

GLOBAL CHALLENGES: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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

Threat Summary

	<p>Environment. India's small car BAD without city-rural mass transit and inter-city auto- rail.</p> <p>Inter-State Conflict. Waziristan tribes may finally be fed up with Al Qaeda and cross-border acts.</p> <p>Proliferation. Nuclear energy good—corrupt and bad practices bad—USA above all.</p>
	<p>Poverty. Nepal leads in establishing regional food bank—portend of new regional networks.</p> <p>Infectious Disease. Dengue threatens US—50-100 million cases, 22,000 deaths annually.</p> <p>Civil War. Kenya existing crisis toward civil war. Sudan attacks UN convoy. Congo. Sri Lanka.</p> <p>Genocide. No major stories, but Armenian, Kurdish genocides not forgotten, Congo-Rwanda.</p> <p>Transnational Crime. Mexico is the major criminal conduit for US drugs and violence.</p>
	<p>Other Atrocities. Latin American Operation Condor—more now known. Congo leader on block.</p> <p>Terrorism. UK convicts first person under new law making preparation for terrorism a crime.</p>

Policy Summary

	<p>Diplomacy. US Right Dreams On—Wish List for Latin America. Editor: US needs Electoral Reform!</p> <p>Security. Electrical systems at risk of sun spikes. DHS all over the lot. Anti-hijack = ground control.</p> <p>Society. US war veterans spiking in homicides (suicide rates astronomical and Top Secret).</p> <p>Water. Zimbabwe out of water—the ultimate failed state (now 177, up from 75 in 2005).</p>
	<p>Economy. US in recession, KGB plan for US chaos could inspire others, more bad news soon.</p> <p>Education. Women outpacing men, USA failing overall, UK cannot find foreign language teachers.</p> <p>Energy. Animal waste as source solves TWO problems. [Bacteria energy coming soon.]</p> <p>Health. Massive global shortage of health workers. 20% of US needs mental care (underestimate).</p> <p>Immigration. Open border is dead. Retired immigration officers may help clear backlog.</p>
	<p>Agriculture. USDA brags about record year for corn, neglects to mention ethanol idiocy, price rise.</p> <p>Family. Nothing major. Editor: US Economic Crash will energize multi-generational families.</p> <p>Justice. Not to be found in the USA. Cheney still in power, Guantanamo open, civil liberties down.</p>

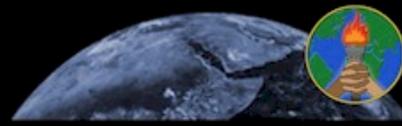
Major Player Summary

	<p>Brazil. Brazil may make mistake of following Venezuelan spend-thrift ways with military funding.</p> <p>China. Flexes muscles in space, while others suggest they will lose in space. Internally, one-child.</p> <p>India. Maoists provide social services the Indian government does not—<i>déjà vu</i>.</p> <p>Indonesia. Indonesian Bali bombers ask for beheading. No comment on being buried with pigs.</p> <p>Iran. Bucketload of radioactive material stopped enroute to Iran. US almost fired on boats.</p> <p>Russia. Hillary Clinton: Putin has no soul for having been KGB agent. Good grief. Capturing Nigeria.</p> <p>Venezuela. Bolivarian Revolution at turning point. Chavez accepts need to focus on middle class.</p> <p>Wild Cards. Cuba in transition. US and Horn of Africa analysis. Pakistan, Pakistan, Pakistan.</p>
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World Crises - monthly assessment by [International Crisis Group](#) - 01 December 2007

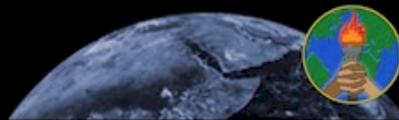
↗	Alert: DR Congo
↓	Deteriorated: Algeria , Basque Country (Spain), Chad , Kenya , Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Pakistan
↑	Improved: Nepal
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unchanged: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina,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

