

**00GLOBAL CHALLENGES: THE WEEK IN REVIEW**

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

**Threat Summary**

<p><b>Environment.</b> 2007 warmest on record for land mass. Ocean iron fertilization pros &amp; cons.  <b>Inter-State Conflict.</b> Afghanistan War “just beginning” as Taliban returns in earnest.  <b>Proliferation.</b> India-China collaboration would slow energy depletion.</p>
<p><b>Poverty.</b> Cost of reaching hungry person up 50%. High food prices causing global unrest.  <b>Infectious Disease.</b> Flesh-eating MRSA threatens UK, widening in US. Botswana confirms XDR-TB.  <b>Civil War.</b> UN deadlocked on Kosovo. Kenya worsens (but no IEDs or armed opposition). Yemen.  <b>Genocide.</b> Rwanda still teaching genocide and hatred.  <b>Transnational Crime.</b> Mexico continues to be a festering cancer on US southern border.</p>
<p><b>Other Atrocities.</b> West Africa a hot spot for human trafficking. Nigeria to Italy and NL.  <b>Terrorism.</b> Spain arrests fourteen. Islamists now focus on Saudi Arabia, not US. Utilities hacked.</p>

**Policy Summary**

<p><b>Diplomacy.</b> Muslim think tank to meet in Cape Town.  <b>Security.</b> Why US spy agencies failed to adapt (Read <a href="#">ON INTELLIGENCE</a>). Secrecy dysfunctional.  <b>Society.</b> Explosion in think tanks. Religion needs much more thought. Minutemen woo youth.  <b>Water.</b> US Clean Watersheds could cost \$202 billion over 20 years (drop in the bucket).</p>
<p><b>Economy.</b> Detailed overview on US economic melt-down.  <b>Education.</b> Web a mixed blessing—students so stupid they don’t remove advertisements from papers.  <b>Energy.</b> US wind capacity up 45%, injects \$9B into economy. GM to make biofuel from garbage.  <b>Health.</b> Health-care fraud. Nigeria targets tobacco company ads for youth. Africa losing doctors.  <b>Immigration.</b> Myths, facts. Yemen overrun. Mexico introduces digital immigration card.</p>
<p><b>Agriculture.</b> No major stories, see links.  <b>Family.</b> Democrat as US President, could they free up funding for abortions from Kenya to Mexico?  <b>Justice.</b> US among harshest in sentencing children. McConnell differs from Hayden on torture.</p>

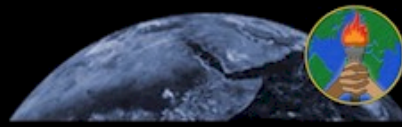
**Major Player Summary**

<p><b>Brazil.</b> Land shortages provoking murders. Activist priests at risk.  <b>China.</b> Wind power increases, bad planning hampers connections. Second East-West gas pipeline.  <b>India.</b> China plus India equals global leadership. Overspends on heavy equipment. Short officers.  <b>Indonesia.</b> Indonesia and China expand defense ties (see the pattern?) US decision hurts soy prices.  <b>Iran.</b> Russia ignores Israel, ships 3rd uranium package. Complex strains with Turkmenistan now public.  <b>Russia.</b> Bypassing Turkey with pipeline to Europe under Black Sea. Increases influence on Europe.  <b>Venezuela.</b> Chavez angry at banks and farmers. Primer on “People’s Power” in Venezuela.  <b>Wild Cards.</b> Guatemala moves away from rightist murder. South American constitutions. Pakistan.</p>
---

**World Crises - monthly assessment by [International Crisis Group](#) - 01 December 2007**

<p><b>Alert:</b> DR Congo</p>
<p><b>Deteriorated:</b> <b>Algeria</b>, Basque Country (Spain), <b>Chad</b>, <b>Kenya</b>, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, <b>Pakistan</b></p>
<p><b>Improved:</b> Nepal</p>
<p>• <b>Unchanged:</b> 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</p>

