

GLOBAL REALITY: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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

Threat Summary

<p>Environment. Louisiana sinking. Inter-State Conflict. UK worried about US actions in Afghanistan. Proliferation. Russia plays good citizen on Iran.</p>
<p>Poverty. Why is the World Bank's Cambodia so corrupt? Infectious Disease. Dengue fever in Texas. Civil War. Sudan and Somalia business as-usual; East Timor closer to civil war. Genocide. A litany of missed US opportunities in Darfur. Transnational Crime. Mexico a step closer to a Guatemala on the doorstep..</p>
<p>Other Atrocities. Trade in human organs world-wide. Chad war criminal targeted. Terrorism. Shoot 'em up won't work in Egypt either. Dial a fatwa from the "tele-imams".</p>

Policy Summary

<p>Diplomacy. No-one agrees with present US foreign policy. Security. Street cameras coming. Hurricane Katrina still America's shame. Society. Veterans, and amputee veterans especially, remain at the bottom of the Pentagon food chain.</p>
<p>Education. Pre-schools a new revolution. Hand on Schools involve communities with schools. Health. Uninsured racking up bad debt in hospitals. Immigration. Crackdowns leave the fields empty. Water. <i>see links</i></p>
<p>Agriculture. Ancient seeds are the future. Economy. Could go ORANGE soon. Foreclosures up 800% in LA. China could hurt the US. Energy. Economics of solar power are now mature. Family. <i>see links</i> Justice. <i>see links</i></p>

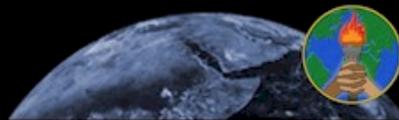
Major Player Summary

<p>Iran. Iran confident and cleverly doing "just enough" to avoid tough sanctions.</p>
<p>Venezuela. Chavez continues to buy allies with oil.</p>
<p>Brazil. Amazon deforestation stalled. Lula may be losing the plot. China. Air pollution may be an Olympics show-stopper. India. India still probing Central Asia. Announces space program. Indonesia. Happily going it alone on terrorism, and Chinese weapons. Russia. Russia plays good citizen on Iran.. Wild Cards. Shanghai Grouping consolidates beyond US orbit. First Pakistan-Afghan Pece Jirga..</p>

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

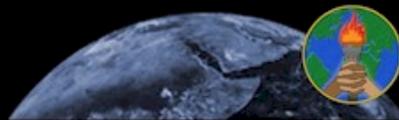
<p>⚡ Alert: Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Pakistan</p>
<p>⬇ Deteriorated: Afghanistan, Basque Country (Spain), Comoros Islands, Israel/Occupied Territories, Lebanon, Niger, Pakistan, Somalia, United Kingdom</p>
<p>⬆ Improved: Burundi, North Korea, Yemen</p>
<p>• Unchanged: Albania, 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>

