rule is bad -- **Military rule is the solution in Iraq**. [Could it be worse?]

Alleged **coup plot**: **Sudan opposition leader held, accused of coup plot** -- views differ: "It is obvious for us that this is an attempt to frame him and distract people from problems on other fronts." Discovery of what may be an **ancient lake** seems now not to be an end to **Darfur's** competition for resources, but management of other resources may -- **Ancient Darfur lake 'is dried up'**.

Genocide
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

↓ **A Tale Of Two Genocides, Congo And Darfur** -- "A human death toll that approaches the Nazi's annihilation of Jews in World War Two unfolds without a whiff of complaint from the superpowers."

Seduced by **minerals**, the **Botswana** government is again trying to **eradicate** the **San** ("Bushmen") from their ancestral lands-- "It has also refused to let the Bushmen use the water borehole on their land or to bring their few goats back into the game reserve."

INTERPOL is seeking another collaborative effort to apprehend **Rwanda** genocide fugitives "... 18 individuals still wanted before the scheduled closure of the tribunal in December 2008."

Other Atrocities
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

• Following voluminous complaints, the **UN** has suspended the **Moroccan** contingent in the **Ivory Coast** -- "The United Nations ignored **sexual exploitation** by peacekeepers and other field staff for decades, launching a crackdown only in recent years after reports of abuse in **Congo**."

A dirty secret in the Philippines: slave brokers -- "**Human trafficking** has also become the dirty secret of economic expansion, with many **criminal organizations** preying on unsuspecting **rural families** ..."

Indian police had to save a **trafficker** from a murderous mob of villagers -- "a group of jobless youths lured by the **placement agency's** attractive job offer in **Malaysia** had landed themselves in trouble."

Human Rights Watch says thousands of **child soldiers** are still in **Chad's** army -- "the United Nations has long campaigned for an end to the recruitment of children, who it said could number more than 300,000 worldwide."

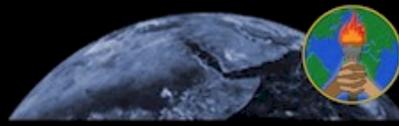
Proliferation
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

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

Terrorism
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

• Abu Omar **al-Baghdadi** was hard to find because he doesn't exist -- **U.S. Says Insurgent Leader It Couldn't Find Never Was**.

After a 14-year investigation including 10 years of **wiretapping**, the trial begins of Texas-based **Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development** on **terrorist financing** charges.



The Rise of al-Qaedaism --An updated brief backgrounder by *Council on Foreign Relations*.

In **Pakistan**, 165 *madrassa* students captured during the “Red Mosque” operation are facing **terrorism** charges --“These students captured during the Operation Silence have been booked under the Pakistan Penal Code ...”

“officials are forging ahead with an ambitious but largely unproven plan to stop terrorists from sneaking a **nuclear weapon** or **dirty bomb** into **Manhattan** by ringing the city with **radiation sensors**” -- *Anti-terror radiation sensors move forward*.

The **UK** believes 30 Islamists cells are actively plotting **attacks** -- “the scale of this whole thing is quite dramatic.”

How our prisons are breeding ground for terrorists -- One prisoner had demanded “**prisoner of war**” status for himself and fellow “fanatics”.

Transnational Crime
[news list|forecast](#)

↓ **Pirates off Somalia** have demanded \$1.7m ransom for a Danish **freighter** -- “three other vessels, one from **Taiwan** and two from **South Korea**, are also currently held by pirates off the coast of war-torn Somalia”

Guinea-Bissau: “Welcome to **Africa’s first narco-state**, a country with just 1.5 million people but a roaring drugs trade.” -- *Drug barons turn Bissau into Africa’s first narco-state*.

The **US** has offered funds to fight **Central America gangs** -- “... to help Central American governments draft a **regional security strategy** to fight violent youth street gangs and drug trafficking.”

Policy

Agriculture
[news list|forecast](#)

- The birthplace of the **potato**, the **Peruvian** region, has refused entry to **GM** potatoes - - “It will protect the region from contamination with GM varieties that can threaten the diversity of the potatoes and other important native food crops...”

Diplomacy
[news list|forecast](#)

- Almost suddenly, instead of setting agendas the **US** is watching the agendas of others played out around the world -- “But six years later, we’re largely back on the sidelines, feebly exhorting our chosen autocrats -- **Musharraf, Abbas, Fouad, al-Maliki, King Hussein, Mubarak, King Abdullah** -- to ‘do more to fight terrorism.’” - - *Managing Islam’s civil war*.

Important Sects In Muslim History -- [Good tutorial on some key facts.]

Economy
[news list|forecast](#)

↓ *War Costs Endanger Our Future Security* -- “... the real cost to America, as it would be figured by standard accounting methods, is between \$1 trillion and \$2 trillion.”