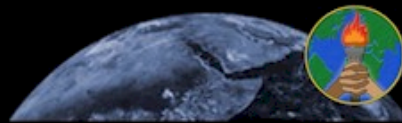
↓ deteriorated	• steady	↑ improved	↗ ALERT
----------------	----------	------------	---------



**Threats** see *daily items with links to full stories on the web at [PDB-Threats](#)*

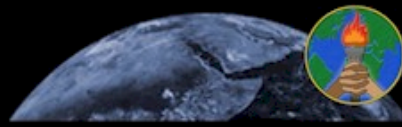
<p><b>Poverty</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>↓ "High world prices for grains have made our operations more challenging than ever. The overall cost of WFP reaching a hungry person has gone up by <u>50 per cent</u> in the last five years." -- <i>Africa's rural poor face 'perfect storm'</i>.</p> <p><i>The violence in Kenya may be awful, but it is not senseless 'savagery' -- "what we are seeing in Kenya - and in other unstable developing countries - is how human beings behave when faced with the kind of chronic insecurity that globalisation is incubating the world over".</i></p> <p>"The FAO says unrest linked to high food price has already occurred in Morocco and Yemen in North Africa, Uzbekistan in Central Asia, and Guinea, Mauritania and Senegal in West Africa" -- <i>Fund Launched for Poor Countries Struggling With High Food Prices.</i></p> <p>see: <b>Health</b> (WHO warns of health workers' shortage)</p>
<p><b>Infectious Disease</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>↓ <i>Botswana Health Ministry Confirms First Two Cases of XDR-TB</i> -- apart from extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis, Botswana also reports a 100 cases of multi-drug resistant TB.</p> <p><i>'Flesh-eating' MRSA strain threatens Britain</i> -- "in the US it is already moving into the wider community, which is very worrying.... USA300 was first identified in 1999 after it killed four young children in North Dakota." [MRSA - Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus]</p>
<p><b>Environment</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>• An average temperature about <u>1.84 degrees</u> above the long-term average, but "on record" is small beer given records extend little beyond <u>100 years</u> -- <i>2007 was the warmest on record for Earth's land areas.</i></p> <p>Releasing iron onto the ocean surface can stimulate the growth of plankton, which use carbon dioxide to create biomass but the technique is new and may have yet unknown cross-impacts -- <i>Scientists issue warning on ocean iron fertilisation.</i></p>
<p><b>Inter-State Conflict</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>↓ <i>Afghan war only just beginning, security group warns</i> -- "a few years from now, 2007 will likely be looked back upon as the year in which the Taliban seriously rejoined the fight," says the Afghanistan NGO Security Office.</p> <p><i>Gates faults NATO forces in southern Afghanistan</i> -- "European allies were still geared to the type of combat envisioned by Cold War planners before the fall of the Soviet Union."</p>
<p><b>Civil War</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>↓ "Hundreds of citizens in a northern province of Yemen, have been displaced ... following a renewed bout of clashes between government forces and followers of Shia rebel leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi ..." -- <i>Calls for humanitarian aid as hundreds are displaced by clashes.</i></p> <p>Deep-seated tensions keep Kenya on the boil: <i>Police turn machine guns on protesters as Kenya fractures</i> -- "about 650 people have been killed since the disputed 27 December election". Also: <i>Three hacked to death in Nairobi clashes.</i></p> <p>Now in the lap of the gods: "... the Security Council is in a deadlock over Kosovo's future status, and no longer has any role to play on the issue..." -- <i>UN deadlocked over Kosovo status with no compromise prospects.</i> And saber-rattling becomes audible on both sides: <i>Serbia adopts "action plan" against Kosovo Albanians.</i></p>
<p><b>Genocide</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>• <i>Rwanda 'still teaching genocide'</i> -- "A parliamentary investigation found cases where students were made to wear different uniforms according to their ethnic group</p>