<p>⬇ deteriorated • steady ⬆ improved ⚡ ALERT</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"> The World Bank shaped Cambodia as a model "<i>post-conflict-reconstruction country</i>" -- who takes credit for the rampant and entrenched <i>corruption</i>? -- <i>If a tree falls, does the World Bank hear it?</i>
Infectious Disease news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dengue fever is a risk in south Texas – The CDC says "<i>Health authorities along the Texas-Tamaulipas border should consider strengthening surveillance for dengue fever, given the potential for future outbreaks.</i>"
Environment news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As land relentlessly turns to marsh in southern Louisiana, offshore drilling infrastructure – and a fifth of US oil – is at risk; "<i>National energy security can be maintained only if Louisiana’s coast is restored and preserved.</i>" -- The next energy crisis.
Inter-State Conflict news list forecast		<p>↓ UK forces think some US actions in Afghanistan are counter-productive; "... <i>the extensive use of air power by the Americans was turning the people against foreign presence at a time when British forces were trying to solidify recent gains against the Taliban.</i>"-- British commander wants US forces out of Southern Afghanistan.</p> <p>Echoing comments by senior British commanders, the UK Leader of the Opposition says there is no coherent winning strategy in Afghanistan; there are no fewer than <u>seven military chains of command</u>, and the civilian arrangements are equally fragmented -- David Cameron: We still don't have a proper plan for Afghanistan.</p>
Civil War news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Sudan, a pact between warring <i>herders</i> and <i>farmers</i> may help to reduce violence; "<i>The Terjem are a sedentary farming tribe while the Rizeigat are nomadic cattle herders.</i>" -- Tribal chiefs sign pact after bloody clashes. All sides urge the Sudanese government to release Suleiman Jamous as a prerequisite to progress in the peace process; "<i>His engagement, particularly with the disparate rebels, will inject critical credibility into the next stage.</i>"-- Activists Urge Sudan To Release Key Rebel. <p>With increased post-election <i>arson</i> and <i>violence</i>, East Timor descends back to the factionalism of its civil war of decades past -- East Timor violence prompts 34 arrests.</p> <p>Concerted attacks on five <i>police stations</i> in a night show that resistance in Somalia's Mogadishu is not yet spent.</p> <p>45 Zimbabwean state security operatives trained by Chinese instructors to monitor communications under new <i>surveillance</i> laws again highlight China's no-questions-asked aid to <i>repressive regimes</i> -- Too much to monitor for snooping squads.</p>
Genocide news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When <i>military</i> options are the only ones the US administration understands, it's easy to miss obvious acts of <i>diplomacy</i> that may have assisted years ago -- 10 things U.S. government could do to help in Darfur.
Other Atrocities news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A quick survey of the global trade in <i>human organs</i> -- Body parts trade booming business. <p>Hissene Habre, the former dictator of Chad, is accused of ordering some 40,000 <i>killings</i> and 200,000 cases of <i>torture</i> between 1982-1990 -- Victims demand trial for 'African Pinochet'.</p>
Proliferation news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feeling a sudden desire to be a good global citizen, Russia says Tehran must clear up questions over possible <i>military atomic development</i> -- Russia not to Participate in Proliferation.
Terrorism news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A <i>single-source</i> report by an Israeli web site has put New York on alert for a <i>radiological attack</i>; but some call the site <i>unreliable</i> -- Terror Threat Web Site Called

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Unreliable.

"Tele-imams" and sites such as *Ask-Imam.com* are now so wide-spread that an "authoritative" religious opinion [*fatwa*] is available on anything -- '*New media*' *fatwas rankle Islamic establishment.*

A thoughtful piece by *Al-Ahram* [Egypt] on how government should respond to the new breed of *militant Islamist* emerging in **Egypt**; "... *there are distinct political and socio- economic advantages to be gained from absorbing Islamists into the political party system ...*" -- *Al-Qaeda in Egypt?*

Singapore's four-year old **Religious Rehabilitation Group**, dedicated to countering violent **Islamist** doctrine, has launched a *web-site* – <http://www.rrg.sg> -- *New S'pore website to fight extremism.*

Some speculate that *bio-terrorists* may be responsible for the latest outbreak of **Foot and Mouth** in **Britain**; "*The virus could have been deliberately leaked from a hi-tech complex at Pirbright, Surrey ...*" [But it is still most likely it is due to negligence and incompetence.]

Transnational Crime
[news list|forecast](#)

- The **US** is considering material assistance in **Mexico's** drug wars [rather than just criticism]; "... *the package under discussion reflected a 'sea change' in US and Mexican drug cooperation after years of mutual recrimination.*" -- *US mulls money to help Mexico fight drug cartels.* Drug Enforcement Agency (**DEA**) says *Islamic terrorists* and *Mexican drug gangs* have teamed up to penetrate the US border, as well as *finance networks* in the Middle East -- *Mexican Drug Lords Sneak Terrorists Into U.S..*

Although *drug boss* Juan Carlos Ramirez **Abadia** had concealed his identity by *plastic surgery*, he was identified by *voice-recognition software* -- *Alleged Drug Kingpin Arrested in Brazil.*

Policy

Agriculture
[news list|forecast](#)

↑ Key world *rice research centres* have come to a *strategic cooperation* agreement -- the *Africa Rice Center* (**WARDA**) **Benin**, the *International Centre for Tropical Agriculture* (**CIAT**) **Colombia**, the **Philippines**-based *International Rice Research Institute* (**IRRI**).