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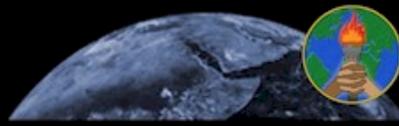
Threats		<i>see daily items with links to full stories on the web at PDB-Threats</i>
Poverty news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nepal to set up SAARC food bank -- "The food bank will act as a regional food security reserve for the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] member countries during normal time food shortages and emergencies ..."
Infectious Disease news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dengue potential U.S. health threat -- Dengue causes an estimated <u>50 to 100 million cases</u> and <u>22,000 deaths</u> annually -- <u>no specific treatments</u> or <u>vaccines</u> are available.
Environment news list forecast	↓	The launch of the world's cheapest car in India by Tata – the "Nano" -- is largely bad news according to some -- 'Nano speaks of govt's failure to provide safe alternate' .
Inter-State Conflict news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The type of turning point there needs to be: "Thursday's decision by men from the Wazir tribe came four days after gunmen, believed to be Uzbek militants, attacked two offices of a government-sponsored peace movement in South Waziristan and killed eight members of the tribe" -- Pakistan tribe says will take on al Qaeda fighters.
Civil War news list forecast	↓	<p>In Kenya, post-election violence increasingly takes the shape of a civil war: "The police ferried the bodies of the men they had shot to the mortuary. In the chaos, they brought some in alive ... Their suffering as they were left to die amid the corpses is unimaginable" -- Kenyan police defiant over city bloodbath. Also: Over 6,000 Kenyan refugees to Uganda reported</p> <p>Sudan admits attacking UN/AU Darfur peacekeepers -- "the convoy of more than 20 'clearly marked white vehicles' had been travelling at slow speed when it was hit. ..."</p> <p>Congo peace talks begin [2 of 2] -- "mid warnings by the Catholic Church against a 'Balkanisation' of the vast African country".</p> <p>"Preserving national integrity is a universal principle of peace from which Serbia should not be excluded" – this Sri Lanka view has obvious resonance in Sri Lanka and elsewhere -- The case against Kosovo's independence.</p> <p>EU calls on Sri Lanka for "Substantive Devolution" offer -- "the EU has always held the view that violence is not the appropriate way to solve this conflict. A lasting solution can only come from a ceasefire and a negotiated settlement."</p>
Genocide news list forecast		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to summarize -- see News List]
Other Atrocities news list forecast	↓	<p>Operation Condor Tentacles Stretched Even Farther -- more on "Operation Condor", a secret pact among Latin American military regimes to hunt down opponents.</p> <p>Gov't troops accused of abuses in Sulu [Philippines] -- "Mamauag said aside from abuses committed by government security forces, the [Commission on Human Rights] also included in its report violations committed against the military."</p> <p>World to hear case against Taylor -- Charles Taylor is <u>Africa's first leader</u> to face war crimes charges</p> <p>Guyana's opposition seeks to probe alleged abuse -- "... claims of arbitrary arrests and abuse by Guyana's security forces ..."</p>
Proliferation news list forecast	↓	With Nuke Rebirth Come New Worries -- "some countries hopping on the nuclear bandwagon have abysmal industrial safety records and corrupt ways that give many pause for thought."

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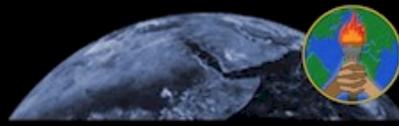
	<p><i>Better atom security needed in Pakistan -- ElBaradei</i> -- "I fear that chaos ... or an extremist regime could take root in that country which has <u>30 to 40 warheads</u>" Elbaradei was quoted as saying in the interview. Also: <i>ElBaradei fears for Pak nuclear arsenal security</i> -- "I fear that a war in the Middle East or in the Muslim world could have grave repercussions in Pakistan, more than in Iran," ElBaradei said.</p> <p><i>US to grant \$64 mln to Kazakhstan within Nunn-Lugar Program</i> -- "Kazakhstan and the US signed the framework agreement on non-proliferation in 1993."</p>
<p>Terrorism news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "A 29-year-old London man today became the <u>first person convicted</u> under a new law covering those caught preparing for terrorism" -- <i>London man is first to be convicted of preparing for terrorism.</i>
<p>Transnational Crime news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mexican army battles drug gang near U.S. border</i> -- "Soldiers fought around 20 armed men after being attacked with grenades following a search of a suspected drug safe house in Rio Bravo ...". Also: <i>Calderon calls on Mexico to 'close ranks' against border gangs.</i> <i>Mexico the main meth supplier</i> -- "In some cities, including Los Angeles, Chicago and Dallas, the Mexican organizations distribute meth through street gangs ...".
Policy	<p>see <i>daily items with links to full stories on the web at PDB-Policy</i></p>
<p>Agriculture news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>USDA says 2007 record year for corn</i> -- raw USDA statistics on the "boom" in corn do not address the controversy over conversion of corn from food to alcohol. <i>Agribusiness giants seek to gain worldwide control over our food supply</i> -- "... how four Anglo-American agribusiness giants plan world domination by patenting life forms to gain worldwide control of our food supply and our lives." <i>Can crops be Climate-Proofed?</i> -- now scientists are re-focusing their efforts on crop resilience against climate change, rather than yields.
<p>Diplomacy news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Latin America: A Wish List for 2008</i> -- the prayers of the US Right, from the downfall of Castro, Chavez, Morales, Correa to the rise of the OAS.
<p>Economy news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ "The fallout from the financial economy into the general economy is becoming more intense" -- <i>Shadow spreads across the US economy.</i> [A good detailed update on US problems.] By contrast, <i>Old Europe</i> (and New) is not faring badly; "The success of the euro reflects the confidence in the European economy, the European economy has come back and the euro reflects that" -- <i>Strong euro reflects European economy: Barroso.</i></p> <p><i>KGB's secret plan</i>; an interesting (if true) item outlining an orchestrated plan for economic chaos in the US -- "The intent was to encourage Americans to spend and borrow..."</p> <p><i>Merrill Lynch economist says US has entered recession</i> -- It's just a word, but ... "The US economy has entered into its first major recession in <u>16 years</u> ..."</p>
<p>Education news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Women outpacing men by degrees</i> -- "Young women continue to earn college degrees at rates <u>far higher</u> than men ..." [With other educational demographics.] <i>Dumbing Down Higher Education</i> -- the University of California system is considering lowering entrance GPA from <u>3.0</u> to <u>2.8</u> to ensure participation by minorities. <p>All UK primary schools will have to teach a foreign language to children aged seven and older by 2010 and are in a "panic" because of a shortage of qualified staff</p>

