

**GLOBAL CHALLENGES: THE WEEK IN REVIEW**

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

**Threat Summary**

	<p><b>Environment.</b> 21 cities threatened by rising seas. Oceans more acidic. Use of plants to eat toxins.  <b>Inter-State Conflict.</b> Shi'ite-Sunni joint resistance to US? Losing Afghanistan. Waziristan air strikes.  <b>Proliferation.</b> USAF continues to obfuscate and lie on nuclear "error." Six mysterious deaths.</p>
	<p><b>Poverty.</b> One in seven goes to bed hungry per UN FAO. Uganda resources shrinking, destabilizing.  <b>Infectious Disease.</b> Malaria vaccine for most vulnerable (&lt; one year) proving effective.  <b>Civil War.</b> Somalia UN compound stormed, UN head arrested. Sudan cost: 2M dead, 4M homeless  <b>Genocide.</b> Washington torn between truth and current realities on Armenian genocide.  <b>Transnational Crime.</b> Belgium-Thailand drug route. NY-Dominican airline ring. US into Mexico.</p>
	<p><b>Other Atrocities.</b> Sex workers from 20 countries in Malaysia. Uzbeks as slave labor in Central Asia.  <b>Terrorism.</b> Crop-ravaging and disease carrying insects vastly more threatening than terrorism.</p>

**Policy Summary**

	<p><b>Diplomacy.</b> 47 states with space satellites. US embassies in Africa are command posts (BAD idea!)  <b>Security.</b> Singapore and Sweden continue to excel. Critical infrastructure systems wide open.  <b>Society.</b> Ultra-Zionist settlers, fundamentalist Muslims, and white supremacists Christians: all same.</p>
	<p><b>Economy.</b> Greenspan failed to warn on subprime lending. 3 banks propose bail-out plan to calm.  <b>Education.</b> UNESCO, Library of Congress sign on <i>open</i> World Digital Library. Google is the enemy.  <b>Energy.</b> One gallon of ethanol requires 1,700 gallons of water. What part of STUPID are we missing?  <b>Health.</b> Drug-resistant staph infections widespread. See Laurie Garrett, <i>Betrayal of Trust</i> (2001).  <b>Immigration.</b> "Virtual fence" being tested along border. Expensive technology instead of good policy.  <b>Water.</b> In US, Georgia warns that 38,000 reservoir is three months from complete depletion.</p>
	<p><b>Agriculture.</b> US loses cotton subsidy fight. Genetic crops looting the poor. Hybrid rice may be good.  <b>Family.</b> See links.  <b>Justice.</b> US judge refuses extradition to Italy's 41b torture palace for terrorists and top mobsters.</p>

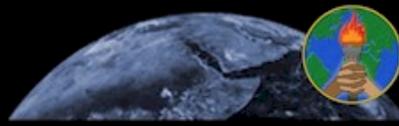
**Major Player Summary**

	<p><b>Iran.</b> Iran says it can fire 11,000 missiles in one minute. Caspian nations close out third parties.</p>
	<p><b>Brazil.</b> Illegal logging of rare species trees continues despite Greenpeace endeavor to get evidence.  <b>China.</b> Rapidly modernizing military under direct control of President HU Jintao. Myanmar just fine.  <b>India.</b> Small Wahhabi element stokes Sunni-Hindu tensions. No federal domestic security agency.  <b>Indonesia.</b> Papua violence continues but we recall last week's high marks on counter-terrorism.  <b>Russia.</b> Caspian Sea at center of new power game. <i>Twelve Who Have Putin's Ear.</i>  <b>Venezuela.</b> Crime down 10%. Proposed changes to Constitution go to final debate in Parliament.  <b>Wild Cards.</b> Banco del Sur for Latin America. China building critical mass from Baltic to Pacific.</p>