In time of unprecedented *drought*, Australian farmers are turning to *ancient wheat species* from *Central Asia* as options for cropping. [The *diversity* of ancient grains offers greater food security than a decreasing number of *patented monocultures*.]

Diplomacy
[news list|forecast](#)

↓ An *opinion poll* shows a majority of **Americans** are critical of **US foreign policy**, as are *foreigners*; "... *US is viewed negatively by people in other countries and see this as derived primarily from the current US foreign policy, not American values.*" -- *Most Americans critical of US foreign policy: poll.*

Economy
[news list|forecast](#)

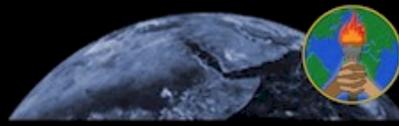
↓ In *L.A. County*, *foreclosures* are up 800% year-on-year -- *Worried about the U.S. subprime situation? Well, you should be.*

Although a vexatious sell-off is unlikely it was sufficient for **China** just to mention its mountains of **US currency** and **bonds** to chill some; "... *the Chinese chose to remind the US that a debtor ought to be careful what he says to a creditor.*" -- *China Warns America It May Sell US Treasury Bonds.*

Education
[news list|forecast](#)

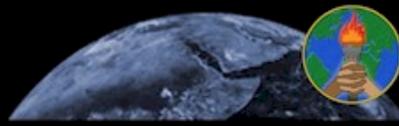
- *Preschool* has suddenly become widespread and almost universally acclaimed as one of the "*most significant expansions in public education in the 90 years since World War I, when kindergarten first became standard in American schools*" -- *As States*

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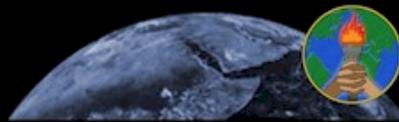
	<p><i>Tackle Poverty, Preschool Gets High Marks.</i></p> <p>The Hands On Schools project brings parents and the wider community together to make <u>schools a key focus of community life</u>; "... a model of collective community investment, which channels the core competencies of parents, community members and corporate volunteers to achieve greater impact than any single investor." -- <i>Hands On Schools - a Two-Year Program to Revitalize 100 Schools Nationwide.</i></p> <p>The perception that No Child Left Behind has caused a "narrowing of the curriculum" is largely false -- <i>Our view on improving education: An illusion gains credibility.</i></p>
<p>Energy news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cost of solar power has fallen from over \$100 per kWh in the 1960s to <u>20 cents/kWh</u> today -- now is time for policy to reflect the serious contribution it can make -- <i>What Solar Power Needs Now.</i>
<p>Family news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
<p>Health news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 45 million uninsured, up 13% from 2000, are racking up increasing bad debt at hospitals -- <i>U.S. hospitals struggle over who can afford to pay.</i>
<p>Immigration news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Border crackdown working, numbers show -- "Far to the north, <u>fields are empty</u> at harvest time as workplace raids become more common."
<p>Justice news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
<p>Security news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The US is now spending millions for street cameras; commonplace and effective in the UK, the US now approaches public surveillance with some misgiving over "privacy". <p>The relaxation of some recruitment standards has attracted mixed reaction; "what we have here is an erosion, a downward trend, in recruitment quality," says a former vice admiral -- <i>Military opens door to more dropouts.</i></p> <p><i>America's Shame: Two Years After Hurricane Katrina</i> -- "Passivity, massive incompetence and indifference to the people's needs did the most damage."</p> <p>"Project Hostile Intent (PHI) is to find a way of catching would-be terrorists when they are just thinking of committing a crime" -- '<i>Predictive</i>' security system plan.</p> <p>NSA wants a general move to elliptic-curve cryptography (ECC), enabling greater security with shorter keys; "ECC, a complex mathematical algorithm used to secure data in transit, will replace RSA and Diffie-Hellman ..." -- <i>Encrypting the future.</i></p>
<p>Society news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Whites" are now a minority In 1 of 10 US counties -- "... increased diversity, fueled by immigration and higher birth rates among blacks and Hispanics, is straining race relations and sparking a backlash against immigrants in many communities."
<p>Water news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
<p>Challengers</p>	
<p>Brazil news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deforestation in the Amazon has dropped; "the government credited increased enforcement of environmental regulations for the drop" -- <i>Amazon deforestation rate drops.</i> <p>Although still popular, President Lula has been found to be opaque on some issues of public concern; "Lula is the most poorly advised president in the history of this country" -- <i>Brazil's Lula hit by crises, reform hopes fade.</i></p>
<p>China</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water supply will be an issue but for the present air pollution is a show-stopper

