

GLOBAL CHALLENGES: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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

Threat Summary

<p>Environment. Forest fires sweep across Greece. Lake Superior 1500 barrels toxic waste. Inter-State Conflict. US in “secret” talks with Taliban. Ethiopia catalyzing Union of Islamic Courts. Proliferation. South Africa commits to a nuclear program. Atomic energy here to stay.</p>
<p>Poverty. Atrocities skyrocket in Congo. Brazilian Zero Hunger program impresses Egypt. Infectious Disease. 2B airline passengers at risk of epidemic. Mozambique corrupt on donor drugs. Civil War. Photographic evidence of Sudanese violation of Darfur arms embargo. Genocide. Pol Pot and Henry Kissinger, we are reminded of Saddam Hussein and Dick Cheney. Transnational Crime. Drug submarines, Mongolian money laundering, Calabrian Mafia ascendant.</p>
<p>Other Atrocities. 25,000 abducted children bear arms in Uganda. UK welcomes child slaves. Terrorism Good news: Indonesian middle class opposes Caliphate. Bad news: US flailing & failing.</p>

Policy Summary

<p>Diplomacy. Europeans dismiss missile defense shield. ICG on balance between diplomacy and force. Security. CIA blames predecessors, Chinese hacking German computers, Terror Watch List a mess. Society. <i>We are seeing weak signals of massive “return of the good,” an anti-apocalypse.</i></p>
<p>Economy. 20% chance of global recession in 2008. China holding all the aces. US needs strategy. Education. Overheard in a gun shop: we can’t teach them to read, how are they going to learn to fight? Health. Hillary Clinton on health care—entire world waits for a serious presidential candidate. Immigration. Texas opposes wall, Hill questions UAVs, still lacking a serious INS/BP capability. Water. Water should not be privatized. Americas need a regional water authority and strategic plan.</p>
<p>Agriculture. CARE, others getting wiser about rejecting aid that subsidizes given and hurts recipients. Energy. Sony develops lightweight battery powered by sugar. Biofuels raising food prices. Family. Nothing significant in media, but in Amazon readings, a real sense of disintegration. Justice. Debate emergent on legal reform, legal rights, exclusion of frivolous law suits.</p>

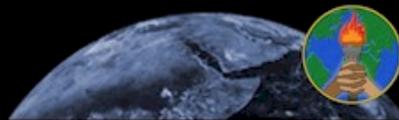
Major Player Summary

<p>Iran. Iran entrenches itself with powerful Shanghai Cooperation Organization, woos Afghanistan.</p>
<p>Brazil. Dams in Amazonia, uncontrolled logging & deforestations, \$3B crime-reduction plan China. China prints military dictionary with latest US terms. Air quality major issue for Olympics. India. India cannot pay oil bill, must have nuclear energy, finds rich uranium in Ladakh. Indonesia. Human rights activist poisoned during international flight by Indonesian state security? Russia. Russian language dies out in Central Asia, Russian weapons sales to Syria include missiles. Venezuela. He walks and talks like a socialist, but he is not a threat—he is an enigma doing good. Wild Cards. Pakistan nuclear-capable missile; religious uncertainty creates deserters. Hizb ut-Tahrir</p>

