

**GLOBAL CHALLENGES: THE WEEK IN REVIEW**

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

**Threat Summary**

	<b>Environment.</b> Cellulosic ethanol from perennial grasses and woody biomass. Affordable solutions! <b>Inter-State Conflict.</b> Afghanistan in dire straits, humanitarian crisis in effect. <b>Proliferation.</b> <i>The Economist</i> on Viktor Bout thriving on pointless wars in failed dirt-poor places.
	<b>Poverty.</b> Extreme poverty in 60 countries, can eradicate. UN feeds 650,000 in/near Kabul. <b>Infectious Disease.</b> Japan developing all-round vaccine against Bird Flu, targets inside of virus. <b>Civil War.</b> Sudanese Army tanks painted UN white. Aid flights out of gas. 80 surrender in Thailand. <b>Genocide.</b> Dalai Lama on cultural genocide by Chinese in Tibet. <b>Transnational Crime.</b> Drug lords drop US dollar. Korean mafia in Philippines. Mexico captures one.
	<b>Other Atrocities.</b> 71% of females 15-49 in Mauritania have undergone genital mutilation. <b>Terrorism.</b> Road safety a better investment. Fund raising in Saudi Arabia. Political space matters.

**Policy Summary**

	<b>Diplomacy.</b> US failing in Horn of Africa. US image overseas in the toilet. Russian accuses US. <b>Economy.</b> Bear Sterns bail-out. Fed could sink global economy. Editorial note: Carlyle liquidation. <b>Security.</b> 75% of Americans view government as too secretive. US failures, breaches. UK costs. <b>Society.</b> Log-cabin religiosity, anti-gay campaigns, Supreme Court to rule on guns, sex versus laws. <b>Water.</b> Energy and water linked, both in crisis. Central Asian crisis looms. Peru bets on desalination.
	<b>Agriculture.</b> USG grid-locked on old policy. Africa resists terminator seed. Organic farming needed. <b>Education.</b> US math is broken. Inputs do not correlate to outcomes. One school's base pay: \$125,000. <b>Energy.</b> Argentina in fuel crisis. New pipelines could ease fuel crisis in Western US. See Water. <b>Health.</b> Gulf war veteran's show more illness. Read this book: <b>\$3T War</b> . Health care must be public. <b>Immigration.</b> India upset with UK rules. Arizona and Colorado consider guest-worker programs.
	<b>Family.</b> Nothing significant to report. Editorial Note: other than collapse of US economy. <b>Justice.</b> Nothing significant to report. Editorial Note: White House demands telco indemnification.

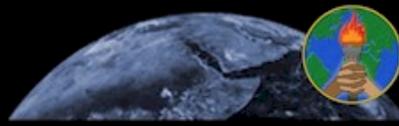
**Major Player Summary**

	<b>Brazil.</b> Power center, averts regional crisis. Landlocked blockage railway. Environmental rampage. <b>China.</b> Creates five super-ministries. East Turkistan and Uighurs at risk. Arms Myanmar. <b>India.</b> 31 waste to energy power projects, 36 demonstration wind power projects. Low-level conflicts. <b>Indonesia.</b> President visits Iran, abstains from sanctions vote, Iran, Indonesia, Malaysia non-Arab triad. <b>Iran.</b> Some worry Bush-Cheney will order attack on Iran to bolster Republican victory in November. <b>Russia.</b> Nothing significant. Editorial note: US continues to be blind, deaf, and dumb in foreign policy. <b>Venezuela.</b> Oil for Euros. Documentation of Ecuadorean & Venezuelan support to Colombian rebels. <b>Wild Cards.</b> Iran waging peace (see also <a href="#">Memorandum on Chinese</a> ). Editorial Note: US clueless.
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**World Crises - monthly assessment by [International Crisis Group](#) - 01 March 2008**