↓ deteriorated      • steady      ↑ improved      ↗ ALERT



		<i>and books inciting hatred."</i>
<b>Other Atrocities</b> <a href="#">news list</a> <a href="#">forecast</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Philippine</b> organizations and government agencies working on <i>anti-human trafficking initiatives</i> are invited to submit project proposals for <i>funding</i> consideration by the U.S. Government -- <i>US to fund anti-trafficking in persons programs; proposals due February 4.</i></li> </ul> <p>A look at <i>West Africa</i> as a <i>human trafficking</i> hot-spot, particularly with the approach of a major football tournament -- <i>Ghana 2008 - Nexus for Human Trafficking?</i></p> <p><i>Beware! Human Traffickers On the Prowl – Nigeria:</i> "Ninety-four victims were rescued in 2007 alone by the <i>National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons ...</i>" Also: <i>66 Nigerians Held on Trafficking Charges</i> -- <b>Italian</b> and <b>Dutch</b> authorities make arrests on <i>human trafficking</i> and <i>baby trading</i> charges.</p>
<b>Proliferation</b> <a href="#">news list</a> <a href="#">forecast</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>IAEA</b> expresses concern at the <u>bucket</u> containing radioactive <i>cesium-137</i> discovered aboard a freight train from <b>Kyrgyzstan</b> to <b>Iran</b>; "<i>unlikely to have involved any malice or smuggling, and that negligence or incompetence remain the chief culprits</i>" -- <i>IAEA Seeks Answers To Radioactive Seizure.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Indian PM proposes nuclear energy cooperation with China</i> -- "Nuclear energy cooperation between the two countries could help slow the depletion of <b>world energy resources ...</b>"</p>
<b>Terrorism</b> <a href="#">news list</a> <a href="#">forecast</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Hackers have attacked foreign utilities, CIA analyst says</i> -- "in at least one case causing a <b>power outage</b> that affected <u>multiple cities</u>".</li> </ul> <p><i>Muslim charities, guilty until proven innocent?</i> -- a thoughtful look at some legally shaky notions such as "<b>material support</b>" [for a terrorist organization].</p> <p><i>Spain arrests 14 terror suspects</i> -- "the suspects included 12 from <b>Pakistan</b> and two from <b>India</b>. The minister called the group <u>highly-organised</u> saying they were <u>preparing to carry out an attack.</u>"</p> <p>In <b>Pakistan:</b> "a concerted fightback by <i>al-Qaeda</i> to derail any <b>peace initiatives</b> unless the group itself is directly engaged, rather than local resistance leaders" -- <i>Militants make a claim for talks.</i></p> <p>"[Tajikistan's education minister] has ordered male students at the <b>Islamic University of Tajikistan</b> to <b>don suits and ties</b> and <b>shave their beards ...</b>" -- . <i>New Curbs Target Islamic Students</i></p> <p>"the <b>Islamists' main enemy in Iraq</b> is now <b>Saudi Arabia</b>, not the supposedly militarily defeated <b>United States ...</b>" -- <i>Bin Laden: Saudis are main enemy in Iraq.</i></p>
<b>Transnational Crime</b> <a href="#">news list</a> <a href="#">forecast</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>In Mexico, reporters learn not to name names</i> -- "When people in the government offer to show me <b>confidential reports</b>, I say, 'Please, don't I don't want to see them!'"</li> </ul>
<b>Policy</b>		<i>see daily items with links to full stories on the web at <b>PDB-Policy</b></i>
<b>Agriculture</b> <a href="#">news list</a> <a href="#">forecast</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [nothing significant to summarize -- see <i>News List</i>]</li> </ul>
<b>Diplomacy</b> <a href="#">news list</a> <a href="#">forecast</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>International Muslim Think Tank To Meet In Cape Town</i> -- Annual conference of <b>International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT)</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Economy</b> <a href="#">news list</a> <a href="#">forecast</a>		<p>↓ <i>Shadow spreads across the US economy</i> -- "The fallout from the <b>financial economy</b> [the guys who invented the <b>no-doc-loan scam</b>] into the <b>general economy</b> [the working stiffs who are suffering for it] is becoming more intense". [A good detailed update on US problems.]</p>