**World Crises - from monthly assessments by [International Crisis Group](#) at 01 October 2007**

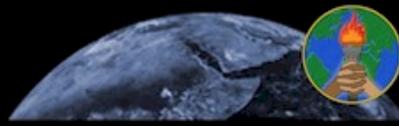
↗	<b>Alert:</b> Democratic Republic of Congo
↓	<b>Deteriorated:</b> Bangladesh, Burundi, DR Congo, Georgia, Guatemala, India (non-Kashmir), Iraq, Philippines, Somalia
↑	<b>Improved:</b> Sierra Leone, Turkey
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Unchanged:</b> Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Basque Country (Spain), Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chechnya (Russia), China (internal), Colombia, Comoros Islands, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Gambia, Georgia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran, Israel/Occupied Territories, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Macedonia, Mali, Moldova, Myanmar/Burma, Nagorno-Karabakh (Azerbaijan), Niger, Nigeria, North Caucasus (non-Chechnya), Northern Ireland (UK), North Korea, Pakistan, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Solomon Islands, Somaliland (Somalia), Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syria, Taiwan Strait, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Western Sahara, Yemen, Zimbabwe</li> </ul>

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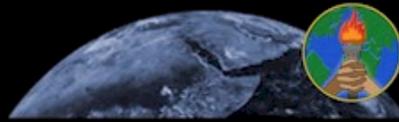
<b>Threats</b>		<i>see daily items with links to full stories on the web at <a href="#">PDB-Threats</a></i>
<b>Poverty</b> <a href="#">news list forecast</a>	↓	<p>“<i>One in seven people in the world go to bed hungry according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization</i>” -- <i>Most Countries Making Slow Progress Resolving World Hunger Crisis</i>.</p> <p>The <i>resource</i> basis of ongoing <i>instability</i> in <b>Uganda</b> -- <i>Scramble for scarce resources as grazing lands shrink</i>.</p>
<b>Infectious Disease</b> <a href="#">news list forecast</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>New Malaria Vaccine Is Shown to Work in Infants Under 1 Year Old, a Study Finds</i> -- success for the <i>most vulnerable group</i> but the course of <u>three injections</u> are a challenge; <u>oral administration</u> by <i>semi-skilled local personnel</i> is the most effective method in <i>Africa</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Environment</b> <a href="#">news list forecast</a>	↓	<p><i>Rising Seas Threaten 21 Mega-Cities</i> -- including <i>Dhaka, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Shanghai, Cairo, Mumbai, Jakarta, Tokyo, Lagos, Karachi, Bangkok, New York, Los Angeles, ...</i></p> <p><i>Global Warming – Oceans Becoming More Acid</i> -- the <i>acidity</i>, caused by the gradual buildup of <i>CO<sub>2</sub></i> dissolving into the <i>oceans</i>, could be <u>lethal</u> for animals with <i>chalky skeletons</i> which make up more than a <u>third of the planet’s marine life</u>.</p> <p><i>Genetically Engineered Plants Eat Toxic Waste</i> -- <i>phyto-remediation</i> -- use of <i>plants</i> to rid <i>soil</i> of <i>toxic pollutants</i> that threaten <i>drinking water</i>.</p>
<b>Inter-State Conflict</b> <a href="#">news list forecast</a>	↓	<p>An insight into the <i>Afghan defense forces</i> -- <i>Battling the Taliban With Soviet-era Weapons</i>. <i>Taliban sets out demands to Afghan president</i> -- "The demands are unlikely to be taken seriously. However ... a <i>negotiated settlement</i> may be possible with at least <i>some insurgent commanders</i>". <i>Coalition forces 'are fighting a lost cause against the Taliban'</i> -- "Commanders on the ground are crippled by a lack of <i>troops</i> and <i>helicopters</i>, forcing them to rely on <i>air strikes</i> which are causing more and more <i>civilian casualties</i> ..."</p> <p>The only thing worse for the <b>US</b> in <b>Iraq</b> than <i>civil war</i> is a <i>united Shi'ite-Sunni resistance</i> to <i>occupation</i> -- <i>It's the resistance, stupid</i>.</p> <p><i>Thousands displaced by renewed fighting in Waziristan</i> -- "We have seen plenty of fighting in our lifetimes, <u>but never anything like the aerial bombardment of the last week</u>".</p>
<b>Civil War</b> <a href="#">news list forecast</a>	↓	<p>"<i>Somalia's president and prime minister</i> are staring each other down in a political standoff that may end their lengthy feud but also set the <b>Horn of Africa</b> government adrift -- again" -- <i>Somali president, PM duel in political showdown</i>. <i>Breakaway Somali republic advances into Somalia</i> -- "<i>Somaliland</i> troops have captured the entire village and 100 <i>Puntland</i> troops". <i>Somali forces storm UN compound in Mogadishu, nab top official</i> -- <b>Somali</b> government forces stormed the <b>UN compound</b> in <i>Mogadishu</i> and arrested the local head of the <b>World Food Programme</b>. <i>Ethiopian soldiers halt Somalia Cabinet meeting</i> -- a meeting of <u>22 Cabinet ministers</u> who oppose the <b>Somali</b> Prime Minister has been broken up under orders from the <b>Ethiopian military</b>.</p> <p><i>Sudan crisis talks adjourn</i> -- "<i>the conflict, Africa's longest, cost two million lives and more than four million people were driven from their homes</i>".</p>
<b>Genocide</b> <a href="#">news list forecast</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Rwandan on Run From UN War Crimes Tribunal Arrested in France</i> -- <b>Ntawukuriryayo</b> was a sub-prefect of Gisagara in the southern Rwandan province of Butare in 1994.</li> </ul> <p><i>Support For Armenian Genocide Measure Wanes In Washington</i> -- "The nonbinding</p>