↗	<b>Alert:</b> Armenia, Comoros Islands, Kenya
↓	<b>Deteriorated:</b> Armenia, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros Islands, DR Congo, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Israel/Occupied Territories, Philippines, Serbia, Somalia, Sudan, Timor-Leste
↑	<b>Improved:</b> Cyprus, Kenya, Kosovo, Pakistan
	<b>Conflict Resolution Opportunity:</b> Cyprus, Pakistan, Timor-Leste, Uganda
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Unchanged:</b> Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Basque Country (Spain), Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia &amp; 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.</li> </ul>

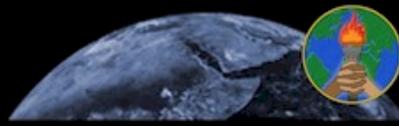
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**Threats** see *daily items with links to full stories on the web at [PDB-Threats](#)*

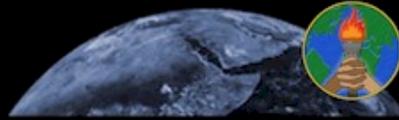
<p><b>Poverty</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN WFP is distributing <i>emergency food</i> to <u>650,000</u> people in and around <i>Kabul</i>, with aid shipments to remote areas to follow -- <i>UN Food Agency races to prevent humanitarian crisis</i>.</li> <li>• <i>World Bank to increase Africa agriculture loans</i> -- "Because you don't want everything to be a <i>short-term response</i>, we are really trying to upgrade our efforts in terms of increasing <i>agricultural production</i>," says World Bank President Robert Zoellick.</li> <li>• <i>Philippine President Arroyo</i> finds it necessary to order the <i>National Food Authority</i> to stop the corrupt practice of <i>diverting subsidized rice</i> for the <i>poor</i> to the commercial market -- <i>Arroyo to NFA: 'Prudently, strictly manage rice stock'</i>.</li> <li>• <i>A first step for the global poor – shatter six myths</i> – A sensible <i>Christian Science Monitor</i> item: "<i>The last billion who suffer extreme poverty are concentrated in fewer than 60 very small sub-Saharan, Asian, and Latin American countries, which means we've never been in a better position to eradicate it.</i>"</li> <li>• see: <b>Agriculture</b> (Africa must resist terminator technologies)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Infectious Disease</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Japan to develop all-round vaccine to protect from Bird Flu</i> -- the new method "targets the <i>inside</i> of the virus, rather than its surface" as the inside of the <i>virus</i> structure rarely changes ...</li> </ul>
<p><b>Environment</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>\$6 million research lab will produce ethanol and other biofuels from grasses and biomass</i> -- a new state-of-the art <b>Biofuels Research Laboratory</b> at <b>Cornell</b> heralds serious work on the conversion of <i>perennial grasses</i> and <i>woody biomass</i> into <i>cellulosic ethanol</i>. [Comment: Note the '<u>loss</u>' here is the materials otherwise used to <i>condition soil</i>.]</li> <li>• <i>US tightens air pollution controls</i> -- a <u>6% reduction</u>: " ... restrict the amount of <i>nitrogen oxides</i> and other compounds that are allowed to be released by <i>power plants, motor vehicle exhaust, industrial facilities</i> and other <i>man-made sources</i>".</li> <li>• <i>20 biggest polluters seek progress on warming</i> -- "the <i>G8 Gleneagles Dialogue on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development</i> ... comes ahead of negotiations at the end of the month[March 2008] in Bangkok on a <u>successor</u> for the <i>Kyoto Protocol</i>".</li> <li>• <i>Brazilian activists go on rampage at Vale, Monsanto &amp; Stora Enso operations</i> -- "Environmental activism reached a fever pitch this past week in Brazil as protestors targeted <i>mining, forestry, and agriculture</i> in series of <i>protests</i> that blocked transportation and vandalized property."</li> <li>• <i>OECD: Climate change solutions are affordable</i> -- "... solutions to the <i>key environmental challenges</i> are <i>available, achievable and affordable</i>, especially when compared to the expected economic growth and <i>the costs and consequences of inaction</i>".</li> </ul>
<p><b>Inter-State Conflict</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>↓ AFGHANISTAN see: <b>Poverty</b> (<i>UN Food Agency races to prevent humanitarian crisis</i>)</p>
<p><b>Civil War</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>↓ Note: 'Civil War' here includes <i>internal instability</i>.</p> <p><i>Sixteenth delay for Lebanon poll</i> -- "... bouts of deadly unrest in a country still rebuilding from its <i>15-year civil war</i>. It has also poisoned ties between <i>Saudi Arabia and Syria</i>, which back <i>opposing sides</i>."</p>