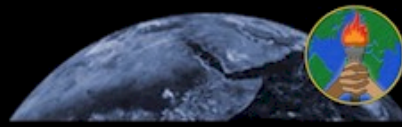
↓ deteriorated	• steady	↑ improved	↗ ALERT
----------------	----------	------------	---------



	<p><i>A Better Way to Track the Economy</i> -- "The current stats were created to track the ups and downs of a <b>manufacturing economy</b>. Now different data[such as <b>innovation</b>] are needed to boost the economy's <b>long-term growth potential</b>."</p> <p><i>Bush Seeks Opposition Support to Boost Faltering US Economy</i> -- "Many recent public-opinion polls show the economy is <u>replacing the Iraq war</u> as the <u>top concern for voters</u> in this <b>election year</b>."</p>
<p><b>Education</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>↓ The <b>Web</b> is a wonder unprecedented in human history but unless teachers can show it is a product, tool, version of <b>human knowledge</b>, uncritical exposure to it may breed very ignorant key-clickers: <i>Web plagiarism a serious problem in schools</i> -- "Some students who steal essays wholesale from the Web are so lazy they <u>don't even bother to take the adverts off the cut-and-pasted text</u>."  <i>see: India (Overcoming Caste)</i></p>
<p><b>Energy</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>U.S. Wind Capacity Up 45 Percent In 2007</i> -- "...expanding the nation's total wind power generating capacity by 45 percent in a single calendar year and injecting an investment of over <u>\$9 billion</u> into the economy ..."  <i>"Because oil provides 40% of the globe's energy, and because the energy system is so large and slow to change, the costs of acting immediately to begin mitigating the inevitable supply crunch are dwarfed by the economic penalties of further delay" -- Global Oil shortage is looming large...</i></li> <li>• <i>GM to make biofuel out of garbage</i> -- "The process is a significant improvement over <b>corn-base ethanol</b> because it uses far less <b>water</b> and <b>energy</b> and does not divert <b>food</b> into fuel." [Comment: No independent details yet on the <b>processes</b> GM has in mind.]</li> </ul>
<p><b>Family</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Why a new president may slow population growth</i> -- a <b>Democrat</b> in the White House would free up <b>funding</b> for <b>legalized abortions</b> from <b>Kenya</b> to <b>Mexico</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Health</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Top Health-Insurance Scams</i> -- a sample of <b>health-care</b> frauds, from devious fine-print to outright theft.  <i>Nigeria up in arms against tobacco firms</i> -- "three multinational <b>tobacco</b> firms being sued by the <b>Nigerian</b> government for targeting <b>youth</b>.... In a first such case ever in the developing world, Nigeria is seeking \$44bn (£22bn) in damages ..."  <i>Continent 'Being Drained of Doctors'</i> -- "<b>Angola, Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mozambique, Rwanda and Sierra Leone</b> all experienced <b>civil war</b> in the 1990s and all had lost 40% of their <b>doctors</b> by 2000."  <i>WHO warns of health workers' shortage</i> -- <u>60 countries</u>, mostly in <b>Africa</b>, face a shortage of <u>four million health workers</u>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Immigration</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>5 myths of anti-immigration talk</i> -- part of the way in clearing the debate of specious propositions.  <i>Truth about illegal immigration and crime</i> -- "<b>facts, not irrational fear and dread, should inform the national debate about immigration policy</b>".  <i>[Yemen] Government says it can no longer cope with more African migrants</i> -- "by the end of 2007 the number of Africans (both legal and illegal migrants) in <b>Yemen</b> had reached about <u>800,000</u> out of a total population of <u>21 million</u>. Most were <b>Somalis</b>."  <i>Digital immigration card shows Mexico's progressive views on immigration</i> -- "While Washington is at an <b>impasse</b> over the status of millions of people who entered the <b>United States</b> without proper visas, Mexico is unrolling a new digitally-embedded immigration card ..."</li> </ul>

↓ deteriorated	• steady	↑ improved	↗ ALERT
----------------	----------	------------	---------





**Justice**

[news list|forecast](#)