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	<p>resolution, narrowly approved last week by the <b>House Foreign Affairs Committee</b>, has threatened to damage Washington's already-frayed relations with <b>Turkey</b>".  <i>see: Wild Card (Turkey)</i></p>
<p><b>Other Atrocities</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>↓ <i>Five million people going hungry in Myanmar: WFP -- "Repressive state policies and a dysfunctional market in military-ruled Myanmar mean <u>5 million</u> people do not have enough food in what was once the rice-bowl of Asia ..."</i></p> <p><i>Sex Workers From 20 Countries Caught In Malaysia -- "... 405 foreign nationals were rescued by the <b>Royal Malaysia Police</b> from vice operators from 2004 to August this year ..."</i></p> <p><i>Gaza hospital to stop surgery as runs out of gas -- "Gaza's main hospital would be forced to stop surgery because <b>Israel</b> had banned imports of anaesthetic gas" -- <b>Israel</b> denies the allegation. [Comment: "Delayed" is more likely than "banned", which would be a blatant <b>humanitarian crime</b>.]</i></p> <p><i>"Congolese militia leader Germain <b>Katanga</b> will on [22 Oct 2007] become the second person to appear before the <b>ICC</b> to face accusations of <b>massacring</b> villagers, using <b>child soldiers</b>" -- <i>Congolese warlord to appear before ICC Monday.</i></i></p> <p><i>Chile to probe judge who indicted Pinochets -- "[Justice] <b>Cerda</b> told reporters in Washington that <b>Chilean courts</b> failed to defend <b>human rights</b> during <b>Pinochet's</b> 1973-90 dictatorship, when more than 3,000 people were killed for political reasons." [Comment: The "probe" is because Chilean authorities regard these comments as unbecoming a judge.]</i></p> <p><i>Argentine priest says Church complicit in dirty war [Interview] -- "Because I'm convinced that as a <b>Church</b>, we still owe the <b>Argentine</b> people an apology. Many of our members <u>did not defend human life</u>, which is the Church's fundamental responsibility."</i></p> <p><i>"The <b>Bolivian</b> government has said several times that <b>George W. Bush's</b> administration hinders the judicial and <b>extradition</b> process followed against the ex-dignitary" -- <i>De Lozada's extradition approaching.</i></i></p> <p><i>Slave Laborers in Central Asia -- "But once they get over the border, many <b>Uzbeks</b> find themselves property of <b>Kazakh</b> and <b>Russian</b> businesspeople, subject to abuse, neglect, and long hours of work."</i></p> <p>The <b>UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights</b> says the "prevalence of <b>impunity</b>" in <b>Sri Lanka</b> is alarming -- <i>Sri Lankan rights advisers quit.</i></p>
<p><b>Proliferation</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>USAF</b> blames a large number of personnel for the inadvertent lift of armed nuclear weapons across the US -- <i>Air Force to fire officers for nuke flight.</i> Also: <i>"Three colonels, a lieutenant colonel and <u>66 other personnel</u> were punished following the incident at <b>Minot Air Force Base</b>, North Dakota, on 29 August [2007]" -- <i>Airmen punished for nuclear error.</i> Also see an earlier report [filed late] <i>Mystery surrounds deaths of Minot airmen; [UNCONVENTIONAL SOURCE] "Six members of the <b>US Air Force</b> who were involved in the <b>Minot AFB</b> incident, have died mysteriously, an anti-Bush activist group says."</i></i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Terrorism</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>↓ To understand <i>al-Qa'eda</i>, <i>salafism</i>, and other aspects <b>Islamic militantism</b>, don't forget the <u>1979</u> takeover of the <b>Great Mosque in Mecca</b> -- <i>A Missing Link in Terror's Chain.</i></p> <p>An <i>entomologist</i> argues that <b>crop-ravaging</b> and <b>disease-carrying insects</b> are the great undiscovered <b>weapon of mass destruction</b>; "it was lice, not Western armies,</p>