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	<p>-- 'Panic' over languages teaching.</p>
<p>Energy news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Animal waste: Future energy, or just hot air?</i> -- a good tutorial on <i>animal-waste biogas</i>.
<p>Family news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to summarize -- see <i>News List</i>]
<p>Health news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Congress takes up mental health bill</i> -- "nearly 20 percent of adults reported they needed but did not receive various services, including mental health care, because they could not afford them." <i>WHO warns of health workers' shortage</i> -- <u>60 countries</u>, mostly in Africa, face a shortage of <u>four million health workers</u>.
<p>Immigration news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retired <i>Immigration officers</i> may be invited back to work to clear a backlog of citizenship and residency applications; "Schumer pushed for the retiree hiring after ... a summer spike in immigration applications caused the backlog" -- <i>Retirees may help cut Immigration delay</i>. <i>The politics of immigration -- Supporters of open borders have lost on that issue -- "What then might an astute candidate advocate?"</i>; a look at what is sensible, and what would get <i>electoral</i> support. <i>"Costa Rican immigration officers and border police in just two days sent 1,700 undocumented migrants back to their native Nicaragua ..." -- Immigration Police send 1,700 Nicaraguan migrants packing</i>
<p>Justice news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Courts' rightward tilt likely to be a Bush legacy</i> -- "the Bush judges vote to keep cases away from juries." <i>Yemen urges US to shut Guantanamo</i> -- "I hope that the United States releases all those held at Guantanamo, based on the principles of human rights, freedom and justice upon which your country was founded."
<p>Security news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>New York City battles feds for bio-terror sensors</i> -- DHS, which funds 90% of the \$100,000 units, say they prefer to wait for even <u>newer technology</u>. Despite claims that <i>open-source code software</i> projects are more "secure" than commercial software, a DHS bug-finding program has discovered <u>significant flaws</u> in 180 projects -- <i>DHS finds flaws in 180 open source software projects</i>. <i>Boeing must prove hijackers can't hack Dreamliner</i> -- "The <u>odds of this being perfect are zero</u>.... It's possible Boeing can make their connection to the Internet secure. If they do, it will be the first time in mankind anyone's done that." <i>Guard your electrical systems - the sun is frowning</i> -- "A sunspot that marks the beginning of the [11-year] cycle appeared late [08 Jan 2008] in the sun's northern hemisphere ..."
<p>Society news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rise in homicides by US Iraq war vets - NY Times</i> -- "... a nearly <u>90 percent</u> increase in homicides involving active-duty military personnel and new veterans for the six-year period since the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan." The second-largest non-profit in the US, after the Red Cross, the "Y" is embracing community-based fitness and lifestyle programs; "<i>the YMCA is an excellent case study of adaptation and survival.... They have a history of openness to new ideas</i>" -- <i>YMCA Tackles America's Health Crisis</i>.
<p>Water news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure of water supply and water treatment is ultimate proof of Zimbabwe's disintegration; "<i>despite the rains, Harare's more than 1.5 million residents struggle with long water cuts, exacerbated by power shortages, burst sewage pipe and</i>