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

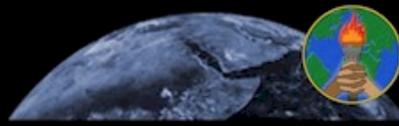
<p>⚡ Alert: Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Pakistan</p>
<p>⬇️ Deteriorated: Afghanistan, Basque Country (Spain), Comoros Islands, Israel/Occupied Territories, Lebanon, Niger, Pakistan, Somalia, United Kingdom</p>
<p>⬆️ Improved: Burundi, North Korea, Yemen</p>
<p>• Unchanged: Albania, 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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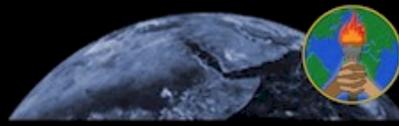
Threats		<i>see daily items with links to full stories on the web at PDB-Threats</i>
Poverty news list forecast	↓	<p>Civilians in eastern DR Congo are caught in the <i>conflict</i> between the government and a <i>dissident general</i> -- "Terrible atrocities are taking place."</p> <p>Egypt's minister of Social Solidarity has inspected Brazil's Zero Hunger Program, which is implemented by 11 ministries of the Brazilian government, and think sit has value for Egypt -- Egyptian Minister Gives Brazil's Zero Hunger Program High Marks.</p>
Infectious Disease news list forecast	•	<p>In Mozambique, <i>donor drugs</i> are being diverted to the <i>black market</i> -- "This growing practice of diverting drugs of our national health system, is carried out with the connivance of government officials who belong to well structured gangs."</p> <p>WHO says with more than <u>two billion</u> <i>airline passengers</i> traveling each year, a <i>major disease epidemic</i> is now a day-to-day risk -- Epidemic risk soars as new disease found every year.</p>
Environment news list forecast	•	<p>In another case of unaccustomed <i>climatic extremes</i>, <i>forest fires</i> are sweeping Greece and have killed more than 50 people.</p> <p>More needs to be known -- and done -- about the <u>1500 barrels</u> of <i>toxic waste</i> dumped by the Army in Lake Superior during 1957-1962 -- There's still no clarity on toxic waste in Superior.</p>
Inter-State Conflict news list forecast	↓	<p>The Union of Islamic Courts still vow to push all Ethiopian forces out of Somalia -- Threat of stronger insurgency in Somalia.</p> <p>"<u>Secret</u>" talks: Taliban, US in new round of peace talks -- "... the deals aim to stop violence in selected areas and give the Taliban limited control of government pending the conclusion of a broader peace deal ..."</p>
Civil War news list forecast	•	<p>Sudan is accused of breaking the Darfur arms embargo -- "One photograph shows Sudanese soldiers moving containers from an Antonov cargo plane onto military trucks and two others show Russian-supplied Mi-7 and Mi-24 attack helicopters ..."</p>
Genocide news list forecast	•	<p>Pol Pot And Kissinger: On war criminality and impunity -- a case study in the enabling of genocide.</p>
Other Atrocities news list forecast	•	<p>UNICEF has called again for the release of <i>child soldiers</i> held by the Lord's Resistance Army guerrillas in Uganda -- "The LRA has been abducting thousands of children whom they forced to fight and commit atrocities. The UN and other charities estimate that about 25,000 children in all, including 7,500 girls, were abducted ..."</p> <p>African Children Trafficked into UK, Authorities Indifferent -- "Research suggests that [trafficking] is not reducing in either scale or reach. It's a sad sign of our times that children are still being trafficked to the UK as modern slaves."</p> <p>Human trafficking is a \$23B per year industry, involving around <u>2.5 million</u> victims; <u>25%</u> of all trafficking victims are Filipinos.</p> <p>"Ethiopian soldiers are accused of burning homes, seizing livestock and killing civilians in its toughest crackdown yet on rebels ..." -- Ethiopia to press Ogaden campaign despite criticism [Analysis].</p>
Proliferation news list forecast	•	<p>South Africa is asserting its rights to a nuclear program; "... the government intends to intervene in the uranium market to ensure that supplies of uranium are made available for use in the South African nuclear programme." -- SA aims for nuke 'dominance'.</p> <p>New UN group launched to curb biological weapons threat -- an Implementation</p>

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	<p>Support Unit (ISU) has been created within the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs.</p> <p>Pakistan has warned India against <i>nuclear testing</i> -- "<i>Resumption of nuclear tests by India would create a serious situation obliging Pakistan to review its position ...</i>"</p>
<p>Terrorism news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Spain, a bombing against a police station by Basque separatists raises fears on a renewed ongoing campaign -- <i>ETA bomb sparks fears of attacks</i>. In the <i>Jakarta Post</i> a good discussion of why a modern "middle class" Islamic society is unlikely to move towards a Khilafa model; "<i>in the caliphate system it is the elites, rather than people, who represent God's absolute power.</i>" -- <i>Questioning theocratic caliphate</i>. The US will now security check <u>employees</u> of USAID recipients --<i>U.S. to screen aid groups for terror links: report</i> . <i>Dangers of an Islamic Reformation</i> -- a useful tutorial on what "reform" means in Islam today. <i>Foreign Policy</i> magazine publishes <i>The Terrorism Index</i> -- "... 100 of America's most respected foreign-policy experts see a world that is growing more dangerous, a national security strategy in disrepair, and a war in Iraq that is alarmingly off course."
<p>Transnational Crime news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ <u>A home-made attempt to defeat sea radar</u>: <i>Five tons of cocaine found on submarine</i> -- "<i>The self-propelled, semi-submersible craft ... was spotted 300 miles south west of the Mexico-Guatemala border by drug-surveillance aircraft patrolling the eastern Pacific.</i>" Indian police seized <u>6kg</u> of heroin in the Punjab -- "<i>Officials said the racket spanned Malaysia, Pakistan and Europe ...</i>" <i>Mongolia urged to prevent money laundering from Afghan heroin</i> -- "<i>It is essential to continue forming anti-drug security belts around Afghanistan, which could be complemented with financial security belts supervised by SCO financial monitors.</i>" The US Administration is trying to disassociate its new plan for drug interdiction in Mexico from unfortunate aspects of Plan Colombia; "<i>this will be a different strategy, aimed to address problems on the common border and not implying a military presence ...</i>" -- <i>Bush Denies Plan Colombia in Mexico</i>. <i>Calabrian Mafia is 'Europe's top crime gang'</i> -- "<i>the 'Ndrangheta [Calabrian Mafia] is thought to control almost all of Colombia's cocaine exports to Europe, which flow through the port town of Gioia di Tauro in Calabria, southern Italy.</i>"
<p>Policy</p>	
<p>Agriculture news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CARE's much foreshadowed rejection of some types of US food aid upsets what some say has always been a disguised farm subsidy program -- <i>Development: Mutiny Shakes U.S. Food Aid Industry</i>. [Comment: CARE and other agencies say that some types of aid destroys local capacity.] Brazil may take yet another case against the US – this about farm subsidies -- to the WTO -- "<i>The U.S. provided information at the consultations that was 'insufficient and vague'.</i>"
<p>Diplomacy news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Old Europe gives an opinion</u>: "<i>The U.S. has chosen the wrong path in my opinion. There is no point in building up a missile defense shield in Europe.</i>" -- <i>U.S. missile shield is provocation: Austrian minister</i>. International Crisis Group discusses getting the balance right between diplomacy