Education
[news list|forecast](#)

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

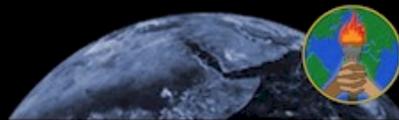
Energy
[news list|forecast](#)

- Record **failures** at US third-world **refineries** are raising **fuel prices** -- “Oil refineries across the country have been plagued by a record number of **fires, power failures, leaks, spills and breakdowns** this year ... ”

The future of biofuels is not in corn -- “As long as we spend more on **subsidizing energy suppliers** than we do on **investments in energy efficiency**, we are on a path to pain.”

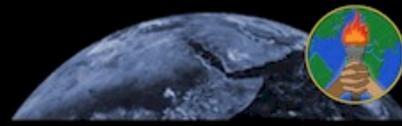
Biofuels: “We are nowhere near an economic solution” -- “first-generation **biofuels** will never be available on the necessary scale ...”

Russia has started building **floating nuclear power plants** -- “The floating NPP has been designed in such a way as to make it invulnerable to **terrorist attacks**.”



Family news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
Health news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fidel Castro writes in <i>Granma</i> "In Cuba, where <i>healthcare</i> is not a <i>commodity</i>, we can do things that Bush cannot even dream of..." -- <i>Bush, Health and Education</i>.
Immigration news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigration raids can't keep up with backlog of fugitives -- "<i>it would take <u>20 years</u> to return the <u>632,189 fugitives</u> already identified.</i>"
Justice news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For some reason the confident policy on interrogation now needs clarification; "<i>the president has insisted on clear legal standards so that CIA officers involved in this essential work are not placed in jeopardy for doing their job ...</i>" -- <i>Bush issues executive order governing interrogation techniques</i>.
Security news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Son of Backdoor:] <i>Do antivirus apps ignore US government spyware?</i> -- "<i>Only McAfee and Microsoft flatly declined to answer that question.</i>" Throughout the US, the cost of prevention is taking its toll; "<i>It's when they stop checking these things out that something's going to happen.</i>" -- <i>Suspicious packages inundate authorities</i>. Indicative of a problem confronting most western armed forces, the chief of Britain's SAS – an unnamed lieutenant colonel – has resigned for a job with a private security services company -- "<i>The [UK] Army is short of about 800 officers but it is the <u>defection of special forces troopers to the private sector that is proving the most worrying.</u></i>"
Society news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R. James Nicholson resigned as Veterans Affairs Secretary -- "<i>Secretary Nicholson's resignation should be welcome news for all veterans</i>" said the director of a veterans' group. [Comment: One <u>injustice</u> Secretary Nicholson suffered was blame for deplorable practices at <i>Walter Reed Army Medical Center</i> which is <u>not</u> under VA control but the Pentagon.]
Water news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change may threaten Latin America's water supply on a continental scale "<i>Rising temperatures are causing clouds that blanket the Andes to condense at higher altitudes. Eventually this so-called <u>dew point</u> will <u>miss the mountains altogether...</u></i>"
Challengers	
Brazil news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Less than 1% of Brazilians Own 54% of Brazil's Assets</i> -- Brazil's social balance remains unchanged with "<i><u>10%</u> of the population holding <u>80%</u> of the country's overall income.</i>"
China news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new <u>30-year</u> deal will bring gas from Turkmenistan to China through a planned Central Asia gas pipeline. It was hard not to notice the day the <i>Great Firewall of China</i> went up -- <i>the source said the new firewall system was to allow authorities to "temporarily" intensify their "monitoring and control" ahead of a key international meeting</i> -- <i>China censors blamed for email chaos</i>. The world's two oldest dictatorships again square off with China appointing a bishop -- "<i>China's 8 to 12 million Catholics are split between an "above-ground" church approved by the ruling Communist Party and an "underground" church that rejects government ties and says it answers only to Rome.</i>" A man involved in keeping slave labor in one of China's brickworks has been sentenced to death.
India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India demonstrates its difference in resoundingly appointing a 72-year-old as its first

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[news list|forecast](#)

woman President.

India will establish its ***first military outpost in a foreign land*** [in modern times] with an air presence at **Ayni** airbase in **Tajikistan** -- "... to get '**strategic reach**' in natural resources rich **Central Asian** region before the end of the current year."

Bombings in public places in remote **Assam** state by the **United Liberation Front of Assam** claimed more lives.

Nepal remains strategically vital to both India and **China**; "... Similarly, if China controls Nepal, India may face an imminent threat of disintegration...." -- **Nepal in a Zone of Conflict**.