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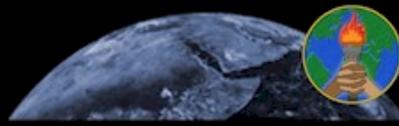


mounting piles of **uncollected refuse**" -- *No water for Zimbabwean capital, says report.*

Challengers

<p>Brazil news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Brazil gets ready for war rearranging and funding its defense network</i> -- Brazzil Mag - USA, 20080109. [27140] "... President Hugo Chavez is investing heavily in the Venezuelan Armed Forces and at the same time exposing the vulnerability of Brazilian forces."
<p>China news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Case shows plight of Uyghurs in China</i> -- "Under article four of the Chinese constitution, it should be possible to protect and freely participate in events that are traditional to Uyghur culture and customs. This has never proved to be entirely the case ..." • <i>China flexes muscle in space</i> -- "China is to launch 15 rockets, 17 satellites and its third manned mission in 2008 ...". • <i>How China Loses the Coming Space War (Pt. 1)</i> -- includes links to part-2 and part-3. • <i>China Bolsters One-Child Policy</i> -- "Chinese officials have revoked Communist Party membership for <u>500 people</u> in the country's central Hubei province as punishment for violating the country's one-child rule."
<p>India news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>India to develop anti-missile defence system</i> -- "The system was currently being designed and would go on trial from <u>2009</u> ..." • <i>India's Maoists offer not just insurgency, but in some cases a social support system; Maoists give compensation to dead cadres' families</i> -- "It's not only compensation, but in some cases, the Maoists have also taken over the responsibility of school-going children of their dead cadres ..."
<p>Indonesia news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Indonesian Bali bombers want to be beheaded instead of shot</i> -- "they should behead me because that is God's law, and God willing, I will die as a martyr".
<p>Iran news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Authorities seize radioactive material bound for Iran</i> -- "Not quite a bucketload of radioactive waste material was there mixed in with sand, dust, and snow." • <i>US almost opened fire on Iranian boats, Pentagon says</i> [Nobody said Gulf of Tonkin.]
<p>Russia news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another incautious statement showing lack of diplomatic maturity -- "... he was a KGB agent," Clinton said. "By definition he doesn't have a soul" -- <i>Hillary Clinton, campaigning, ponders Putin's soul</i>. [Comment: Whether the god-fearing CIA have souls is not discussed.] • <i>Russian move on Nigerian gas bodes ill for the west</i> -- "Gazprom ... has offered to invest billions of dollars in developing the gas sector in Nigeria, where western majors have traditionally put most of their efforts into extracting oil."
<p>Venezuela news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Venezuela's Bolivarian Revolution at a Turning Point</i> -- a scholarly review. • <i>President Chavez continues his new strategy of broadening his base with the middle class; Chavez to Slow Socialism Drive</i> -- "I'm forced to reduce the speed of the march," Chavez said [06 Jan 2008], telling new members of his Cabinet to "accept reality" and "put their feet on the ground." • <i>Colombia rules out more foreign hostage missions</i> -- the previous attempt at handover "crumbled on New Year's Eve with Chavez and the FARC accusing the government of ordering disruptive army operations in the area where the handover was to take place". But then, suddenly ... President Chavez <u>succeeds</u> in a final

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attempt to free two of the *hostages*; *Freed hostages land in Venezuela* -- **military operations** in three areas in the south-eastern state of **Guaviare** were suspended to allow the handover to take place.

Wild Cards
[news list|forecast](#)

↓ *Cuba's Transition Begins* -- "There is no way to know how skillfully **Raúl Castro** will lead and deal with inevitable crises once his brother is gone."

U.S. Engagement in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa -- in-depth analysis by a Georgetown professor.

PAKISTAN

Bhutto's assistant a suspect -- "he has been on the run ever since footage emerged of him making throat-slitting gestures at Bhutto's last rally.... he was in such a rush to get inside Bhutto's bulletproof vehicle that he didn't even hold open the door for her."

At Least 23 Killed, Dozens Hurt in Pakistan Bombing -- "Some of the lawyers outside the **Lahore** courthouse Thursday said **Musharraf's** government had **intelligence** that suicide attackers were in the area but did not do enough to prevent the attack."

Tribal killings shatter hopes for ceasefire -- "Islamist militants shot dead eight **tribal leaders** in coordinated attacks just hours before they were due to discuss a planned ceasefire between **Pakistan's** security forces and **al-Qaeda** and **Taleban** insurgents ..."

How ISI engineers Pakistan elections [as much a matter of "dirty tricks" -- used from Florida to Sydney -- as actual **ballot manipulation**.]

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