

GLOBAL CHALLENGES: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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

Threat Summary

	<p>Poverty. Food crisis deepens, some call for Doha deal. Scotland and Malawi a success story.</p> <p>Environment. Small countries may finally be able to take on the multinational polluters.</p> <p>Inter-State Conflict. Pakistan expels thousands of Afghans. Iraq prolongs the civil war.</p> <p>Proliferation. No major stories.</p>
	<p>Infectious Disease. Pork workers have a new disorder. New TB threat. Low-cost malaria medication.</p> <p>Civil War. Zimbabwe genocide, Somalia declines, Darfur peace talks in UK, Sri Lanka urban war</p> <p>Genocide. Zimbabwe opposition warns of genocide.</p> <p>Transnational Crime. Guatemala arrests Mexican drug hitman.</p>
	<p>Other Atrocities. Dutch scrap cluster bombs. 111 executed in Bangladesh outside court system.</p> <p>Terrorism. Extremists rise in Bangladesh. Cyber terrorism a distraction?</p>

Policy Summary

	<p>Diplomacy. Opus Dei 25th anniversary. Indonesia asks for sensitivity. Hadley confused on ABC.</p> <p>Economy. Creative Economy concept evolving. True costs of AF and IQ. Foreclosures jump 57%.</p> <p>Security. Old technology and defenses obsolete in cyberspace. Editorial Note: SCADA systems weak.</p> <p>Society. More women than men vote in the USA, and the campaigns know it.</p> <p>Water. 1 billion suffer water shortages, 30 countries affected; this is the next big big catastrophe.</p>
	<p>Agriculture. Germany urges farming renaissance, reopening of 9.4 million acres closed down.</p> <p>Education. Kids continue to drop out of school. Editorial Note: digital natives will not sit still.</p> <p>Energy. Petroleum-rich countries looking to nuclear for the long haul. Wave, tidal, and wind up.</p> <p>Health. Schools can do more to prevent obesity from fourth-grade onwards.</p> <p>Immigration. US deportation back to extreme poverty an unrealistic solution. Pope speaks up.</p>
	<p>Family. No major stories. Editorial Note: other than 400 kids separated in polygamy raid.</p> <p>Justice. Officials made time for dozens of meetings on torture, none for winning the peace.</p>

Major Player Summary

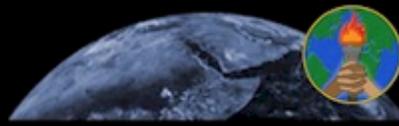
	<p>Brazil. AWACs aircraft to India. Taking on the loggers. Large oil reserve found. 9 die in shootout.</p> <p>China. China world's biggest polluter, has a demographic crisis. Editor: exporting boys is a strategy.</p> <p>India. UK sees convergence of national security centers equally adept at terror or disaster.</p> <p>Indonesia. Projects death of 5-10% of five million should a bird flu pandemic strike.</p> <p>Iran. Israeli submarine threat? Shanghai six focus on Iran. Second natural gas power after Russia.</p> <p>Russia. New space center in the Far East, replacing Kazakhstan by 2050. Putin is party chief now.</p> <p>Venezuela. Windfall profit law passes, secures windfalls earnings for oil above \$70 a barrel.</p> <p>Wild Cards. Six decades of power flushed by Roman Catholic bishop's win in Paraguay.</p>
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World Crises - monthly assessment by [International Crisis Group](#) - 01 April 2008

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

ISSUE -- an issue that is presently without a wise or obvious solution.

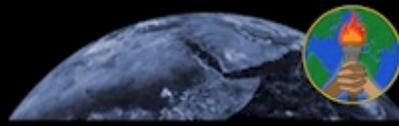
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Threats see *daily items with links to full stories on the web at* [PDB-Threats](#)

