

GLOBAL CHALLENGES: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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

Threat Summary

<p>Environment. “Dead Water” report, fish stocks at risk. Guide to conservation investments. Inter-State Conflict. Two-thirds of Afghanistan out of control. Taliban gets better at bomb-making. Proliferation. No major stories.</p>
<p>Poverty. 41% jump in prices imperils US food assistance. Riots over price and unavailability. Infectious Disease. Drug-resistant TB spreading fast. Genes jump species. Beneficial bacteria. Civil War. Burundi, Kenya Sri Lanka down, Philippine pause. Kosovo as newest narco-state. Genocide. Darfur—four years and not counting..... Transnational Crime. Chinese police attacked on Mekong River. Border attack on US way up.</p>
<p>Other Atrocities. .More slaves on the planet than at any time in prior history. Terrorism. Germany sees new quality, higher threat. Third Wave of leaderless terrorism anticipated.</p>

Policy Summary

<p>Diplomacy. EU fines Microsoft. Israel condemned. Bolivia fifth nation to withdraw from DoD school. Economy. Financial pandemic as US struggles with mortgage collapse, weak dollar, sovereign wealth. Security. Health check on US military worrying. Robots committing war crimes—who’s to blame? Society. Conservative and creationist US sectors destabilizing while US helps make people sicker. Water. Less than 2% of water is fresh, and much of that is threatened by pollution. Crisis looms.</p>
<p>Education. US vocational education in the toilet. Finns set standard for all others. Energy. Saudi Arabia nods toward solar. Europe short of power. Renewable in meteoric rise. Health. Blind Irishman sees with aid of son’s tooth in his eye. Obesity worse than terrorism. Immigration. .Immigrant young males jailed at one-fifth rate of natural-born in US. UK reform.</p>
<p>Agriculture. Japan placing very harsh tariffs on Australian food imports. Family. Angry teens have different brain structures, emotions grow faster than controlling cells. Justice. 1 in 100 in jail in US—US #1 jailer on planet, among harshest in sentencing children.</p>

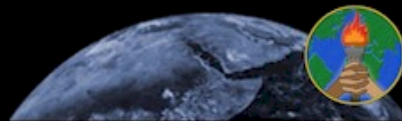
Major Player Summary

<p>Brazil. Anti-poverty drive. 1000 police attack those deforesting the Amazon. China. Gender imbalance. 200,000 lose water to river spill. 5.9 million short of water. India. China intrudes into Bhutan. US-India, China-Russia. Thirsting for energy. \$10B fighter bid. Indonesia. 425 jails with capacity of 80K holding 127K—15K to be released. SecDef promises aid. Iran. Iranian leader visits Iraq, lays arrival of terrorists squarely on US forced entry. IAEA favorable. Russia. Putin has done it—Russia a global economic giant, hand-picked successor elected. Venezuela. Fifth new anarchist bomb kills one. Colombian rebels release hostages to Venezuela. Wild Cards. 35 forces shaping the future. Sri Lanka and Maldives as battleground. Musharraf out.</p>

World Crises - monthly assessment by [International Crisis Group](#) - 01 March 2008

<p>↗ Alert: Armenia, Comoros Islands, Kenya</p>
<p>↓ Deteriorated: Armenia, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros Islands, DR Congo, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Israel/Occupied Territories, Philippines, Serbia, Somalia, Sudan, Timor-Leste</p>
<p>↑ Improved: Cyprus, Kenya, Kosovo, Pakistan</p>
<p>Conflict Resolution Opportunity: Cyprus, Pakistan, Timor-Leste, Uganda</p>
<p>• Unchanged: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Basque Country (Spain), Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chechnya (Russia), Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Macedonia, Mali, Mauritania, Moldova, Myanmar/Burma, Nagorno-Karabakh (Azerbaijan), Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, North Caucasus (non-Chechnya), North Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somaliland, Sri Lanka, Syria, Taiwan Strait, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe.</p>

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



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

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

↓ *Let Them Eat ... nothing ... "USAID officials said that a 41% surge in **prices for wheat, corn, rice and other cereals** over the past six months has generated a \$120 million **budget shortfall** ..." -- [Soaring Food Prices Putting U.S. Emergency Aid in Peril](#).*

*[Jump in Wheat Prices Confirms Security Worries](#) -- "... **wheat prices hit a record high** [26 Feb 2008] after jumping 25 percent in a single day, ..."*