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<p>news list forecast</p>	<p>problem for Beijing's <i>Olympics</i>; China is testing the effect of limiting the number of <i>cars</i> allowed on the road -- China To Yank 1.3 Million Cars For Clean Air Trial.</p>
<p>India news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India plans to launch its first "<i>space shuttle</i>" in 2010 -- "<i>India earlier announced plans to launch 15 telecommunications satellites and 8-10 earth remote sensing satellites by March 2012 ...</i>" <p>The <i>Left</i> the government relies on in Parliament says the US nuclear agreement is not necessary - India has "sufficient resources and self-confidence to carve out its own path of development." -- N-deal not acceptable to majority: Karat.</p> <p>India continues to see itself as a model for the peaceful use of <i>nuclear technology</i>; "<i>There is nothing in the [123] agreement which prevents us from testing, if the government decides to test for whatever reason.</i>" -- "For nuclear renaissance, the world needs India".</p> <p>India is quietly expanding its ties with Mongolia, "<i>in a bid to monitor China's space and military activities in the region.</i>"</p>
<p>Indonesia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Indonesian <i>Air Force</i> is exploring the possibility of purchasing <i>advanced weapons</i> from China; "<i>China has been able to produce some sophisticated military equipments starting from semi-automatic, automatic weapons and jet fighters as well as missiles.</i>" <p>How Indonesia is Winning Its War on Terror -- "<i>Crucially, too, the Indonesia model relies upon effective police work rather than military force.</i>"</p>
<p>Iran news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iran has appointed "<i>hard-liners</i>" to monitor <i>elections</i> next year; "<i>Some fear the appointments herald a repeat of the 2004 parliamentary elections when there was a mass disqualification of reformist candidates.</i>" <p>Iran's <i>Foreign Ministry</i> says Bush's policies have isolated him both internationally and at home.</p> <p>Tehran is cooperating 'just enough' to avoid more UN sanctions; "<i>So far, this strategy has been successful because five permanent Security Council members have agreed to postpone consideration of the next sanction resolution ...</i>"</p> <p>Iran has made a test-flight of a <i>homemade fighter jet</i>; "<i>The aircraft is reportedly modeled on the U.S. F-5 jet, but redesigned and built entirely in Iran ...</i>"</p>
<p>Russia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Putin has announced a new <i>air defense program</i>; "... a new <i>radar</i> station near St. Petersburg was the first stage in a large-scale air defense program ..."
<p>Venezuela news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Chavez continues to use <i>petroleum</i> largesse as a diplomatic tool: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "<i>Chavez pledged to meet Caribbean nations' oil needs for years to come, and urged the region to unite and seek greater independence from the United States.</i>" President Chavez to help Ecuador build a \$5 billion <i>oil refinery</i>. "<i>Uruguay, a nation of 3.5 million, enjoys both sweetheart terms for Venezuelan crude and warm ties with Washington.</i>"
<p>Wild Cards news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first "<i>Joint Peace Jirga</i>" of Pakistan and Afghan leaders concluded with platitudes but its happening is important -- Pakistani President Addresses Peace Jirga. <p>Lessons-learned from Pakistan's Lal Masjid; "<i>No military force is really trained for counter-insurgency operations with its own citizens, an oversight that might need to be redressed rather urgently ...</i>" -- Urban military operations [Discussion].</p>

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"... **Russia and China** have intensified efforts to isolate the U.S. politically, militarily, and economically from **Central Asia**" -- *Central Asia: U.S. Wary Of Shanghai Grouping*. Also: "... their communiqués have always been full of coded anti-American foreign policy statements" -- *Eurasia: U.S. Security Expert Talks About SCO Exercises, Summit*.

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