Indonesia

[news list|forecast](#)

↑ Once and for all, it is important to get it right when referring to **Jemaah Islamiyah** in connection with **al-Qaida**; "In fact, **al-Qaida's** attention is certainly no longer focused on **South-East Asia**, where **JI** operates. **Al-Qaida**, it seems, has dismissed **JI** as ineffectual - after all, they keep getting caught." -- **Jemaah Islamiyah's link to al-Qaida is a myth**.

Indonesia's **Constitutional Court** has taken a far-reaching step by overturning as **unconstitutional** Articles in the **Penal Code** that criminalized "**public expression of feelings of hostility, hatred or contempt toward the government**" [one of the reasons, apart from cultural ones, that Indonesian politics is "polite"] -- **Bold Court Decision Good for Free Expression**.

Iran

[news list|forecast](#)

- An **armed group** identified by the government as **drug traffickers**, possibly from the **Sunni Jundallah** (*God's Brigade*), have killed eleven **Revolutionary Guard** in the south-east.

The **US** rushes to seal yet another breach in its "encirclement" of Iran; "As a matter of **US policy and US law**, we oppose energy investment in Iran and energy cooperation with Iran"-- **US says Turkey's gas deal with Iran 'particularly unwise'**.

Russia

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- In a *tit-for-tat* for the UK **expulsion** of four Russian **diplomats**, Russia expelled four Britons -- "... **President Vladimir Putin** had decided not to escalate his conflict with Britain, analysts said. Instead, the response was a **careful mirror image** of the measures unveiled by Mr **Miliband**."

"The **US** is both laying the ground and preparing its military potential for a **war with Russia**," said Gen **Leonid Ivashov**, a former joint chief of staff -- **Retired generals predict US-Russia war**.

Venezuela

[news list|forecast](#)

- State petroleum operation, **Petróleos de Venezuela**, is said to be in an "**operational emergency**"; president **Chavez** says he is unworried - "**Oil is going straight to \$100; no one can stop it**" -- **Political Clashes Shake Venezuela's Strained Oil Industry**.

Six million volunteers have now joined **United Socialist Party** "battalions" that will "drive the socialist revolution".

Venezuela is key link for the drug smugglers -- "British officials believe that Venezuelan air force bases are being used by aircraft carrying drugs."

A summary of Venezuela's novel doctrinal mix of **conventional** and **asymmetric** war -- **Defence-Venezuela: Russian Subs on the 'Scope**.

The Venezuelan **TV channel** closed by **Chavez** for sedition has returned as a **pay channel** -- "**RCTV** was Venezuela's oldest and most popular television channel before it was shut down May 28 by Chavez."

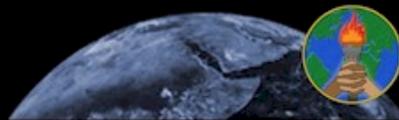
Venezuela says it will have a reworked **national defense system** up and running by 2008 -- "**One of the things we have done is to accelerate agreements that we had in**

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the field of economics, technology, petroleum, petrochemicals and also military."

The **US** idea of '*energy security*' is a fantasy -- "... *the United States should heed our call to engage in dialogue with us on the basis of mutual respect between sovereign nations*" says the Venezuelan Ambassador to the US.

Wild Cards
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

- On the eve of the **Turkish** election, Prime Minister **Erdogan** again threatened to invade northern **Iraq** if the **Kurdish** separatists are not curbed -- "*He said there would be a tripartite meeting with the US and Iraq after the election but if Turkish demands were not satisfied, an invasion was on the agenda.*" [Comment: With a resounding victory in the election of 22 July 2001, there is little reason for Turkish confidence to be diminished.]

In the wake of the **Red Mosque**, **Islamic militants** and other opponents of President **Musharraf** wasted no time in seeking revenge – immediately and on following days scores died in **suicide attacks** and **bombings** from the **tribal north-west** to the **Balochi south**. President Musharraf's arcane arrangement with **tribal groups** is of particular concern; "*Islamic militants at the weekend disavowed the 10-month-old agreement in North Waziristan and launched attacks that killed 73 people ...*" -- [Pakistan Tries To Salvage Tribal Truce](#).

Pakistan's Supreme Court handed down its judgment on President Musharraf's order suspending Chief Justice **Chaudhry** – the order was "*set aside as being illegal*" and the judge was reinstated, doubtless leaving long-lasting antipathy for Musharraf among middle class Pakistanis.

From exile in **London**, former Pakistani Prime Minister **Benazir Bhutto** started speculating on the conditions under which she would make an "alliance" with Musharraf; [Bhutto reluctant to "save" Pakistan's Musharraf](#) – but Bhutto and her husband face graft charges in Pakistan and there was no indication that Musharraf would be interested in any kind of rescue by a political *nemesis*.

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