*[The World's Growing Food-Price Crisis](#) -- "Soaring prices of **staples** — which have risen about 75% since 2005, driven by growing **demand**, rising **oil prices** and the effects of **global warming** — have sparked **riots** in several countries ..." [Comment: **Price** is one thing, **availability** is another – in both cases the Poor are the first to lose out.]*

Infectious Disease
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

- *[WHO Says Drug-Resistant TB Spreads Fast](#) -- "The rate of TB patients infected with the drug-resistant strain topped 20 percent in some countries, the highest ever recorded Ten years ago, it would have been unthinkable to see rates like this."*

*[Proof: genes jump between species](#) -- work at **Murdoch Univ** "would have relevance throughout the world in light of the new **emerging diseases and infections** in humans being linked to contact with **animals** in the past decade".*

*[Bacteria Versus Bacteria Creates New Antibiotic](#) -- further examples of **Pure Science** yielding fine results: "Biologists at [**MIT**] were able to find a new type of **antibiotic**, when **soil-dwelling bacteria** was made to fight against **another strain of bacteria**".*

*[Australian Scientists Discover a Chemical to Check the Growth of Malaria Parasite](#) - - "the compound works by binding the **digestive enzymes** of the blood-stage parasite thus starving the malaria parasites and preventing them from multiplying within the host".*

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

- *[Climate Change Affecting Fish Stocks](#) -- little relief from sobering news: **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** releases a report, 'Dead Water', warning that fifty million people could be at risk by 2080 due to decimated **fish stocks**.*

*[Farmers' pollution goes unreported](#) -- **New Zealand** is the case in point but observations by a **Univ of Waikato** academic give a reminder that **farming** is as much part of the **problem** as the **solution**.*

*[Study finds future 'battlegrounds' for conservation very different to those in past](#) -- "their study, published in the **Proceedings of the Royal Society**, provides a **guide** ... where **conservation investments** would have the most impact in the future to limit **extinctions and damage to ecosystems** ..." [see [Map](#)]*

Inter-State Conflict
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

↓ *[Karzai only controls 1/3 of Afghanistan](#) -- "last year was the deadliest yet since the U.S.-led invasion in 2001".*

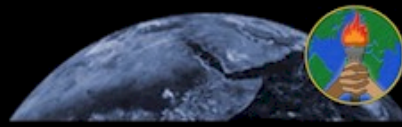
*[Intelligence chief: Taliban making gains in Afghanistan](#) -- "he stressed the need not only for improved security, but also for better **governance**, noting the federal government controls only about 30 percent of Afghanistan, leaving the majority of the country under the influence of local tribes".*

*[Taliban Bomb-Making Expertise Growing](#) -- "Afghan security officials say the militants have started using **C-4**, a powerful explosive not seen before in Afghanistan".*

Civil War
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

↓ *Note: 'Civil War' here includes **internal instability**.*

↓ deteriorated • steady ↑ improved ↗ ALERT



Burundi army and rebels clash, 20 killed - army -- "the **FNL's** [Forces for National Liberation] persistent insurgency is regarded by many as the final barrier to lasting stability in the tiny central African nation, where 300 000 people died in more than a decade of **ethnic conflict**".

Kenya's rival groups gird for fresh violence -- "Kenya's rival groups are arming themselves in preparation for **organized ethnic violence** as talks to end the country's **post-election imbroglio** continue". [Comment: 'Organized ethnic violence' per se comes very close to the definition of **genocide**.] **Officials Begin Working Kenya Deal** -- "Kenya's feuding politicians shook hands [28 Feb 2008] and smiled for the cameras. But the real test for President Mwai **Kibaki** and opposition leader Raila **Odinga** is whether the reluctant partners can work together to heal a divided nation".

Gumboot diplomacy: USS Cole 'ordered to position off Lebanese coast' -- "following repeated **US** warnings for **Syria** to stop its alleged meddling in the Lebanese crisis, the deployment was seen as the strongest signal yet that Washington means to maintain pressure on Damascus".

Philippines: Church gives Arroyo breathing space -- analysts -- "stopping short of adding its considerable weight to calls for her to **quit** is a major boon to Arroyo because the Church has played a major part in the removal of past leaders".

Sri Lanka sliding into humanitarian nightmare- Geneva Group -- "UN should use **article-99** to take up the issue in UN Security Council ". **Sri Lanka ahead in war, but don't write off rebels** -- "Sri Lanka's government has the upper hand in a new phase of a 25-year civil war against the **Tamil Tigers**, but it would be foolish to write the rebels off ..."