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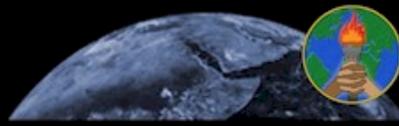


	<p>and force -- <i>"Negotiation has its place, but so does force"</i>.</p>
<p>Economy news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ A discussion on how China is holding most of the financial aces at present; <i>"China is not an enemy of the US, but neither is it a friend."</i> -- The Entangling Relationship With China.</p> <p><i>Forbes</i> says Markets indicating 20 percent chance of global recession in 2008 - UBS.</p>
<p>Education news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
<p>Energy news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pilot cellulosic ethanol plant fueled by sugarcane and yard trimmings is planned for Florida -- Demonstration Cellulosic Ethanol Plant Slated for Florida. Sony Develops a Bio Battery Powered by Sugar -- <i>"The device is lightweight, thin, flexible, and geared toward future use for medical implants, transportation, and gadgets."</i> Food price increases of <u>14%</u> over the last year in South Africa are attributed to the demand for "biofuels" in rich nations -- Biofuel blamed for rocketing food prices.
<p>Family news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
<p>Health news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presidential contender Senator Clinton promises an improved Health Care system; <i>"We need a system that encourages instead of discourages quality."</i> -- Clinton Vows to Improve Health Care.
<p>Immigration news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activists, mayors protest U.S.-Mexico border wall -- <i>"Resentment against the wall runs deep in the border areas of Texas."</i> The two houses of Congress can not agree on the efficacy of "drones" [UAVs]; <i>"The debate over whether UAVs are a good investment for border security has been waged for the past few years but has no immediate end in sight."</i> -- Chambers split over use of drones on the border.
<p>Justice news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frivolous and preposterous lawsuits for which the US is famous make an ass of the law but it is difficult to exclude them justly; <i>"... the civil justice system has mechanisms in place to recognize unreasonable demands."</i> -- Meritless Lawsuits Spark Debate Over Legal Reform and Legal Rights.
<p>Security news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ The Terror Watch List [No Fly list] still has few supporters; <i>"the number of hits relative to arrests was alarmingly high and indicated that the threshold for including someone on a watch list was too low ..."</i> -- Terror Suspect List Yields Few Arrests.</p> <p>Chinese hackers target German government computers: report -- <i>"German intelligence services suspect hackers in the Chinese army are behind the onslaught."</i></p> <p>As sites get bigger, the stakes for identity theft get higher -- Monster says data loss involved 1.3 million names. [Monster is a job search site.]</p> <p>CIA criticizes former chief over terror readiness -- <i>"The agency and its officers did not discharge their responsibilities in a satisfactory manner."</i></p>
<p>Society news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
<p>Water news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A statement of the arguments against privatization of water supplies -- Taking back our water. Is it time to think about buying water from Canada? -- Why not sell excess water to the U.S.?.