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	<p><i>Zimbabwe enacts ownership law</i> -- "... a law requiring <b>foreign- and white-owned</b> businesses to hand over <b>51 percent control</b> of their operations to <b>black people</b> ..."  <i>Military rattle sabres in support of Mugabe</i> -- members of <b>Zimbabwe's armed forces</b> have declared they will not respect any president other than <b>Robert Mugabe</b>.</p> <p><i>Darfur rebel says Sudanese army painting tanks with UN colour</i> -- "... an apparent breach and violation of applicable norms of <b>International Humanitarian law</b> and agreements". <i>Darfur rebels raiding aid trucks</i> -- "our <b>humanitarian air operation</b> for aid workers could be forced to stop flying because we have no <b>money</b>, at a time when our <b>helicopters</b> are needed more than ever because of <b>high insecurity</b> on the roads".</p> <p>[<b>THAILAND</b>] <i>80 insurgents surrender in Yala</i> -- "an official from the <b>Yala Islamic Committee</b> also performed a ceremony to annul the <b>religious oath</b> that the insurgents had taken".</p>
<p><b>Genocide</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>↓ <i>Dalai Lama: China causing 'cultural genocide'</i> -- as at least 80 die at the hands of <b>Chinese security forces</b>, <b>HH Dalai Lama</b> reminds the world of a glaring case of genocide: "... <b>China's treatment of Tibetans as second-class citizens</b> in their own land."</p>
<p><b>Other Atrocities</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<p>↓ <i>Chinese security forces swarm Tibet</i> -- "It was the fiercest challenge to Beijing's authority in nearly <u>two decades</u>... on the <u>anniversary of a 1959 uprising against Chinese rule</u>".</p> <p><i>Activists fear NATO return to Uzbekistan</i> -- "<b>Human rights</b> will recede into the background".</p> <p><i>Trial on disappearances marks a 'before' and 'after'</i> -- the <u>first trial</u> ever held in <b>Guatemala</b> on forced <b>disappearance</b> opened on [10 Mar 2008].</p> <p><i>Rebel lawyers to meet with war crimes court</i> -- "... <b>Lord's Resistance Army rebels</b> insist any final deal with <b>Uganda's government</b> be conditional on the <b>ICC</b> dropping <b>war crimes</b>' charges against leader <b>Joseph Kony</b> and two deputies".</p> <p><i>Mauritania confronts tradition of female genital mutilation</i> -- "the <b>UN action plan</b> unveiled last week said an estimated <b>71.3 %</b> of girls and women between the ages of 15 and 49 in <b>Mauritania</b> had undergone female genital mutilation ... "</p>
<p><b>Proliferation</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Economist</i> has more discussion on <b>arms dealer Viktor Bout</b>: "It is the sort of outfit that thrives on <b>pointless wars in failed, dirt-poor places</b>. But it also plays a part in some <b>bigger conflicts</b>". -- <i>Suited and booted</i>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Terrorism</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Re-thinking counter-terrorism</i> [If <b>saving lives</b> is the issue, <b>road safety</b> would be a <u>much better investment</u> than <b>counter-terrorism</b>.]  <i>Australian government seeks secular Muslim advisers</i> -- "the government wanted a broad range of people to help break down the <b>public stereotype</b> that all Muslims are conservatives with <b>hard-line Islamic views</b>."  [<b>SAUDI ARABIA</b>] <i>Police hunt distributors of mobile terror video</i> -- "in the video, <b>al-Zawahiri</b> asks <b>Islamists</b> to donate <b>money</b> to the terror network".  President <b>Wade</b> of <b>Senegal</b>, presently hosting the <b>OIC</b> meeting, and <u>next Chair</u> of the <b>OIC</b> warns against <b>violent jihad</b>: "we'll be tackling this problem in a <b>reasoned manner</b>, without any excessive passion, and without turning it into a <b>world conflict</b>, which it isn't" -- <i>Senegal's Wade urges Islam to drop jihads</i>.  A piece from <b>Bangladesh</b> on one of the drivers of "terrorism": <i>Rise of terrorism blamed on denial of political space</i> -- "denial of <b>political space</b> in a large society is</li> </ul>

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conducive to the growth of **extremist and terrorist groups** in the country ..."