Intrigue and illness in Myanmar's junta [A detailed update on possibilities in Myanmar.]

Key facts about Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army [Factbox]

The Oil Factor In Kosovo Independence -- some cynical malcontents think it's not just about 'democracy'; "... the **trans-Balkan pipeline - AMBO**, the US-registered **Albanian Macedonian Bulgarian Oil Corporation** - will pass through [Kosovo]".

Welcome to Kosovo! The World's Newest Narco State -- "led by dodgy characters and war criminals such as **Hashim Thaci** and **Agim Ceku**, "independent" Kosovo is a **gangster state** governed by **thugs** with ties to **Albanian drug trafficking** syndicates and **al-Qaeda**".

Genocide
news list|forecast

- **Darfur: Four years and counting...** -- an African tribal leader told the U.N. news service, "I believe this is an elimination of the **black race**."
see **Civil War (Kenya's rival groups gird for fresh violence)**

Other Atrocities
news list|forecast

↓ **A World Enslaved** -- "There are now more slaves on the planet than at any time in human history.... True **abolition** will elude us until we admit the massive scope of the problem, attack it in all its forms, and empower slaves to help free themselves. "

The history of extraordinary rendition flights [by The Telegraph – UK]

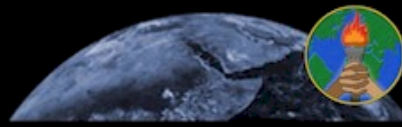
OPERATION CONDOR

Operation Condor -- Dirty War, Death Squads and The Disappeared – a detailed backgrounder on Operation Condor.

Argentine officer in dirty war probe is found dead -- "it was not immediately clear if the officer, **Paul Navone**, committed suicide or was murdered".

Guatemala to open army files to probe war crimes -- "Guatemala's new President

↓ deteriorated • steady ↑ improved ↗ ALERT



*Alvaro Colom said on [25 Feb 2008] he will open army files for the first time to make public details of **massacres and torture** by soldiers during the country's 36-year civil war".*

*[Renewed Search for Missing Uruguayans](#) -- "Uruguay's **human rights organizations** estimate over 200 people disappeared between 1973 and 1985 ..."*

see [Diplomacy](#) (Bolivia Withdraws from the School of the Americas)

Proliferation
[news list|forecast](#)

- [nothing significant to summarize -- see [News List](#)]

Terrorism
[news list|forecast](#)

- *[al-Qaida Suspect Held Over Bhutto Attack](#) -- Qari Saifullah Akhtar*

*[Suicide attacker kills Pakistani general](#) -- "the general, Lieutenant General Mushtaq Ahmad Baig, **surgeon general** of the **Pakistan Army**, was killed in the attack on his staff car, along with eight other people ..."*

*[Top terrorist escapes Singapore prison](#) -- Mas Selamat Kastari, alleged leader of the Singapore branch of **Jemaah Islamiyah***

*[Can the World Agree On a Definition of Terrorism?](#) -- "One 1998 study by the **US Army** found that over 100 definitions of the word "terrorism" have been used. For this reason, many news sources avoid using the term, opting instead for less accusatory words like 'bombers', 'militants,' 'extremists'". [Ban backs Wiesenthal Center's call for UN session on terror](#) -- "we'd like to have **suicide terror** declared a **crime against humanity**".*

[German Intelligence describes a "New Quality" in Jihadi Threats](#) -- "there is a consensus among members of the government and the intelligence community that the domestic security situation has deteriorated".

*[MIS targets Ireland's al-Qaeda cells](#) -- "three **Afghans** were in custody after the **Garda** swooped on an apartment in Tralee and found **devices** they believe could be used to make **bombs**".*

*[Radical Islam uncovered](#) -- "... three [UK] political scientists and a historian will trace the **historical roots of radicalisation** ..."*

*[The Next Generation of Terror](#) -- the '**Third wave**' -- a **transnational leaderless jihad** -- is even more dangerous.*

see [Indonesia](#) (Jemaah Islamiyah's Publishing Industry [ICG Executive Summary])

Transnational Crime
[news list|forecast](#)

- *[Italy's intel: Sicilian Mafia in crisis](#) -- a high-paying, possibly short-term, job goes begging: the separate arrests of **top boss** Bernardo **Provenzano** in 2006 and possible successor leave a **power vacuum** in the Sicilian Mafia.*

*[Chinese police attacked while patrolling Mekong River](#) -- "the alleged **drug smugglers** proceeded to jump on the police boat, shooting and stabbing three Chinese police officers during a five-minute conflict before jumping back onto their boat and speeding away",*

[US-Mexico border: Attacks against border agents on record pace](#) -- "since 2004, the number of assaults has more than doubled, from 384 that year to 987 in fiscal 2007".