- *U.S. among harshest for sentencing **children*** -- a look at some *cruel and unnatural* aspects of US justice, particularly its **felony murder** laws.  
*Rights Division Fact Sheet: Safeguarding Civil Rights During 2007* -- DoJ's **Civil Rights Division** report on its own achievements.  
*Waterboarding would be torture to me: U.S. spy chief* -- "Whether it's **torture** by anybody else's definition, for me it would be torture" says **U.S. intelligence chief Mike McConnell**.  
*see: Terrorism (Muslim charities, guilty until proven innocent?)*

**Security**

[news list|forecast](#)

- *U.S. spy chief names his top scientist* -- Lisa **Porter** is the first director of the new **Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity**.  
 [UK] What will it take to carry only **encrypted** data ... *Data of 600,000 lost in laptop theft* -- the **personal details** of up to 600,000 people who had joined the **Navy, Marines and Air Force** and people keen to join were lost when a Royal Navy officer's **laptop** was **stolen**.  
*DHS to Replace 'Duplicative' Anti-Terrorism Data Network* -- "The **Homeland Security Department** spent more than \$90 million to create a network for **sharing sensitive anti-terrorism** information with state and local governments that it has decided to **replace** ..."  
*Why US Spy agencies failed to adapt*, -- "even **9/11** wasn't enough to transform our intelligence system".  
 An essay on why **secrecy** is "**dysfunctional** in the face of current needs of national security" -- *U.S. intel official: Secrecy dysfunctional*.

**Society**

[news list|forecast](#)

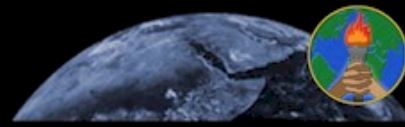
- The growth in both the number and output of **think tanks** in recent decades has been "nothing less than explosive" -- *Study: Globalisation triggers 'explosion' in think tanks*.  
*Religion and Public Policy* -- "There is a dire need to evolve a new understanding of how religion relates to the public sphere form within the **Muslim** experience, instead of relying on notions borrowed from the historical West and superimposed on society."  
*What Religion's Blind Stranglehold on America Is Doing to our Democracy* -- Voters reward **faith talk** because they want candidates to offer them **symbols of immutable moral order**. The root of the problem lies in the underlying insecurities of voters ..."  
*Conservative group issues presidential voting guide* -- The Family Research Council (FRC), an influential **conservative lobby group** with strong evangelical ties, divides the world according to issues such as **stem cell research** and **same-sex marriage laws**. *More join fight about 'under God' in Pledge* -- The Freedom from Religion Foundation and American Center for Law and Justice do battle over the role of the **deity** in the USA.  
*Minuteman chapter seeks to draw young adults into movement* -- "the group, called **Operation Generation**, is planning to use the **Internet** in a bid to spark interest among young people in the **anti-illegal-immigration movement**."

**Water**

[news list|forecast](#)

- **US: Clean Watersheds Could Cost \$202 Billion Over 20 Years** -- an integral part of the WATER equation: "... includes \$134.4 billion for **wastewater treatment** and collection systems, \$54.8 billion for combined **sewer overflow corrections**, and \$9.0 billion for **stormwater management**."  
*Drain on the Mediterranean: rising water usage* -- "across the **Mediterranean**, water

↓ deteriorated	• steady	↑ improved	↗ ALERT
----------------	----------	------------	---------



is being pumped out of the earth at an **unsustainable** pace.... Ten years ago, his well was 16 feet deep. This year, he had to dig nearly 200 feet to reach water."

*Report looks at **Coke water use in India** -- the largest producer of value-added water says it is innocent of lowering **India's water table**.*

## Challengers

### Brazil

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

- **Land Shortage Provokes Murders of Indigenous People** -- "at least 76 indigenous people were murdered in Brazil in 2007, 58 percent more than in 2006." Also: **Brazil activist priest 'at risk'** -- "... there were 814 killings over **land rights** in Para between 1971 and 2006, the majority of which have still not been investigated."