A thoughtful Canadian item: **Next wave of terrorists could destroy jihadist movement: expert** -- "**Al-Qaeda** as we know it is dead, replaced by a **leaderless generation of ever-younger homegrown jihadists** whose **venomous beliefs** could poison the movement from within ..."

**Transnational Crime**  
[news list|forecast](#)

- Even Crime is getting out of the **Dollar: Drug cartels 'using euro notes to launder profits** -- "**the money, mostly in €500 and €200 notes, was about to be transported on British Airways flights from Miami to London**".

**Korean gangsters in the Philippines?** -- "**the Philippines is becoming a haven of Korean mafia**".

**Mexico captures 'key drug lord'** -- Gustavo Rivera **Martinez**: "**Mexican officials said Mr Rivera Martinez was a key figure in the Tijuana cartel and close to Enedina Arellano Felix, the latest member of the Arellano Felix family to head the drugs ring**".

**Policy**

see **daily** items with **links to full stories** on the web at **PDB-Policy**

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

- **Draft horse farm policy for space age agriculture** -- "**but the stalemate remains. Senators cannot agree among themselves on new farm policy, cannot agree with the House on farm policy, and cannot agree with the administration on farm policy**". Also: **Lawmakers bank on \$10 billion more for new farm law** -- "**the House-passed bill was \$14 billion over the spending limit, or baseline, set by budget formulas. The Senate bill was more than \$20 billion over baseline**".

**Africa must resist terminator technologies** -- "**Genetic Use Restriction Technologies (GURTS) will have damaging effects on Africa's poor farmers. The technology is very expensive and farmers will become dependent on multinationals**".

see: **Poverty** (World Bank to increase Africa agriculture loans)

**The new organic** -- "**to meet the appetites of the world's population without drastically hurting the environment requires a visionary new approach: combining genetic engineering and organic farming**" says a professor of **plant pathology** at UC Davis.

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

↓ "The magic is over"

**Russia accuses U.S. of double standards on rights** -- "**Russia said the U.S. State Department's 'latest opus' on human rights reflects the double standards of a country that uses the issue as a foreign policy tool while failing to examine its own actions**".

**New envoy hopes to better explain U.S. to Muslim world** -- Sada **Cumber**, a **Pakistani** native, is the new **US special envoy** to the **Organization of Islamic Conference**.

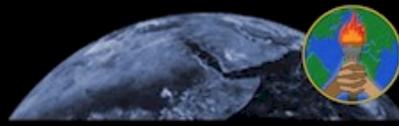
**US policy in Horn of Africa questioned** -- "**the entire emphasis of U.S. policy was on counter-terrorism, and particularly short-term elements of counter-terrorism, that is catching bad people, and not focusing on the much longer term root causes of terrorism in the region**".

**U.S. image abroad hard to fix, longtime ally says** -- "The magic is over"

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

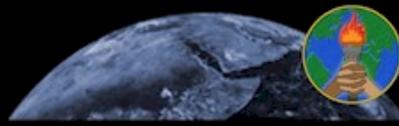
↓ **Bear Stearns latest victim of financial panic** -- "**Bear Stearns is now teetering on the brink of catastrophe - forced to turn to one of its rivals, JP Morgan Chase, and the Federal Reserve for emergency funding**". [Comment: Thieves go to jail but Wall Street whose greed caused the crisis gets public hand-outs.]