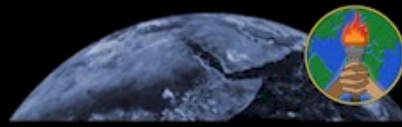
*[Mexico's revised justice system targets drug cartels](#) -- Mexico hopes to bring tougher provisions against **organized crime** and more practical measures against **minor crime** that is presently **overcrowding** the **prisons**.*

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

Agriculture
[news list|forecast](#)

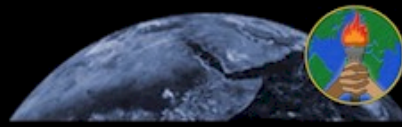
- *[Japan stance threatens free trade](#) -- "Japan, which is unable to supply more than 40*


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



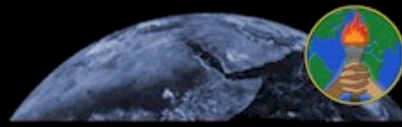
	<p><i>per cent of its own food requirements, imposes a 38 per cent tariff on Australian beef, more than 200 per cent on wheat, about 770 per cent on rice and 218 per cent on butter".</i></p> <p>see Environment (<i>Farmers' pollution goes unreported</i>)</p>
<p>Diplomacy news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU imposes record fine on disobedient Microsoft -- the <u>biggest fine in European Union history</u> is a reminder that the "ugly American" derives as much from the behavior of some US corporations abroad as US foreign policy. U.N. chief condemns Israel after Gaza clash -- "<i>the United States, Israel's closest ally and a veto-wielding member of the Council, made clear its understanding of the Israeli position ...</i>" Ignorance cannot be realistic: A Critique of the Mearsheimer-Walt Thesis -- formal criticism of the thesis that the US puts Israel's national interest ahead of its own. Guatemala in the middle between Washington and Caracas -- "... Guatemala's new president, Alvaro Colom, maintains a fine balance between <u>what his country needs and what Washington and Caracas want</u>". Is the Monroe doctrine dead? -- "... whoever wins the White House in November will confront a <u>dramatically different geopolitical situation</u> from the one that Bush faced when he was inaugurated in <u>2001</u>". Bolivia Withdraws from the School of the Americas -- "Bolivia's withdrawal [from the School of the Americas] is the <u>fifth</u> in the region and marks an important trend in U.S. Latin America relations". <p>see Other Atrocities (<i>passim</i>)</p>
<p>Economy news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ The Coming Financial Pandemic -- a professor of economics at NYU Stern School of Business traverses the <i>bad news</i> that must be understood -- falling dollar, falling trade, housing bubbles across the world, ...</p> <p>America's Malaise -- "transnational threats including extremism, global warming, cyberspace, disease, energy security and others require <u>multilateral approaches</u>, even for the sole superpower".</p> <p>US forms taskforce to study SWF issues -- "Sovereign Wealth Funds have made big investments in US companies and banks.... Worldwide sovereign wealth assets under management now exceed <u>\$2,000bn</u>, and seven funds now control more than <u>\$100bn</u>".</p> <p>America depends on its Military Power, Not its Economic Power -- "military power... functions in America the way state religion has functioned in other societies.... The Pentagon is the temple of this religion. It has dogmas, rituals, high priesthood, saints, cults of sacrifice ..."</p> <p>Markets Fall on Drumbeat of Grim Reports -- "in January, <u>23.4%</u> of outstanding subprime mortgages were either 60 days' delinquent, in foreclosure or had already had the home repossessed, up <u>9 percent</u> from December ..."</p> <p>No rescue expected for weak dollar -- "... the so-called dollar index, which tracks the U.S. currency against six major counterparts, <u>hit its lowest level since its inception in 1973</u>".</p>
<p>Education news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US schools segregate boys, girls -- "Greene County is set to become <u>the first school district in the nation</u> to go entirely single-sex, with boys and girls in separate classrooms—a move born of <u>desperation</u> over years of poor test scores, soaring dropout rates and high numbers of teenage pregnancies. <p>US Education Secretary: Vocational Training Programs Ineffective Nationwide --</p>