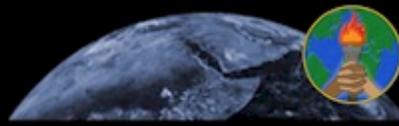
<p>Poverty news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ Food insecurity will grow [Analysis] -- "deep trends in global markets that show no sign of abating will continue to drive food prices up, say experts".</p> <p>Latin America: 'Development must be Inclusive' -- "... development, to be worthy of the name, must be inclusive ..." says secretary of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) which promotes a regional secretariat on social inclusion.</p> <p>Malawi aid scheme 'a model for others' -- "the work of Scotland in partnership with Malawi I think could provide a particularly significant model that could be copied elsewhere. "</p> <p>WTO chief calls for aid rethink -- "... food aid needed to be increased but, more than that, improvements in agriculture needed to be put back at the heart of development spending."</p> <p>Food prices require Doha deal - South African minister -- rising international food prices highlight the need to reform a "highly distorted" global agricultural system, a South African minister said [15 Apr 2008].</p>
<p>Infectious Disease news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ Health officials say NZ flu shots different to failed US jabs -- "... American officials said two of the three circulating strains of flu most likely to cause disease had "drifted," or evolved, away from the virus cocktail used in the vaccine."</p> <p>Sickened pork workers have new nerve disorder -- "as far as we are aware it is a brand new disorder".</p> <p>New TB threat: Doctors worry about powerful strains resistant to drugs -- "the World Health Organization warned that with all forms of drug-resistant TB increasing, XDR [extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis] had been detected in 45 countries, and there are now an estimated 40,000 new XDR cases each year."</p> <p>Brazil launches low-cost single, fixed-dose drugs for Malaria -- Brazil's state-run drug maker Farmanguinhos, under the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative, has developed a cheap and effective malaria treatment to be released in Latin America and Southeast Asia in 2008 and 2009.</p>
<p>Environment news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursuing the polluters -- more detail on the Ecuador - Texaco pollution case; "an environmental suit may open the door for small countries to take on the multinationals."
<p>Inter-State Conflict news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After decades, Pakistan forces thousands of Afghans to leave -- "citing concerns about extremist influences in Jalozai and the economic burden of hosting 80,000 refugees, officials set a Tuesday deadline for closing the camp, located about 20 miles southwest of the city of Peshawar". • Al-Sadr Tightens the Screws -- 1,300 security personnel have been dismissed after refusing to fight against Moqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army in Basra -- al-Sadr says they should be reinstated as they were only doing their religious duty. Also: All eyes on al-Sadr as Iraq violence swells -- Iraq seems to be heading towards just one issue, one that presented on day-one; "Al-Sadr appears to be headed for a military and political showdown with the U.S.-backed government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki over who will hold sway in Iraq."
<p>Civil War news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note: 'Civil War' here includes internal instability. • Opposition warns of genocide in Zimbabwe -- "this is a population that is angry.... There is no food in the country, no meal, no rice, no gas" says Tendai Biti, the