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	<p><i>US monetary policy could sink global economy warns expert -- "the expansionist policies adopted by the US Federal Reserve could bring the global economy to its knees ..." says a <b>Hong Kong</b> expert at a conference in <b>Dubai</b>.</i></p>
<p><b>Education</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Panel urges schools to emphasize core math skills -- the presidential <b>National Mathematics Advisory Panel</b> says <b>mathematics education</b> in the <b>United States</b> is "<b>broken</b>"; 15-year-olds in the United States trailed peers from <b>23 industrialized countries</b> in <b>mathematics</b>.</i></li> <li>• <i>Fighting <b>STDs: Sex education best done in schools [Editorial]</b> -- "<b>Republican legislative leaders won't allow comprehensive sex education or anything approaching it in public schools</b>".</i></li> <li>• <i>American Legislative Exchange Council's Report Card on American Education -- "ALEC's 2007 <b>Report Card on American Education</b> has found <b>no direct correlation</b> between conventional measures of education inputs, such as <b>expenditures per pupil</b> and <b>teacher salaries</b>, and <b>educational outputs</b> ..."</i></li> <li>• <i>A product of private schools, advocating for public education -- "<b>teachers should not be fiscal martyrs</b>"; the <b>Equity Project Charter School</b> has set <b>base pay</b> for its teachers - for philosophical reasons -- at <b>\$125,000 p.a.</b></i></li> <li>• <i>Education increases life expectancy: study -- a study by the <b>Harvard School of Medicine</b> has shown that people with a <b>better education</b> tend to live longer.</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Energy</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>New <b>pipelines</b> will even out <b>gas prices</b> -- "the new pipelines will take the <b>Rockies'</b> landlocked supply to major markets in <b>California</b>, the <b>Phoenix</b> area and flood the <b>Midwest</b>, where it can free up other supplies for the <b>gas-starved Northeast</b>".</i></li> <li>• <i>Argentina strives to avert <b>energy crisis</b> -- "<b>Brazil</b> has declined to cede any <b>natural gas</b> shipments from <b>Bolivia</b> to Argentina, which is struggling to find more energy sources to avoid <b>supply shortages</b> that could derail its fast-growing <b>economy</b>".</i></li> <li>• <i>see: <b>Water</b> (Troubles getting deeper for U.S., its fresh water supply)</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Family</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [nothing significant to summarize -- see <i>News List</i>]</li> </ul>
<p><b>Health</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i><b>Obesity</b> cancels the <b>health advantage of the affluent</b> -- Being rich helps, but not if you're fat.</i></li> <li>• <i>Study finds increasing evidence of <b>health problem in Gulf War veterans</b> -- "Now a study at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine shows there is increasing evidence of high rates of illness in veterans from the 1990-91 conflict".</i></li> <li>• <i><b>Universal health care</b> or universal nightmare? -- it's so obvious: "A system heavily reliant on <b>for-profit health insurance</b> is fundamentally flawed .... Only a system based on the principle of <b>social insurance</b> can meet this <b>fundamental human need</b> because that is precisely its goal".</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Immigration</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i><b>India</b> warns <b>UK</b> on <b>immigration rules</b> -- [The <b>Indian trade minister</b>] said the new restrictions did not square with the UK's claims to be in favour of promoting <b>free trade in services</b>; "In the <b>liberalisation of services</b>, the <b>temporary movement of people</b> is an important thing".</i></li> <li>• <i>2 states consider <b>guest-worker programs</b> -- "lawmakers in <b>Arizona</b> and <b>Colorado</b> are considering creating their own <b>guest-worker programs</b> to attract more <b>immigrant laborers</b>".</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Justice</b>  <a href="#">news list forecast</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [nothing significant to summarize -- see <i>News List</i>]</li> </ul>