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



	<p>"U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings defended the Bush administration's plan to slash funding for vocational education" but Oklahoma says that state's system is "<i>highly effective and the money spent is well used</i>".</p> <p><i>What makes Finnish Kids so smart?</i> -- "Finland's students are the <u>brightest in the world</u>, according to an international test. Teachers say extra playtime is one reason for the students' success".</p>
<p>Energy news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brussels eyes energy groups after Eon deal -- fear and loathing divides Europe on energy liberalization policies. Oil giant Saudi to become solar power centre: minister -- Allah has been kind to Arabia with a form of energy longer-lasting than oil; "there are a lot of countries that are willing to cooperate with us". US tells Europe to stop dithering over pipeline· £3bn project would cut dependence on Gazprom -- "Nabucco would bring gas from US ally Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and possibly Kazakhstan via Turkey to Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Austria and perhaps Germany". [Counter to Russian pipe projects.] Germany Could Suffer Blackouts, Energy Boss Warns -- "<u>power is growing short all over Europe</u> because there are not enough power stations"; but the government <u>denies</u> dangers to German supply. Solar Cell directly splits Water for Hydrogen -- "now, Penn State researchers have a proof-of-concept device that can split water and produce recoverable hydrogen". The shape of lights to come? Not everyone's buying it -- Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFL) are more "efficient" as an isolated device but have far higher upstream and downstream environmental costs than incandescent lights. Renewable Energy Accelerates Meteoric Rise -- "Renewables 2007 Global Status Report paints an encouraging picture of rapidly expanding renewable energy markets, policies, industries, and rural applications around the world". Biofuel jet makes aviation history -- a Virgin Atlantic 747 crosses the Atlantic using biofuel from Brazilian babassu nuts and coconuts to drive one engine"; Greenpeace says it's 'high altitude GREENWASH' because fuel crops are environmentally disastrous. In Argentina, No Assistance From Region on Gas Needs -- "Argentina and Brazil are facing the possibility of short-term energy crises from a lack of natural gas needed to fuel industries and generate electricity for residents. Bolivia is sitting in the middle with <u>the region's largest gas reserves</u>".  Famed geneticist creating life form that turns CO2 to fuel -- "we have modest goals of <u>replacing the whole petrochemical industry</u> and becoming a major source of energy.... We think we will have fourth-generation fuels in about <u>18 months</u>, with CO2 as the fuel stock".
<p>Family news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angry Teens Have Different Brain Structures: Study -- "their emotions are developing much faster than are the parts of the brain that help them to manage those emotions".
<p>Health news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Watchdog Blasts 'Chemical Imbalance' Theory as a Hoax -- "there is <u>no test to confirm or deny the existence</u> of a 'chemical imbalance,' and the concept that this theory underlies mental illness is <u>entirely false</u>". Blind Irishman sees with the aid of son's tooth in his eye -- an example of the brave new world of modern surgery ...

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



Google unveils personal medical record service -- "[Google] is working with doctors' groups, pharmacies and labs to help them securely share sensitive health data". **Privacy promises are central to Google Health** -- "without **government controls**, the privacy forum warns, it could be much easier for a consumer to accidentally or casually authorize the sharing of records".

Americans need more sleep: Study -- "... the number of adults sleeping an average of 6 hours or less in America has jumped from 20% to 30% from 1985 to 2006.... **CDC** says that an estimated 50-70 million people suffer from **sleep loss or sleep disorders**".

US society helping to make people sicker -- "the nation's **poorest** adults were nearly five times more likely to be in 'poor or fair' health as the **richest** - 31% versus 6.6% ..."

Obesity worse than terrorism, Sydney Health Summit Hears -- "... governments around the world focus too much on fighting terrorism while obesity and other so-called **lifestyle diseases** kill millions more people".

Immigration
 news list|forecast

• **Point-based immigration system kicks off in Britain** -- "the biggest shake-up of Britain's immigration system in 45 years got underway [29 Mar 2008] with the introduction of a new points system to ensure only the best can work in Britain..."

Immigration threat myth survival kit -- answering some of the myths: "... **male young adult immigrants** are institutionalized at one-fifth the rate of comparable **native-born Americans**".