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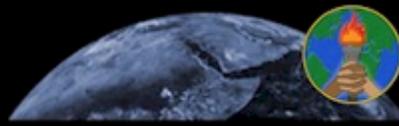
	<p><i>Movement for Democratic Change's</i> (MDC) secretary general</p> <p><i>U.S. policy on Somalia: A recipe for self-fulfilling prophecies</i> -- "neither the support of the United States (U.S.) nor the military power of Ethiopia has helped it achieve any meaningful acceptance."</p> <p><i>4 Teachers Are Killed in Raid by Islamists on Somali School</i> -- "... killed by Islamist insurgents during a midnight raid on one of the few English-language schools in south-central Somalia".</p> <p><i>Plan for Darfur peace talks in UK</i> -- "<u>five years</u> is more than enough for anyone to have to live with the sort of suffering that the people of Darfur have had to endure."</p> <p>SRI LANKA: <i>Lanka conflict returning to cities</i> -- "... the country has entered one of its <u>worst phases of conflict</u> – with the fight returning to big cities".</p>
<p>Genocide news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • see: Civil War (<i>Opposition warns of genocide in Zimbabwe</i>)
<p>Other Atrocities news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dutch air force to scrap cluster bombs</i> -- "as a result of the decision all CBU-87s will now be destroyed". • <i>State patronized terror in Bangladesh</i> -- "as many as 111 people were extra judicially executed by the law enforcement personnel in the country from 1 January to 30 September 2004 in comparison to 56 killings in 2003." • ARGENTINA: <i>Activists criticise new law on trafficking in persons</i> -- "... because it requires victims over the age of 18 to <u>prove that they did not give their consent to be sexually exploited</u>".
<p>Proliferation news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to summarize -- see <i>News List</i>]
<p>Terrorism news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Security experts split on "cyberterrorism" threat</i> "I think discussion of cyberterrorism <u>distracts</u> our attention from the more pressing terrorist threats, which are still <u>physical</u>." • see: Security (<i>Internet law - towards a cyber war on terror?</i>) • <i>Rise of Islamist extremism in Bangladesh</i> – "the most militant group, the Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (HUJI), is reported to have 15,000 members. Hindus and moderate Bangladeshi Muslims hold them responsible for many of the attacks against religious minorities, secular intellectuals and journalists".
<p>Transnational Crime news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Guatemala arrests senior Mexican drug hitman</i> -- "... the latest sign that Mexican gangs are seeking control of Central American smuggling routes."
<p>Policy <i>see daily items with links to full stories on the web at PDB-Policy</i></p>	
<p>Agriculture news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Report: German minister urges farming 'renaissance' to combat high prices</i> -- "we have shut down <u>3.8 million hectares</u> (9.4 million acres) of farmland in the EU to combat a surplus of milk, butter, wine and meat; <u>this land must be used again as quickly as possible</u>". • <i>Congressional climate is tough for farm bill</i> – the US farm bill saga rolls on towards its expiry deadline of [25 Apr 2008] with no-one liking what is on the table and even vested interests finding it hard to promote the legislation to national importance.
<p>Diplomacy news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Indonesia calls for "sensitive" conflict prevention</i> -- "... conflict prevention needs to be 'sensitive to and cognizant of' basic principles and norms governing <u>relations between states</u> in order to ensure its success." • <i>Opus Dei reaches 25th anniversary</i> -- the Vatican's Spanish-origin black-bag unit

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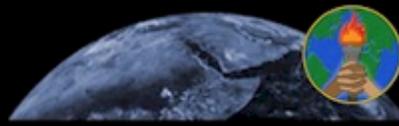
	<p>goes from strength to strength.</p> <p>NIGERIA: <i>Four Americans, Nigerian arrested for espionage</i> -- "... Security Sources revealed that the security operatives were <u>stunned</u> with the some of the equipments seen with the foreigners and their inability to give a definite defence of them".</p> <p><i>Top Bush aide confuses Tibet with Nepal</i> -- U.S. National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley confused Tibet with Nepal <u>five times</u> yesterday on ABC's 'This Week'.</p>
<p>Economy news listforecast</p>	<p>↓ <i>US - China: Approaching Economic Divorce?</i> -- "what if China uses Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs) as a Trojan horse to obtain access to the latest cutting edge US technology?"</p> <p><i>Creative Economy Report 2008: The challenge of assessing the creative economy towards informed policy-making</i> – the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) says the "creative economy" is an evolving concept based on the potential of "creative assets" to generate socio-economic growth and development ..."</p> <p><i>America's first 'credit card war'</i> -- a seminar at Harvard's Kennedy School attempts to calculate the true costs of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.</p> <p><i>Foreclosures jump 57 percent in last 12 months</i> – "one in every 538 U.S. households living in single-family dwellings received a foreclosure filing in March;... <u>the peak has yet to be reached.</u>"</p>
<p>Education news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Don't blame schools for high school dropout rate</i> -- "if we find the <u>reasons</u> behind students dropping out, we may be able to identify how society and schools can better serve students" <p><i>House Passes Bill to Expand U.S. Loans for Students</i> -- the US House has moved rapidly to insulate student loans from the chaos arising from the wall Street loans scandal.</p>
<p>Energy news listforecast</p> <p>Algae</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Nuclear energy best viable option to meet future demands says UAE</i> -- even petro-rich UAE sees nuclear power in its future. <p><i>Oil Nationalism</i> bites deep :<i>Energy producers in driving seat at Rome talks</i> -- "during the 1970s, the international oil companies controlled nearly <u>three-quarters</u> of global oil reserves ... Now, they control <u>6 percent</u> of oil National oil companies hold the rest".</p> <p>"<i>Scotland's wave and tidal energy could eventually provide <u>10% of Europe's total consumption</u></i>", [A review of this and other marine energy projects in the North Atlantic.] -- <i>Look north for the energy of the future.</i></p> <p><i>Billionaire Texas oil man makes big bets on wind</i> -- a plan by one of the oil establishment to spend <u>\$10 billion</u> to build the <u>world's biggest wind farm</u>, and expect a <u>25% return</u>, may give the single biggest impulse yet to renewables investment. .</p> <p><i>The rise of the new energy world order</i> -- "Here, in a nutshell, are <u>five key forces</u> in this new world order which will change our planet:..."</p>
<p>Family news listforecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to summarize -- see <i>News List</i>]
<p>Health news listforecast</p> <p>Food Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>School nutrition policy can prevent obesity</i> -- "They say that obesity-prevention programs should start before fourth grade, and possibly include a broader range of measures -- such as devoting more time to gym class and enlisting the corner stores near schools to offer healthier snack options." <p><i>France takes aim at cult of thinness</i> -- "The French National Assembly approved <u>unprecedented legislation</u> that would make the promotion of extreme dieting a crime</p>