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**Security**

news list|forecast

- War is bad for children, donkeys, and **Treasuries**: "the costs of servicing the **RAF's Tornado planes** will be subsidised by the **Conflict Prevention Fund**" -- **MoD plans raid on landmine removal fund to keep Tornados flying in Iraq**.  
*Sunshine Week Poll: most Americans believe gov't is too secretive -- and spies on the press* - "in a democracy whose survival depends on openness, it's sobering to see that three-fourths of Americans now view their national government as somewhat or very **secretive**."  
*Amazing **Pentagon breach** happened last Summer* -- "During the attack, **spoofed e-mails** containing recognizable names were sent to **OSD** [Office of the Secretary of Defense] employees. When they opened the messages, **user IDs and passwords** that unlocked the entire network were stolen ..."  
*Fallon's resignation is not seen as step toward attack on Iran* -- "the abrupt resignation of the Pentagon's top Middle East commander has silenced one of the **Bush administration's fiercest opponents** of a **unilateral military strike against Iran**"  
*Counterfeit chips raise big hacking, terror threats, experts say* -- "as more **computer chips** are made overseas, the risk of **hardware tampering** increases, from stealing consumer data to crashing **government networks**. But how real is the threat?"  
*NATO will lay out new plan for cyberwar* -- "... concerns that the alliance is insufficiently prepared for the realities of cyberwar".  
*U.S. failed to monitor and adapt to insurgent trends in Iraq* -- "The [RAND] study, '**Counterinsurgency in Iraq: 2003-2006**' is the latest in a series examining **insurgency and counterinsurgency**, and details how the United States should improve its capabilities for future conflicts".

**Society**

news list|forecast

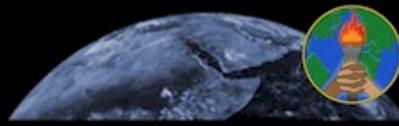
- *Edging (at times clumsily) toward a **post-racial America*** -- does the different treatment of New York Gov. Eliot **Spitzer** and Detroit Mayor Kwame **Kilpatrick** point to the **US racial raw nerve**?  
*US conservative group ends boycott of Ford for policies it says were gay-friendly* -- it is unclear how much the "**boycott**" by **log-cabin religious fanatics** affected **Ford** which had won praise for its **anti-discrimination** policies and health benefits for domestic partners.  
*Lost in Translation: The Myth of American Freedom* -- a **Marxist analysis**: "Like all tools of manipulation, it grants no real **utility** to the ones who rally around it".  
*The gun part of **God, Gays and Guns: D.C.'s gun ban gets day in court*** -- "the nine justices, none of whom has ever ruled directly on the **amendment's meaning**, will consider a part of the **Bill of Rights** that has existed without a definitive interpretation for more than 200 years".  
*Of Laws and Men - **Bush and Spitzer: compare and contrast*** -- Ralph **Nader** says "We certainly can do better as a country of laws, not men". [Comment: The **US** remains doomed to be ruled by **log-cabin religiosity**, not the **Rule of Law**.]

**Water**

news list|forecast

- *Troubles getting deeper for U.S., its **fresh water supply*** -- "it takes a lot of water to produce **energy**. It takes a lot of **energy** to provide water. The two are inextricably linked, and claims on each are rising".  
*EU warns **water shortage in Central Asia could spark conflicts*** -- "the **glaciers in Tajikistan** lost a third of their area in the second half of the 20th century alone, while **Kyrgyzstan** has lost over a 1000 **glaciers** in the last four decades".  
*Peru bets on **desalination to ensure water supplies*** -- "Peru plans to start

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desalinating water from the **Pacific Ocean** to make up for declining supplies from fast-melting **glaciers** affected by **climate change** ..."

## Challengers

### Brazil

news list|forecast

• Brazil is the quiet power center **Latin America: Lula "happy" with end of regional crisis** -- "It seems that speeches gave way to common sense ..."

**Brazil landless blockade railway** -- "in the past, groups that represent **landless rural workers** focused on **occupying farmland** they regarded as **unproductive** .... But their actions have been increasingly aimed at **businesses** ..." [Comment: That is, they are becoming **politicized**.]

see: **Environmental Degradation** (Brazilian activists go on rampage at Vale, Monsanto & Stora Enso operations)

### China

news list|forecast

↓ **Hu Jintao re-elected as China's president, Xi Jinping as vice-president** -- Beijing radiates **stability** as riots wrack occupied **Tibet**.