US: 'Name checks' delaying citizenship process -- "it was supposed to take six months by law. Instead it has taken more than five years".

\$20M 'Virtual Fence' Pushed Back to 2011 -- "... the 'virtual fence' along the **U.S.-Mexico border in Arizona** doesn't meet contract requirements for detecting border intrusions, and some of its technology will have to be replaced by this summer".

Israel: No Promised Land for Africans -- "[25 Feb 2008], **immigration police** raided several **Tel Aviv** shelters and detained more than 200 migrants, many of whom were shipped to squalid **prisons**".

Justice
 news list|forecast

↓ **America's way of justice favors whites over blacks** -- "this racial pattern of enforcement imprisons one of every nine black men between the ages of 20 and 34".

Record-High Ratio of Americans in Prison -- "for the first time in U.S. history, more than one of every 100 adults is in jail or prison, according to a new report documenting America's rank as the world's No. 1 incarcerator".

U.S. Among harshest for sentencing children -- the U.S. justice system far outpaces the world in handing down **life sentences** to those who are not yet adults. "**South Africa** has four, **Tanzania** has one, and **Israel** has seven. In contrast, the **United States** has 2,270".

Some Missing Cheney Office E-Mails Found [More color and movement but little progress.]

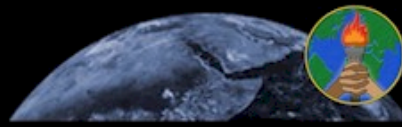
Justice Disserved for Indigenous Prisoners -- "while **Mapuche Indians in Chile** complain that the government has "criminalised" their **land-rights protests**, many indigenous people are in prison in **Mexico** and **Peru** because there were no translators to explain why they were on trial".

see **Transnational Crime** (Mexico's revised justice system targets drug cartels)

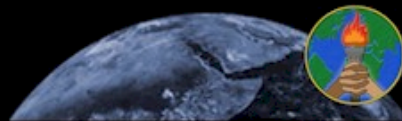
Security
 news list|forecast

• **Can Robots Commit War Crimes?** -- arising out of "**The Ethics of Autonomous Military Systems**", a summit of international scientists and military officials held on

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



	<p>February 27 in London [<i>Comment: Beyond the Turing Test!</i>]</p> <p><i>Fewer Pacific forces ready to respond</i> -- "An estimated <u>30,000 Marines</u> and soldiers usually under Keating's[CINCPAC command are fighting in the Middle East, including large elements of the Army's 25th Infantry Division on duty in Iraq since 2006".</p> <p><i>New [US] Army Field Manual Preview</i> [chapter thumbnails.]</p> <p><i>The U.S. Military Index</i> -- a far-ranging health check of the US military -- much of it is worrying.</p>
<p>Society news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>GPS Pocket Clock for Mobile Workers</i> -- "the software eliminates the ability of a worker to clock in and out at different locations from where they are supposed to be". <i>Why is secular European society doing so much better than god-fearing America? The big picture, part 1</i> – "... prosperous democracies with high levels of religiosity – the conservative and creationist USA most of all -- tend to have high levels of social dysfunction". <i>Half of global population will live in cities by end of 2008</i> -- after <u>10,000 years</u>, humanity has reached a significant landmark. see Economy (<i>America depends on its Military Power, Not its Economic Power</i>) see Health (<i>US society helping to make people sicker</i>)
<p>Water news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The future of universal water: new study highlights water purification technology</i> -- water is one thing; for human life CLEAN water is the issue; "... less than <u>2%</u> of the planet's ample water store is <u>fresh</u>, and much of that is threatened by pollution ..." <i>Feds say water negotiations have failed</i> -- "... White House-brokered water negotiations among Alabama, Florida and Georgia have failed". <i>Water policy and climate change are inseparable</i> -- two headline issues are virtually the same problem. <i>The global water crisis and the coming battle for the right to water</i> -- "... we are heading toward a world of deepening conflict and potential wars over the dwindling supplies of freshwater – between nations, between rich and poor, between the public and the private interest, between rural and urban populations..." see China(<i>China to log its worst polluters</i>) see China(<i>Taps shut in central China due to red, bubbly river</i>) see China(<i>5.9 million Chinese short of drinking water: report</i>)
<p>Challengers</p>	
<p>Brazil news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Brazil unveils anti-poverty drive</i> -- "President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said the biggest cost to the country was not taxes but <u>a century in which poor people had been forgotten</u>". <i>Brazil police force to combat Amazon deforestation</i> -- "the operation dubbed Arch of Fire should have a total of <u>1,000 agents</u> on the ground when it is in full force.... This operation will be <u>permanent</u> in nature."
<p>China news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>China denies plan to scrap one-child policy - report</i> -- "... experts have warned of looming problems from an ageing population and a growing gender imbalance stemming from aborted or abandoned baby girls". <i>China to log its worst polluters</i> -- "we need reliable date and, at the moment, there are obvious gaps".