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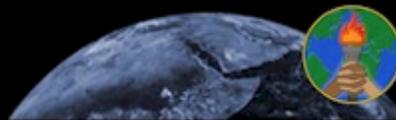
	<p><i>punishable by up to two years in prison and fines of up to \$47,000".</i></p>
<p>Immigration news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Study: Deportation major fault in U.S. immigration policy -- "The extreme poverty, violence and discrimination faced by deportees to Guatemala causes a majority to immediately return to the U.S."</i> • <i>Pope speaks up for immigrants, touching a nerve -- the Pope puts in a good word for his constituency.</i> • <i>Research debunks myth that migrants spread disease -- "it's not enough to just concentrate on border control, because for one thing, <u>one in three people in the world are infected with TB."</u></i>
<p>Justice news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>"These officials did not have the time or the foresight to plan for the aftermath of the invasion of Iraq or the tenacity to complete the hunt for Osama bin Laden. But they managed to squeeze in <u>dozens of meetings</u> in the White House Situation Room to organize and give legal cover to prisoner abuse, including brutal methods that civilized nations consider to be torture" -- <i>The Torture Sessions [Editorial]</i>.</i>
<p>Security news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Internet law - towards a cyber war on terror? -- "the war on cyber terror is one that the world has never encountered before. <u>Old technology and old defenses are obsolete.</u>"</i> • <i>see: Terrorism (Security experts split on "cyberterrorism" threat) <i>threatrity experts split on "cyberterrorism" threat</i></i> • <i>US District Court spoofed by malware criminals -- "logins secured via the malware keylogger from such executives, likely high wealth individuals, could lead to access to lucrative accounts at financial websites."</i>
<p>Society news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Polling power: American women rule voting booths, and campaigns know it, show it -- "in 1980 the percentage of women who actually voted exceeded the percentage of qualified men casting ballots <u>for the first time</u> in U.S. history.... That's been the case in <u>every election since</u>".</i>
<p>Water news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Water scarcity concerns growing -- "water shortages are becoming more common in Europe, with the Catalan region in Spain the latest area to be affected by decreasing reservoir levels. <u>Catalonia has started importing water from as far afield as Southern France</u>".</i> • <i>Southeast water wars simmer despite federal intervention -- a new Corps of Engineers proposal on water-sharing plan for the Southeast is prompting cautious praise in Georgia, but anger and worry in Florida and Alabama</i> • <i>Time to act to prevent wars over water -- "the statistics on water are already scary. Already well over <u>1 billion people</u> suffer from water shortages and <u>30 countries</u> get more than a third of their water from <u>outside their borders</u> - an obvious source of disputes and instability ..."</i>

Challengers	
<p>Brazil news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Brazilian jets to serve as eye in the sky for IAF -- India is set to buy three Embraer EMB 145 AWACS platforms.</i> • <i>With guns and fines, Brazil takes on loggers -- "But the weapon the foreman feared most was carried by a separate group of agents of Brazil's national environmental agency: bright yellow tape measures".</i> • <i>Large oil reserve found in Brazil -- "Brazil's Petrobras says it has discovered what may be the <u>world's third-largest oil and gas reserve</u>". [Comment: Later reports said</i>