### China

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

- **China lays out plan for 2nd West-East gas pipeline** -- the 8,794 km US\$19.8 billion set of lines will run from Khorghos in the northwestern **Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region** to **Guangzhou**, capital of south Guangdong Province.  
*China wind power hits 5.6 GW -- "but over a quarter of it is still not connected to the grid because of bad **planning** ..."*  
*China paper sees **West to blame in Kenya chaos** -- "the Western '**democracy**' transplanted to Africa is unsuited to local conditions and has sowed the seeds of **disaster**," says Peoples Daily.*  
*see: **Proliferation** (Indian PM proposes nuclear energy cooperation with China)*

### India

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

- **U.S. offers to help India develop missile shield** -- "**Lockheed Martin** could be pushing for closer ties with India's military to increase its chances in winning a \$10-billion tender on the delivery of 126 fighters..."  
*China plus India equals global leadership* -- "the time is right for both to get rid of any past mistrust since times now are completely different in **economic** and **political** terms."  
*Assam tops in militancy violence* -- a checklist of fatalities in India's hot-spots.  
*Facing officer shortage, Indian army mulls **conscription*** -- "we get enough **volunteers** at the level of soldiers," the officer said. "The problem is the officer cadre." *Army's **footsoldiers** get raw deal* -- "the **heavy equipment** that is rarely used, will consume about 85 per cent of the expenditure, while the soldiers will get just 15 per cent of the total."  
*Overcoming Caste* -- as with all of the world's other woes, "*Hope starts and ends with the **Schools***".  
*see: **Proliferation** (Indian PM proposes nuclear energy cooperation with China)*

### Indonesia

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

- **Indonesia and China expand defence ties** -- "Beijing and Jakarta have enjoyed closer ties in recent years, particularly since the fall in 1998 of former Indonesian president Suharto ..."  
*Street protests in Indonesia over soyabeans* -- "The **record prices** were triggered by **US farmers** opting to grow **corn** to supply the **biofuel** industry over **soyabeans**."

### Iran

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

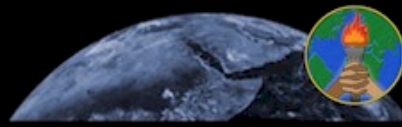
- **Good relations take turn for the worse** -- "... strains in the **Turkmen-Iranian** relationship -- which involves **gas**, **electricity**, **fishing rights**, and **water sharing**, as well as sensitivities surrounding northern Iran's 3 million **ethnic Turkmen** -- have been made public."  
*Third **Russian uranium** shipment to Iran despite Israeli warnings`* -- **Israel's** Foreign Minister Tzipi **Livni** said Iran showed proof of '**dangerous ideology**, bordering on **madness**.'