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that nearly broke the back of the **Soviet Union** when typhus sickened 30 million people and killed 5 million Russians after World War I" -- *Bug bomb: Why our next terrorist attack could come on six legs.*

Always thinking ... "The **suicide bomber** ... had tried to break through her **security cordon** by bringing a box of **cotton buds** that she had requested, but was turned away twice" -- *Suicide bomber tried to get to **Bhutto** by bringing cotton buds.*

*Suicide Terrorism on the Rise Worldwide, Experts Say*; but, reports the US Dept. of State (USINFO) "more than half of the attacks are unrelated to religion".

"... a **nuclear bomb** on a **small boat** can do just as much damage as one in a **container**" -- *Homeland Security chief outlines new steps to discourage attacks.*

The **EU** plans to adopt "an ambitious **counter terrorism** package" next month -- *EU plans ban on bomb-making info on websites.*

*US Commander Warns of Latin America Terrorists* -- Adm. Jim **Stavridis**, head of the **U.S. Southern Command**.

Jamal Mohammed **al- Badawi**, the second main unarrested convict in the **USS Cole bombing**, has surrendered to **Yemen** security authorities -- *Senior al-Qaeda fugitive surrenders to police in Yemen.*

A view that much bad press on the **Tri-Border area** [**Brazil, Peru, Colombia**] is more **suspicion** of the possible than **proof** -- *City of Terror: Painting Paraguay's 'Casbah' as Terror Central.*

"**Philippine** troops came within reach of a top **Indonesian terror suspect** during a raid on a rebel safe house on a southern island but failed to recognize him ..." -- *Indon terror suspect elude troops anew.*

"*The Middle East Homeland and Global Security Forum* will see around 500 decision-makers and experts in the field of **security** from over 80 countries around the world" -- *Global experts to probe terror.*

" ... the **TSA** is leaving **airplanes** vulnerable to **sabotage** by **terrorists** who may have access to the planes in **repair shops overseas**" -- *Lawmakers: Aircraft repair shops overseas vulnerable.*

In **New Zealand**, the land where nothing usually happens, details and outcome of a **raid**, including whether "**heavy weapons**" and **napalm** was found, are still in dispute; "**Prominent Maori activist Tame Iti** was among those taken in by police.... These guys are serious. They are talking of **killing people**"; *Anti-terror raids in New Zealand.*

Is **North Jersey** open to a **terrorist attack**? "... every major terrorist group in the world, including **Hamas** and **Hezbollah**, has at least one North Jersey contact [except the **Taliban**]" -- *Kelly: Al-Qaida associates in N.J.*

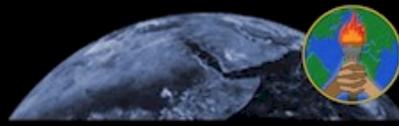
An **Australian** report issues a reminder about **blowback**; "...**tough laws** may result in **alienation** and **exclusion**, leading to support for terrorism.... community policing is a more effective way to fight the problem" -- *Tougher laws could fuel terrorism: report.* [Comment: This joins the growing school of thought that a constable on every block is far more effective, and cheaper, than a shed-full of SWAT teams.]

**Transnational Crime**  
 news list|forecast

• *'Most-wanted' **Belgium drugs gang** captured* [in **Thailand**] – "there are direct flights from **Singapore** and **Hong Kong** to Koh Samui, allowing **gang members** to slip through a lax local **immigration** process".