	<p>the extent of the reserve has <u>not</u> yet been confirmed.]</p> <p><i>Brazil police kill 9 in Rio shootout</i> -- "Some 180 heavily armed officers entered the Vila Cruzeiro slum to search for drugs and arrest suspected dealers ..."</p> <p>see: Infectious Disease (Brazil launches low-cost single, fixed-dose drugs for Malaria)</p> <p>see: Venezuela (Lula aide says Chavez is "the only channel" to Colombian rebels)</p>
<p>China news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ <i>Sino-Pakistani Defense Relations and the War on Terrorism</i> -- by a retired Pakistan Air Commodore for the Jamestown Foundation; with forecasts.</p> <p><i>China is world's biggest polluter</i> -- "... unless China radically changes its energy policies, its increases in greenhouse gases will be <u>several times larger</u> than the cuts in emissions being made by rich nations under the Kyoto Protocol".</p> <p><i>China demographic crisis: too many boys, elderly</i> -- "the latest figures show <u>119</u> baby boys are born in China for every 100 girls — far above the normal ratio of between 103 and 107 boys per 100 girls ..."</p>
<p>India news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>US security think tank may be wrong on Tibet and China</i> [Editorial] -- "It will be Indian unquestionable military superiority that will force China to vacate Tibet one day". <p><i>To tackle terror, disaster, IIT-K to set up National Security Centres</i> -- "... a first in the country The institute will not only deal with issues related to prevention of terrorism and disasters, but also train the concerned authorities on disaster management".</p> <p>see: Brazil (Brazilian jets to serve as eye in the sky for IAF)</p>
<p>Indonesia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Police sends extra personnel to N Maluku</i> -- "In facing demonstrations related to the dispute over the outcome of the gubernatorial election, we will remain neutral but will not tolerate any act of anarchy". <p><i>W Kalimantan Police Chief dismissed for inaction against illegal logging activity</i></p> <p><i>Indonesia says to launch bird flu pandemic plan</i> -- "In the case of a pandemic, an estimated <u>5 million Indonesians</u> could be infected with the virus, he said, adding that of those infected, between <u>5 and 10 percent</u> would die".</p>
<p>Iran news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Could Israel use submarines against Iran?</i> -- "A nuclear attack on Iran by a Dolphin, Willett argued, would have to be from the Gulf, which in turn would give away an unsupported submarine's position and probably doom it to being destroyed by surviving Iranian forces." <p><i>Shanghai Six regional group considers Iran in expansion plans</i> -- "Mongolia received observer status in 2004, and India, Iran and Pakistan followed suit in 2005. Besides Iran, Pakistan has also been lobbying for full membership".</p> <p><i>Why a Russia-Iran gas fight?</i> -- "Iran is the world's <u>fourth-largest oil producer</u> after Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait, and has the <u>second largest gas reserves</u> after Russia"</p>
<p>Russia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Putin adds party chief to his new portfolio</i> -- "Putin has never been a member of the party, instead cultivating the image of a figure who is above party politics" <p><i>Russia to build new space center in the Far East</i> -- the Vostochny space port will be built on the sight of a disused military space complex in the Amur region, replacing the historic Baikonur space center in Kazakhstan by 2050.</p>
<p>Venezuela</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Lula aide says Chavez is "the only channel" to Colombian rebels</i> -- the Brazilian

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[news list|forecast](#)

government's position in the Colombian conflict is one of 'non-interference but also of non- indifference.'

*Venezuela approves \$9 bln oil windfall profit law -- "Venezuela's parliament passed a law obliging oil companies to give **windfall earnings** to the leftist government when world prices are above \$70 a barrel ..."*

Wild Cards
[news list|forecast](#)

- Adding to the "red tide" in *Latin America: Ex-bishop wins Paraguayan election; six-decade rulers dumped* -- "the world's longest-ruling political party is about to lose its six-decade grasp on power in Paraguay after a former Roman Catholic bishop won the country's presidential election".

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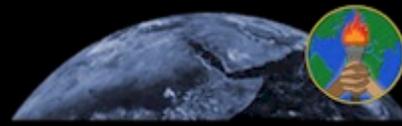
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