↓ deteriorated

• steady

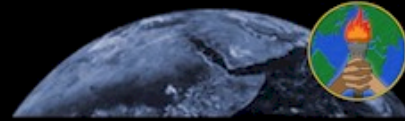
↑ improved

↗ ALERT



<p><b>Russia</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Pipeline Cements Russia's Hold on Europe's Gas Supply</i> -- "... the \$15 billion <b>South Stream</b> pipeline will be built under the <b>Black Sea</b>, allowing Russia to send <b>natural gas</b> directly to <b>Europe</b> through <b>Bulgaria</b> and bypassing <b>Turkey</b> ..."</li> </ul>
<p><b>Venezuela</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Chavez to farmers: Sell within Venezuela or it's 'treason'</i> -- President <b>Chavez</b> threatens to act against those he believes are embarrassing the government by creating artificial <b>shortages</b> of <b>basic foods</b> covered by <b>price controls</b>.  <i>Chavez warns banks on farm lending</i> -- President <b>Chavez</b> threatens <b>banks</b> who ignore the laws on quotas for <b>loans</b> on <b>agriculture</b>, <b>mortgages</b> and <b>small businesses</b>.  <b>People's Power in Venezuela</b> -- details of '<b>peoples power</b>' structures.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wild Cards</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Colom becomes Guatemala's first leftist president in more than 50 years</i> -- "Today is the beginning of <b>privileges for the poor</b>, the beginning of privileges for those without opportunities."  <i>South America's Constitutional Battles</i> -- "In three <b>Andean</b> countries -- <b>Bolivia</b>, <b>Ecuador</b> and <b>Venezuela</b> -- political leaders recently have pursued <b>constitutional rewrites</b> that would make it more difficult for future administrations to <b>reverse</b> the policies they instituted ..."  <i>ASEAN and SCO: opportunities and perspectives of interaction</i> -- a detailed perspective on a significant <b>new strategic balance</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>PAKISTAN</b></p> <p>He who all believe is the least-capable man in <b>Pakistan</b> may fall into a role by default; "... a national government without President <b>Musharraf</b> should be formed for holding free and fair <b>elections</b>. Any arrangement involving <b>Musharraf</b> would not be acceptable to us," <b>Sharif</b> said to a public rally -- <i>Sharif: Nat'l unity gov't without Musharraf</i>.</p> <p>The <b>CIA</b> agree with <b>Pakistani</b> authorities, that the <b>Taliban</b> were behind <b>Bhutto's</b> killing; "<b>Hayden</b> declined to discuss the intelligence behind the <b>CIA</b> assessment, which runs counter to a view held in many quarters including that of the <b>Bhutto</b> family ..." -- <i>Baitullah Mesud 'responsible' for Bhutto killing: CIA chief</i>.</p> <p><i>Pakistan Arrests 15-Yr-Old In Bhutto Plot [and other incidents]</i> -- teenager said to confess; <b>5.5 tonne explosives</b> found in <b>mosque</b>; other attacks thwarted. <i>Pakistani police say avert bomb, cyanide disaster</i> -- "averted a disaster with the arrest of five <b>militants</b> planning to attack <b>Shi'ite Muslim</b> processions with cyanide and suicide bombs."</p> <p><i>Army claims success in Swat [Valley] operation: Militancy almost wiped out</i>. But it is a war with ebb and flow; "Twice in two days, militants rout <b>Pakistani</b> troops in troubled tribal regions", and some ask does the <b>Pakistani army</b> have its heart in it. Why should they, some would answer -- <i>Pakistani Army: Unwilling or Unable?</i></p> <p>But the greatest threat to order may not be the <b>Taliban</b>: "<b>flour shortages</b> and rising <b>food prices</b> may well be the <u>most pressing issue</u> for <b>Pakistanis</b> before next month's elections" -- <i>Pakistan faces wheat shortage</i>.</p> <p><i>Country on the brink of revolution, says ex-spy-master</i>; <b>Pakistan</b> as a very complex piece of statecraft, and the <b>US</b> as the ill-informed shrew who knows not what she does -- "Have they forgotten that the revolution in <b>Iran</b> came because the <b>US</b> supported a very unpopular king?"</p> <p>see: <b>Terrorism</b> (Militants make a claim for talks)</p>

20080121w [092]



**This is a free public service**  
to be included on the weekly email list, go to . . .

[http://meta2.com/pdb/pdb\\_weeklysummarylist.htm](http://meta2.com/pdb/pdb_weeklysummarylist.htm)

**Free Decision-Support Training**

<http://www.earth-intelligence.net>

**Free New Book on Collective Intelligence**

[www.oss.net/CIB](http://www.oss.net/CIB)

.oOo.

**EIN Publishing Plan (Free Online and in Hardcopy at Amazon)**

<b>Book Title (all edited except last)</b>	<b>Free Online</b>	<b>Amazon</b>
<i>COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE: Creating a Prosperous World at Peace</i>	15 Jan 08	1 Mar 08
<i>PEACE INTELLIGENCE: Assuring a Good Life for All</i>	1 Mar 08	15 Apr 08
<i>COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE: From Moral Green to Golden Peace</i>	1 May 08	15 Jun 08
<i>WAR &amp; PEACE: The Seventh Generation</i>	1 Jun 08	4 Jul 08

**Each book will appear at [www.earth-intelligence.net](http://www.earth-intelligence.net) as a menu item on the date above.**