*Airline workers charged in NY-Dominican drug ring* -- "... importing several million

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dollars worth of **heroin, cocaine and ecstasy** from the **Dominican Republic** into **New York ...**"

**Nigeria Seeks Funds for Drug Control in Africa** -- "African countries have been highly affected by limited donor funding for drug control programmes".

**U.S. plan for drug war has some in Mexico worried** -- "A proposed massive American aid package to fight **violent drug cartels** has sparked a collective bout of hand-wringing in **Mexico**, where anything hinting at **U.S. intervention** has long been viewed with suspicion".

**Policy**

**Agriculture**  
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

- **Development: Farming Boost Could Lift a Billion People** -- failure to **invest** in the **developing world's** agriculture would doom the ambition to **halve extreme poverty in the next eight years**. [Fact-packed news item]

**All About: GM Rice** -- "but if it all sounds too good to be true, **environmentalists** say, that's because it is".

**Indonesia's** vice-president **Kalla** says: "*The government's decision to introduce **hybrid rice varieties** through the private sector hopes to improve the **economic livelihood** of farmers and the country's rice **production** ...*" -- **Kalla backs hybrid rice to increase food stock**.

**US loses cotton subsidies fight** -- "*the **World Trade Organisation** ruling is a victory for **Brazil's cotton** industry and for **West African** states which say the payments **harmed their producers***".

**Diplomacy**  
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

- **Back to the future: The Outer Space Treaty turns 40** -- "In 1967 seven states had satellites in space. Today the number is 47".

**Myanmar under fresh pressure after new US sanctions** -- an array of lacerating **sanctions** that is careful not to inconvenience **the Generals** one iota.

A move that will have some nervous ... **Congress asked to probe US informal basing in RP [Philippines]** -- "*The investigation should .... include our right to conduct **on-the-spot inspection** of **US forces** inside their bases and monitor **US troops** in the operations that are conducted in [**Mindanao**].*"

**U.S. embassies turned into command posts in North Africa** -- "*the report mentioned that the countries involved in the **U.S. embassies command posts** are **Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, Niger, Mali, Chad and Senegal**.*"

**Economy**  
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

- That **Invisible Hand** has failed: **3 Major Banks Offer Plan to Calm Debts in Housing** -- "*the plan calls for the banks to create a new **financing vehicle** to try to restore **confidence** and reduce the risk of a **market meltdown** by **propping up** an important part of the **debt markets***".

Now he tells us ... **US subprime crisis "an accident waiting to happen": Greenspan**.

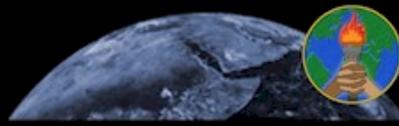
**Education**  
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

- A rare victory for **Knowledge: UNESCO, Library of Congress Sign Agreement for World Digital Library** -- "*the **World Digital Library** initiative will digitize **unique and rare materials** from libraries and other cultural institutions around the **world** and make them available **free of charge** on the **Internet***".

**Energy**  
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

- **Brazil President Pushes African Biofuel** -- "*At an hour when **Africa** is taking up the path of growth again, **ethanol** and **biodiesel** provide a way to guarantee the continent's energy **autonomy** and **economic sovereignty***." **Biofuel industry fights the critics [Analysis]** -- Unconvincing denials by the **biofuel** industry based on **food-stuffs**. **Ethanol's Water Shortage** [National Center for Policy Analysis] -- "*Heavily*

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*subsidized and absurdly inefficient, corn-based ethanol has already driven up food prices" -- one gallon of ethanol requires a staggering 1,700 gallons of water according to Cornell Univ.*

*Britain to claim a million square km of Antarctica -- "a vast area of the seabed around British Antarctica near the south pole"; other claims are seabed off South Georgia, Falklands, Ascension, Bay of Biscay, and a basin off Scotland.*

*Equatorial Guinea Joins World LNG Market -- "the island country has joined an elite group of LNG producers, adding to worldwide supply of clean-burning natural gas."*