**China arms Myanmar military** -- as with the **US** and other nation states, China's **foreign policy** has no moral compass: "Not only the Myanmar **navy** but also its **army** and **air force** are equipped with massive Chinese **military equipment**".

**China's emissions seen rising faster than thought** -- "China is the world's second-largest emitter of **CO<sub>2</sub>** and some studies suggest it might already have overtaken the United States last year".

**China plans to create five "superministries"** -- the **stability** (and **survival**) issues: "Superministries would be created for **energy** and **environmental protection**, **transportation**, **housing** and **construction**, **industry** and **information**, and **human resources** and **social security** ..."

**Terror threats to the Olympics** -- "the possibilities are incidents not involving the use of violence by the **pro-Western Uighurs** and incidents amounting to acts of terrorism by **pro-Al Qaeda Uighurs**" Also: **China's Curious Olympic Terror Threat**.

**China fabricated Olympic terror threat: Uighur leader** -- "It seems that the Chinese government has one goal, which is to create this **scenario of terrorism**, and produce a terrorist action itself so that it can blame the Uighur people".

**The East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM)** "the **East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM)** is a **militant Muslim separatist group** in the **Xinjiang province** in northwest China".

**China gives Tibetan protesters surrender ultimatum** -- China fears '**Split-ists**' and hates to be publicly **embarrassed**: "Criminals who do not surrender themselves by the deadline will be sternly punished according to the law".

see: **Genocide** (Dalai Lama: China causing 'cultural genocide')

see: **Other Atrocities** (Chinese security forces swarm Tibet)

But, Thank God, the **United States** has a big heart and is willing again to be out of step with the entire world ... **US drops China from list of top human rights abusers** -- Abject US cowardice and the puniest reason in history ... "which has raised hopes it will improve human rights by hosting the 2008 Olympics".

### India

news list|forecast

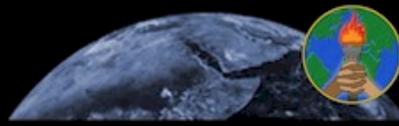
• **India sets up waste-to-energy power plants** -- "the Ministry for New and Renewable Energy said 31 waste-to-energy-based power projects with 68MW capacity in 8 states and 36 demonstration wind power projects with 70 MW capacity in 9 states were set up ..."

↓ deteriorated

• steady

↑ improved

↗ ALERT



*India can lead world in **renewable energy** - **Al Gore** -- "India has proven its capability in sectors like **information technology** and can be a leader in the world in developing new renewable technologies to combat **climate change**".*

*India looks to bolster CBI -- "powers to the [Central Bureau of Investigation] to directly deal with **terror strikes** and other **serious crimes** like **human-trafficking**".*

*see: **Immigration** (India warns UK on immigration rules)*

[Comment: These items are merely representative of the daily reports of the **low level conflict** that India faces on every point of the compass.]

*'Killed **Bangladeshi terrorists** were planning big attack' -- "the gunning down of two Bangladeshi terrorists [11 Mar 2008] has averted a **major terrorist attack** in **Mumbai** ..." Also: "**Ultras** were on **terror mission**"—the insurgents were carrying **2kg RDX**.*

*BSF hands over list of **141 ultra [insurgent] camps** to BDR [Bangladesh Rifles] -- "the list was handed over by BSF Inspector General (Assam- Meghalaya Frontier) P.K. Mishra to the BDR during the first round of the four-day conference between the two forces at the BSF Frontier Headquarters here."*

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

- ***Suharto-era crimes** probed in Indonesia -- "four teams have begun collecting evidence in the **purge of communists** during Suharto's rise to power in **1965** ..."*

*Indonesian president departs for Iran, to discuss nuclear issue -- "Yudhoyono's visit to Iran comes a week after Jakarta **abstained** from voting when the **United Nations Security Council** approved a new round of **sanctions** against Teheran over its refusal to halt **technical development** suspected to be related to nuclear weapons".*

*Iran signs deal for new **Indonesia oil refinery** -- "the plan to expand energy cooperation between the three Muslim nations [Iran, Indonesia, and a **Malaysian** partner] may irritate **Washington**, which is spearheading a drive to isolate Tehran".*

*Iran offers Indonesia **nuclear cooperation** -- "we have common views on the problems of the **Middle East, Afghanistan** and **Iraq**.... Cooperation between Iran and Indonesia benefits both the Islamic world and mankind as a whole".*

*Yudhoyono's Iranian visit affirms RI's **foreign policy** - **observer** – Indonesia shows it is no-one's foreign policy barrel-boy.*

[Comment: **Iran** and **Indonesia** have a natural affinity as the two largest **non-Arab Islamic** nations.]