Challengers

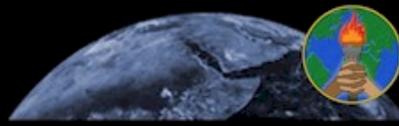
<p>Brazil</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brazil again faces a development -conservation dilemma -- Brazilian President's
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<p>news list forecast</p>	<p><i>Push for Dams in Amazon Basin Stirs Controversy.</i></p> <p><i>Brazil unveils strategy on crime</i> -- the \$3B crime-reduction plan will focus on the quality of policing, social programmes and education. Also: Fuller details of the social development plan against crime -- <i>Brazil's progressive new security plan.</i></p> <p><i>Brazil's Land Reform Is Spurring Amazon Deforestation, Greenpeace Claims</i> -- "Greenpeace says the implementation of the policy is encouraging uncontrolled logging and deforestation in some parts of the Amazon."</p> <p>See also: Poverty</p>
<p>China news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>China prints military dictionary with latest US forces' terms</i> -- "reflects efforts of the PLA to keep abreast of the new ideas and technologies of the globally prevailing revolution in military affairs." • <i>Beijing's Pollution Rises in 4-Day Test of Restricted Driving</i> -- China says the carban as a pre-Olympics test improved air quality a little; some say it was actually worse.
<p>India news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>India faces "unbearable" oil bill, nuclear a must: PM</i> -- "As we grow, our growing ... bill for imported crude oil will put unbearable burden on our economy." • <i>A series of bombings in Hyderabad</i> are blamed on Pakistan-based guerrilla groups - - <i>India blames 'terrorists' as blasts kill 39</i>. Next day police find 19 unexploded bombs in Hyderabad in public places. "in the wake of the Hyderabad blasts, more than 700 "suspicious elements" have been arrested in the city ..."-- <i>Over 700 'suspicious' persons held in Chennai.</i> • <i>Chronology of major bombings in India</i> -- a Factbox for 1993-2007 • <i>India finds uranium in icy Ladakh</i> -- uranium in "exceptionally high concentration".
<p>Indonesia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dark tale involving the poisoning of a human rights activist during an international flight and Indonesian state security [BIN] takes a new turn -- <i>Tape reveals new twists in Munir case.</i>
<p>Iran news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proscribing Iran's Revolutionary Guard as a "terrorist organization" may be a Jesuitical pretext for attacking not Iran but the "terrorist" IRG in Iran -- <i>Terror label 'paves way for air strikes'.</i>
<p>Russia news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ The use of the Russian language in Central Asia is a measure of waxing or waning Russian influence -- <i>Is Russian Language Dying Out In Former Soviet Republics?</i></p> <p><i>Putin exports Russian missiles to Syria</i> -- "The Pantsyr-S1E anti-aircraft missiles are part of a £450 million [US\$1.2B] contract signed earlier this year between Syria and the Russian state arms firm ..."</p> <p><i>Russia dismantles nine Topol mobile systems under START-1 treaty</i> -- "It is the third dismantling operation this year. In March and May we scrapped a total of 18 Topol systems whose service term has expired."</p>
<p>Venezuela news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Colombians hope Chavez can help free hostages</i> -- "US officials have charged that Chavez, a self-styled socialist revolutionary, has openly aided FARC rebels, without presenting evidence to support the charges." • <i>Chavez sending cheap fuel to London</i> -- "[London mayor] Mr Livingstone says he will use the savings to halve the price of a bus ticket for low-income Londoners." • The latest round of Chavez reforms, including removal of the limits on presidential terms, get initial OK in Venezuela Congress -- "We are reforming the constitution to solidify ... <i>the socialist nation, the socialist state, the socialist democracy.</i>"

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"*Chavez's government is now offering more **direct state funding** to **Latin America** and the **Caribbean** than the **United States**. ... more than **\$8.8 billion** in aid, financing and energy funding so far this year."* -- *Chavez offers billions in Latin America.*

Wild Cards
[news list|forecast](#)

- Benazir **Bhutto** rather bravely claims "The root cause of the problem lies in the government's inability to enforce its writ in the **tribal areas**" -- *Terrorism to go away with Musharraf, says Benazir.* "A deal with **Bhutto** offers **Musharraf** a chance to fend off challenges to his continued rule and make good on pledges to combat the **Taliban** and **al-Qaida** ..." -- *Bhutto details Musharraf deal.* Although everyone believes **Musharraf**'s days are numbered, **Sharif** and **Bhutto** are bitter rivals and no harmonious two-way or three-way arrangement is yet obvious -- *Options narrow for Pakistan's Musharraf.*

*Pakistan soldiers are **deserting** because they are no longer sure which side they should fight on; "I did not desert the force because I feared death, but I was not sure whether the fighting in **tribal district Waziristan** was **Islamic** or not" -- *Scores of Pak soldiers desert forces.**

Pakistan has test-fired a new ***Hatf-VIII nuclear-capable cruise missile.***

*US appears to adjust stance on **Pakistan** [Analysis] -- "Their preference [the US] would certainly still be that **Musharraf** continue. They are comfortable working with him and they probably consider him a stronger leader than the alternatives."*

*How west can win in **Central Asia** -- "Finally, while politics matters, money also counts." [Comment: A whistling past the graveyard analysis.]*

*Growing Muslim movement offers alternative to **Hamas** -- **Hizb ut-Tahrir** was established in 1953 as an alternative to Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood.*

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