*World first 100% biodiesel fuel powered jet takes flight -- "an L-29 military aircraft powered solely by 100% biodiesel fuel has successfully completed a test flight in the skies above Reno, Nevada."*

*Solar cars race from Australia's top to bottom -- three times winner Nuon Solar from the Netherlands holds the race record of 29 hours and 11 minutes for the 3,000-km (1,863 mile) event that has run every two years since 1987.*

**Family**

[news list|forecast](#)

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

**Health**

[news list|forecast](#)

- *Drug-Resistant Staph Killed More Americans Than AIDS in 2005 -- "Drug-resistant staph infections appear more widespread than previously thought."*

**Immigration**

[news list|forecast](#)

- *Feds to test 'virtual fence' along border -- "Loaded with sensors, radar and sophisticated cameras, nine towers along a 28-mile section are designed to detect illegal immigrants and drug smugglers ..."*

**Justice**

[news list|forecast](#)

- Conforming to widely-known US abhorrence of *torture* in any form in any place, a US *judge* refuses to *extradite thug* Rosario **Gambino** to **Italy** because he will be held in the "**41b**" **facility** designed for *mobsters* and *terrorists* -- *Convicted mobster will remain in US and avoid Italian 'prison torture'*.

**Security**

[news list|forecast](#)

- *Official: International hackers going after U.S. networks -- "Our water and sewer systems, electricity grids, financial markets, payroll systems, air and ground traffic control systems ... are all electronically controlled ..."*

*US Senate Panel Strikes Deal on Intelligence Bill -- "The bill would have allowed the eavesdropping to continue, but required court permission if one of the participants is in the United States."*

Stay frightened, very frightened - a duck-and-cover from Family Security Matters: *Are School Buses the Next Terrorist Target? How to Plan.*

*Most fake bombs missed by screeners -- "Security screeners at two of the nation's busiest airports failed to find fake bombs hidden on undercover agents posing as passengers in more than 60% of tests last year ..."*

*"Attackers may have found a blind spot in today's popular defenses, as most security products are not looking for Web 2.0 XSS attacks over SIP" -- New attack methods target Web 2.0, VoIP.*

Fearing *paperwork* more than being horrifically maimed, electors have forced many compromises in the new US *chemical regulations* -- *Feds soon to release new rules for chemical reports; revolt by chicken farmers rules them out.*

Action in **Iraq** is bending the US **Marines** to a use they are not designed for -- *U.S. Marine commander concerns over troops rapid response ability.*

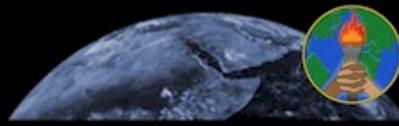
*41 Arrested In Massive Identity-Theft Sting -- "Queens District Attorney Richard*

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Brown displayed hundreds of fake documents as well as the **computers** used to make them at his morning press conference."

Singapore's Risk Assessment and Horizon Scanning Experimentation Centre (REC) joins those developing *advanced analysis tools* to glimpse order in apparent chaos; "we are breaking down the main event into smaller problems that the agencies can track and address" -- *REC working with Swedish agency to develop 'pre-event indicators'*.

Director of the *Joint Urban Operations Office* at US Joint Forces Command sees **war in the streets** of Iraq's cities as the prototype for *tomorrow's battlespace* -- *The Pentagon Plans for a New Hundred Years' War*.

**Society**  
[news list|forecast](#)

↓ A study confirms the sad reality -- similarities between *ultra-Zionist settlers* in **Israel**, *fundamentalist Muslims* in **Britain** and *white supremacist Christians* in the **United States** -- *Violence in Abrahamic faiths [Analysis]*.

**Water**  
[news list|forecast](#)

• "*Georgia [US] officials warn that Lake Lanier, a 38,000-acre reservoir that supplies more than 3 million residents with water, is less than three months from depletion*" -- *Georgia Seeks Water Disaster Declaration*.

**Challengers**

**Brazil**  
[news list|forecast](#)

• *Brazilian Amazon Loggers Let Greenpeace Activists Go After 2-Day Siege* -- "it is disgraceful that loggers, many involved in **illegal forest destruction**, were allowed to stop eight people legally taking one dead tree [the tree that proved illegal logging of a rare species]."