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

- ***Blowback of war** likely to be "terrible" -- "yet some believe the **Bush** administration could still choose to **attack** Iran, perhaps so as to ensure a **Republican** victory in the upcoming November presidential election".*

*see: **Indonesia** (Iran signs deal for new Indonesia oil refinery)*

*see: **Indonesia** (Iran offers Indonesia nuclear cooperation)*

*see: **Wild Cards** (Islamic world will become global power though unity: Supreme Leader)*

*see: **Security** (Fallon's resignation is not seen as step toward attack on Iran)*

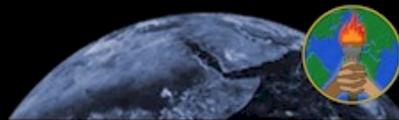
**Russia**  
[news list|forecast](#)

- [nothing significant to summarize -- see *News List*]

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

↓ The shooting war in **Latin America** was averted but ... **Latin America's war of words** may still turn ugly -- "this may have been a **microphone war**, but it has all the elements of a lasting conflict that could turn ugly. Now, both sides have stronger

↓ deteriorated      • steady      ↑ improved      ↗ ALERT



*evidence against each other than they had when this spat started". **Colombia-Ecuador-Venezuela: a close call** – the Council on Hemispheric Affairs say the war of words between Chávez and Uribe is “all about **Bolívar**”.*

The “evidence” starts to surface: ***New docs detail Colombian rebel ties** -- "newly published documents released by **Colombia’s security forces claim the leftist presidents** of Venezuela and **Ecuador conspired for months with rebel insurgents who seek to overthrow the country’s U.S.-allied government**".*

***Venezuela opts for oil contracts in Euros: report** -- "Venezuela produces 3.3 million barrels of oil a day, according to official figures, and 2.4 million according to the International Energy Agency. Half of its production is sold to the **United States market**".*

***U.S. looking into terror list for Venezuela** -- "the inquiry, by government lawyers, is the first step in a process that could see Venezuela join **North Korea, Cuba, Sudan, Syria and Iran** as countries designated by the **State Department as supporters of terrorism**", **Venezuela dares U.S. to put it on terror list** -- "let it be your **soldiers** who die along the southern border with Colombia. We’ll see if the citizens of the **United States**, will accept tremendous atrocity. If not, shut your mouth and understand what is happening in **Latin America**". [Comment: Presumably if Venezuela were proscribed, so would any further purchase of its **oil**.]*

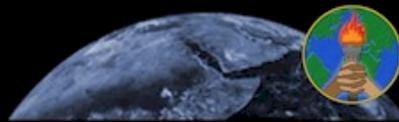
**Wild Cards**  
[news list|forecast](#)

- ***Pakistan faces ‘multi-dimensional’ threats over ‘war on terror’ role** -- "he said the **British imperial forces** devised the present governance system in **Tribal Areas** to expand territorial ambition. 'But Pakistan has no such ambition... '."*

***Analyst says RP might lose claim on Spratlys** -- "Robles doubted that the **Philippines** could meet the [**United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas**] deadline of May 2009 ... "*

***Bolivia funds push for legal coca market** -- "the investment is part of a Bolivian **government plan** to promote the "**industrialization**" of coca leaf - the main ingredient in cocaine - into legal products such as **tea, flour and herbal medicines**"*

*[**IRAN**] **Islamic world will become global power though unity: Supreme Leader** -- "the world of Islam can become a global power through **unity and promotion of political, economic, cultural and scientific cooperation**".*



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