Again ... *Taps shut in central China due to red, bubbly river* -- "A spill on the **Hanjiang River**, in central China's Hubei Province, has affected **water supply** for 200,000 people living along three tributaries since [24 Feb 2008] ..." Also: *5.9 million Chinese short of drinking water: report*,

China's Communist Party approves leadership, reform plans -- [Much Chinese process is seen as rubber-stamping, but Sinophiles say it takes much back-room debate to achieve this public appearance of unity.]

The only winner in Beijing will be tyranny -- "the free-market CEOs of **Coca-Cola**, **McDonald's**, **General Electric** and all the other sponsors who have made money out of China will join the communists in insisting that outsiders have no right to criticise".

see **Transnational Crime** (Chinese police attacked while patrolling Mekong River)

India
 news list|forecast

- *Thirsting for energy in India's boomtowns and beyond* -- "India points out that it contributes only 4.6 percent of the world's **greenhouse gases** although its people represent 17 percent of the world's **population**".

India extends deadline for \$10 bln fighter jet tender -- "... **Lockheed and Boeing** from the U.S., **Russia's MiG**, **France's Dassault Rafale**, **Sweden's Gripen** and the **EADS** a consortium of British, German, Spanish and Italian companies, are in the contention for the deal".

Weapons upgrades to tackle Indian rebels -- "the new weapons will give special units of the **Central Reserve Police Force** a decisive edge over **Maoist rebels** ..."

US-India defence deal 'to counter China' -- "as the **United States** and **China**, which once saw themselves as informal allies against the **Soviet Union**, eye each other warily, [Now] **Beijing** has aligned itself diplomatically with **Moscow**".

India test-firing of nuclear-capable missile to start arms race -- "we are aware of these developments and these developments are taking place with a view to put nuclear weapons at sea and it is a very very serious issue". [says **Pakistan**]

India, Russia end spat over Soviet-era aircraft carrier -- "... a new undisclosed price had been agreed for the **44,570-tonne Admiral Gorshkov**".

China claims 90,000 sq km of Indian land -- "the Minister was responding to a question about movement of 6000 troops to the **international border** amid reports of Chinese **intrusions** in **Bhutan**".

Indonesia
 news list|forecast

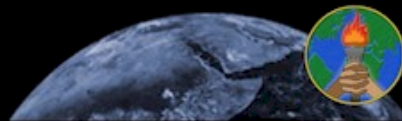
- *Indonesia to free up to 15,000 inmates amid overcrowding: govt official* -- "... Indonesia's 425 **jails** had a capacity of 80,000 but were now holding some 127,000 inmates".

Indonesia wants Suu Kyi in Myanmar democracy process -- "... our concern is how to make the process in Myanmar more credible ... by allowing the participation of groups including **Madam Aung San Suu Kyi** and **NLD** (her **National League for Democracy** party) ... "

Bird flu as weapon nutty idea: Gates -- a book by Indonesia's **Health Minister Siti Fadilah Suparibook** says **H5NI virus** samples being sent to a laboratory in **Los Alamos** are under U.S military control and being developed into **biological weapons**..

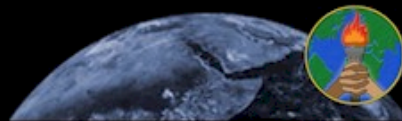
Gates Promises Help for Indonesian Military -- "[**Secretary Gates**] emphasized the emergence of Indonesia as the 'bedrock' of **Southeast Asia** and vowed that the **United States** would help to shore up the country's aging **military hardware** ".