**China**  
[news list|forecast](#)

• *China says unrest still a problem in Xinjiang* -- "*Xinjiang is home to 8 million Uighurs, a Turkic, largely Islamic people who share linguistic and cultural bonds with Central Asia.*" So it would have been galling to China when **Uyghur human rights activist**, Rebiya Kadeer, from the dissident northwest region of Xinjiang spoke in **Germany** in same week the **Dalai Lama** visited the **US** -- *Human rights activist requests support for Uyghur while in Hamburg*.

*Why China will not allow democracy in Myanmar* -- "the party must raise its guard against '*non-Marxist ideological trends*' and '*cacophonous and impure noises*'".

*China's Communist Party approves new generation of leaders* -- "*Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan, 71, and Vice Premier Wu Yi, 68, were other age-related omissions from the 370 members of the new Central Committee.*"

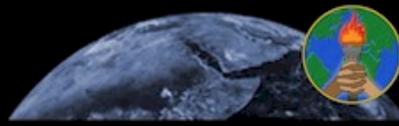
*US websites 'hijacked' by Chinese hackers* -- "There was speculation that the motive behind the 'hijacking' might be retaliation against the **United States** for the warm welcome it showed the **Dalai Lama**."

*China's Hu in control of rapidly modernising military* -- "After five years in power, President **Hu Jintao** has finally gained unquestioned control of China's massive military, while transforming it into a wealthy, **high-tech** fighting force ..."

**India**  
[news list|forecast](#)

• *Six killed, 25 injured in Ludhiana cinema hall blast* -- Four people died on the spot and two in hospital; "appears to be the handiwork of some **terror outfit**," say police. Then ... *Political blame game begins as terror grips nation* -- "The Home Ministry has been warning the states time and again that they need to step up their **intelligence network**." [India has no federal agency equivalent to the **FBI**.] At first it was just the many "*usual suspects*" ... *Sikh separatists, Jihadi probed for links in blast*. But quickly, as invariably happens, Pakistan's ISI is seen to be behind the bombing; "*there is no connection between the blasts in Ludhiana, Ajmer and Mecca Masjid (Hyderabad), other than the fact that the ISI's involvement is suspected, that*

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is *the common link*" -- *Attempts in Pakistan to build radical Sikh environment: NSA.*

India is seeking closer ties with **Nigeria** in order to boost his nation's "*energy security*" for years to come -- *India seeks oil in Nigeria [Analysis].*

"*The Defence Research and Development Organisation [India] is developing nuclear-capable cruise missiles with assistance from Israel, defense sources here said*" -- *India Working on Sea-Based Nuclear Missiles.*

"*The [US-India] nuclear deal is not the only issue on which we have strong differences. There are lots of other anti-people policies we have been protesting against*" -- *Left to decide on government support after Oct 22.*

A study says "*in numerous Sunni-Hindu clashes, it is a small Wahabbi element that magnified tensions and led the violence*" -- *Genesis of riots: Wahabis stoke tension, Shias work peace.*

**Indonesia**  
[news list|forecast](#)

- "*Eight people have been killed and 19 others injured in ongoing violence involving four tribes in Tembagapura district, Mimika, Papua*" -- *Tribal violence kills eight in Papua.*

**Iran**  
[news list|forecast](#)

- The *Caspian Sea states* agreed in **Tehran** on [16 Oct 2007] not to let a "*third country*" use their soil for an *attack* on any of them -- *Caspian states won't let soil be used for any attack.*

*Pakistan, Iran Inch Closer to Finalise IPI [Iran-Pakistan-India] Gas Agreement* -- "... officials said **India's** decision not to take part in the talks did not mean it had pulled out of the trilateral project".

*Iran appoints new chief nuclear negotiator* -- "following the resignation of Iran's top nuclear negotiator, Tehran has appointed **Deputy Foreign Minister Saeid Jalili** to replace him".

*Iran warns it can fire 11,000 rockets in one minute if attacked* -- "*within the first minute of any attack by enemies against our country, the missile and artillery unit of the ground force is capable of firing 11,000 missiles and shells at targets that are known to us*".