Jemaah Islamiyah's Publishing Industry [ICG Executive Summary] -- "The



	<p><i>publishing venture demonstrates JI's resilience and the extent to which radical ideology has developed roots in Indonesia</i>". [Comment: Note the <i>literate</i> character of Indonesia's "<i>radicalism</i>", compared to the unambiguous <i>anti-intellectualism</i> of <i>al Qaeda salafism</i>.]</p>
<p>Iran news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Iranian Leader Arrives in Iraq</i> -- "Six years ago, there were no terrorists in our region. As soon as the others landed in this country and the region, we witnessed their arrival and presence," Ahmadinejad said. • <i>Uzbekistan to be linked to Persian Gulf via Iran</i> -- "Uzbekistan's railways and roads will be linked to the Persian Gulf through the Uzbek Republic's Termez city and Afghanistan's Mazar-i-Sharif and Herat cities". • <i>ElBaradei's[IAEA] report, 90 percent in favor of Iran: Aqazadeh</i> -- Iran reads the latest IAEA report as quite favorable; others certainly will not.
<p>Russia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Russia is emerging as a global economic giant</i> -- "In the run-up to today's Russian vote, the Western press has been full of insinuation, slur and downright disinformation about a nation which has <u>risen from the ashes</u> and is now emerging as a global economic giant". • <i>Russians to vote for a new president but keep the old one</i> -- [In these days of recycling, why throw away a perfectly good President?] • <i>Easy Victory in Russian Presidential Vote for Medvedev, Putin's Hand-Picked Successor</i> -- "The elections are over, says Mr. Putin. He says he <u>expects passions of the campaign to remain in the past</u> and calls on everyone who loves Russia to work for the well-being of the great homeland."
<p>Venezuela news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Venezuelan official blames 'anarchists' for explosion that killed 1 man</i> -- "... the <u>fifth</u> in a series of similar incidents this month in [Caracas]. In several of them, authorities found scattered pamphlets linking the bombings to a group identified as 'Venceremos of the Central United Left'". • <i>Colombian rebels free hostages in jungle to Hugo Chavez</i> -- "Venezuelan helicopters painted with Red Cross logos swooped into dense jungle, picked up the four lawmakers ... and flew them to Venezuela".
<p>Wild Cards news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>35 people, places & things that will shape the Future</i> -- Al Gore, Vint Cerf, return to Analog ... "the next 35 years will take us all immeasurably beyond chips.... electronics will meet biology, physics and medicine, and the sparks will really start to fly". • <i>Sri Lanka and Maldives fall victims to regional and international hegemonic powers</i> -- "in future, the Maldives may be <u>a battleground for the major international players</u>". • <i>Bush govt distancing itself from Musharraf: New Pakistani govt in two weeks: Negroponte</i> -- "We hope we will be able to work with them as well as, if not better than, we have worked with those in the past". • <i>Pervez Musharraf 'will exit in days, not months'</i> -- "he may have made many mistakes, but he genuinely tried to build the country and he doesn't want to destroy it just for the sake of his personal office," said an official close to the president".

20080303w [133]



EIN receives IRS Letter Granting 501c3 Public Charity Status.

We seek sponsors for tailored weekly reports on each of the ten threats, twelve policies, and eight challengers. \$5,000 will cover all search, processing, analysis, and online access. Our intent is to lay the ground-work for offering a Global Range of Gifts Table Online, such that individuals and organizations can opt-in to harmonized giving program that is transparent and complete—for \$100 a year cell phone gifts to a village to \$100 million water-desalination plans for Africa and the Middle East. For \$2,500 we will train a sponsor employee and provide full access to our global system provided the resulting stack and weekly reports can be shared with others. \$10,000 a year is the cost for private service that is not shared.

Any contributor of \$1000 may review our search profile and suggest changes that would make our existing free service more useful to them. All credit cards welcomed. Fax to 703.266.6391.

This is a free public service

to be included on the weekly email list, go to . . .

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

.oOo.

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

Book Title (all edited except last)	Free Online	Amazon
<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 Apr 08	15 May 08
<i>COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE: From Moral Green to Golden Peace</i>	1 Jun 08	4 Jul 08
<i>WAR & PEACE: The Seventh Generation</i>	1 Jun 08	4 Jul 08

Each book will appear at www.earth-intelligence.net as a menu item on the date above.

Sponsors for each book are sought. For \$25,000, the first flyleaf will carry the sponsor’s message and contact information, and we will provide 500 copies of the book to the sponsor for distribution. The sponsor will also be recognized with their message as the first file in the free online offering of the book.

We have started work on the Peace Book. Draft Table of Contents at www.oss.net/Peace. We are calling for proposed chapters, Group A acceptances will be included in hard-copy edition; Group B acceptances will be supplemental to the free online version of the book.