"*An SAS squadron [UK] is carrying out operations along the Iranian border in Maysan and Basra provinces with other special forces, the Australian SAS and American special-operations troops.*" -- *SAS raiders enter Iran to kill gunrunners.*

**Russia**  
[news list|forecast](#)

- "*The Caspian, one of the world's largest enclosed bodies of water, has become the center of a new power game involving the United States and Russia as well as its bordering countries ...*" -- *Energy-rich Caspian becomes center of U.S.-Russia power struggle.*

*Russia to suspend Europe arms treaty from December 12 [2007]* -- Russia is demonstrating its opposition to *US missile defense* plans, and the **NATO** positions on **Georgia** and **Kosovo**.

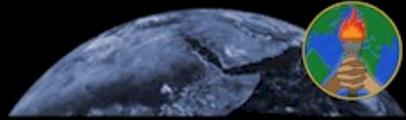
A handy checklist of Russia's *elite*: *Twelve Who Have Putin's Ear.*

**Venezuela**  
[news list|forecast](#)

- The *Minister of the People's Power for Internal Affairs and Justice* says the *Citizen Security National Plan* is showing results in *crime statistics*-- *Citizen Security Plan reduces 10.19% of crimes in Venezuela.*

*Chavez reforms go to parliament* -- "*Venezuela's parliament, dominated by supporters of President Hugo Chavez, has begun its final debate on proposed changes to the constitution*".

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**Wild Cards**  
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Benazir Bhutto, and pigeon  
 /Rizwan Tabassum/AFP/Getty Images

An excellent insight into the immense difficulties facing Benazir **Bhutto** from her first hours in **Pakistan** - .the **Federally Administered Tribal Areas** are no more governable now than a 1,000 years ago -- [Murderous premonition \[Commentary\]](#).

[At least 124 dead as bombs target Bhutto](#) -- Karachi authorities say at least 124 killed, more than 320 injured. Also see: [Timeline of major attacks in Pakistan \[Chronology\]](#). With the unmistakable implication that some elements of some **Pakistani security agencies** are sympathetic to the bombing plot, Benazir **Bhutto** pointedly suggests that outside investigative help may be appropriate -- [Bhutto calls for outside help with blast probe](#).

Elsewhere, in Pakistan's immense southwest "The **Baloch Republican Army**, an unknown organisation, has claimed responsibility for the blast, saying its target was Mir Ahmedan Bugti and his sons" -- [Five Bugti tribesmen killed in bomb blast](#).

[The Existence of the PKK Terrorism in Iraq and the United States](#) [Journal of Turkish Weekly] -- "**Turkish public opinion** gets angry about this subject. Turkey is the US's one of the most confidential **allies** for the decades, but the relations get worse because of the US's attitude on the **PKK terrorism**"

[Syria backs Turkey's plans for Iraqi incursion](#) – "It is useful to know that in essence the forces that are occupying **Iraq** have the **primary responsibility** regarding these **terrorist** activities, because they are under **control** in that country," Assad said.

Chris, Lord **Patten** writing for **International Crisis Group** says "**Turkey** is not fundamentally different to **Greece, Spain, and Portugal**, where **EU** leaps of faith were essential to a transition from **military authoritarianism** to stability and democracy" -- ["Europe Would Lose If Turkey Is Rejected"](#).

see: **Genocide** (Armenian Genocide)

[Decline of the West](#) revisited: "It is ironic that defeat in the **cold war** should have led **Russia** to the exuberant self-confidence of Vladimir **Putin's** Moscow, while victory has plunged the **West** into a loss of nerve" -- [The biggest threat to the West lies within itself, not with Islam](#).

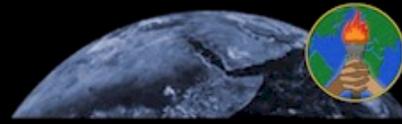
More on the **Collective Security Treaty Organization** and its developing relationship with the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization** (SCO) by *The Jamestown Foundation* -- [CSTO: Safe Choice In Central Asia](#). [Comment: A "critical

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mass” that stretches from the *Baltic* to the *Pacific*.]

**Venezuela, Brazil** and five other *Latin American* countries have formed **Banco del Sur** as an alternative to the **World Bank**, the **InterAmerican Development Bank** and the **IMF** -- *The cautious birth of a new bank*.

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