



ASIA
MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA; WEST ASIA; SOUTH ASIA; NORTH ASIA; EAST ASIA



AFRICA
WEST AFRICA; EAST AFRICA & HORN OF AFRICA; CENTRAL AFRICA; SOUTH AFRICA



EUROAMERICA
WEST EUROPE; EAST EUROPE; NORTH AMERICA; LATIN AMERICA



GLOBALIZED OPINION...



GLOBALIZED FINANCE...



GLOBALIZED ELECTIONS...

Trial Issue # 4
Date: 15/1/10

Friday on the facebook

WEEKLY NEWS MONITOR OF OPINIONS & EVENTS IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

Based on weekly reports produced by the project 'Globalized Business & Politics: a View from the Muslim World.'

Using a rich data-base of news reports and opinion polls from all over the world we analyze and compile papers on global trends and patterns in the sphere of economics, politics and society. These reports and analytical summaries are uploaded online for discussion and are accessible on the [BPM Blog Page](#).

WELCOME REMARKS What is FOF?

Dear Colleagues,

We are mailing to you the weekly e-letter of the project: Globalized Business and Politics: A View from the Muslim World". The e-letter is a snapshot of the detailed data gathering and analysis which our research team does each week.

Why should one add another e-letter to many similar exercises already underway? We have pondered this question and here is what we believe to be our possible contribution or *Competitive Advantage*.

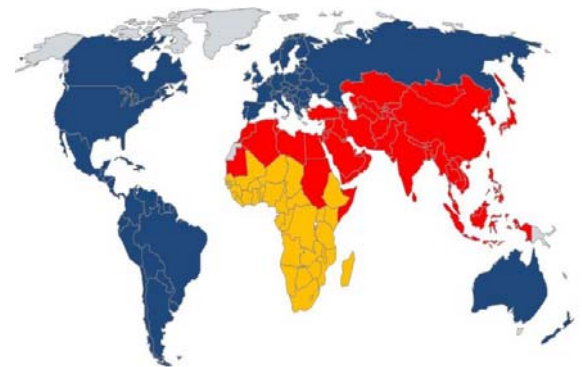
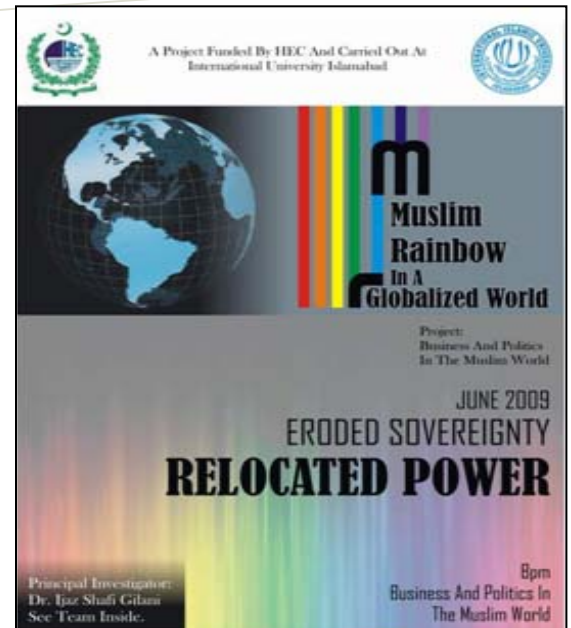
- ◆ We will make the e-letter a multi-layered presentation: in other words Friday on the Facebook will provide clicks to deeper levels of information; for comprehension (Maps and Data) as well as for elaboration



and analysis (complete weekly Events data, supplementary commentaries and related links).

- ◆ Our weekly e-letter will be grounded in a thorough Analytical framework of Relocation of Power in the 21st Century.
- ◆ Our weekly e-letter will be targeted to produce an annual synthesis of Global Trends. Each issue will serve as an input for the annual analysis.
- ◆ Our weekly e-letter will be designed to become a teaching tool for class-room instruction in courses dealing with global political sociology or related fields.
- ◆ Our weekly e-letter will also be designed to build a theoretically inclined community of political sociologists.

With best wishes and prayers we present our 'pilot weekly e-letter: *Friday on the Facebook. - A Weekly Monitor of Global Opinions and Events.* §



Business and Politics in the Muslim World (BPM) refers to a study funded by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, and is conducted at the International Islamic University (IIU), Islamabad.



Principle Investigator- DR. IJAZ SHAFI GILANI



Globalized Opinions

This week's report consists of 25 surveys including public opinion from across the world on various political, economic and social issues.

Week # 100

Commentary on Gallopedia Polls

Dated Dec. 27th-Jan. 2nd 2009-10'

Pessimism in reviewing the year 2009 and the first decade of twenty first century is becoming more and more obvious. Two prominent events come forth in the year & decade reviews surveys in U.S. The Zogy survey shows that it is 'terror' that defines the whole decade and remained significant factor in lives of Americans in this period leaving grave impact on the nation. While Harris interactive survey suggest that it was the election of President Bush that may be considered as the most influential event of this decade. The pessimism stems from the perception of USA having lost its standing in the world where its influence in world politics declined. These indicators may also be depictive of a public desire to have greater attention paid to economy, unemployment, inflation, high prices, and health problems.

The Swiss ban on minarets seems to have given an impetus to issues of Muslim integration in Europe. After the Swiss, Italian public is also thinking along the same lines. Moreover though France is considered to be home to most of the Muslims in Europe, last week surveys show that the French are also feeling Islam is not compatible with the modern day life style in France. These polls along with several other previously published polls show that Islamophobia is on the rise in Europe. On the other hand, the number of Muslims and their mosques in Europe seem to be on a rise. One can not say which way the wind will blow regarding Muslims integration in Europe, but it will be interesting to ponder whether mere legal restrictions will be sufficient to get Muslims integrated whole heartedly? Will such laws not create a further gulf in the aspirations and spirits of the Muslim immigrants and the local hosts? §



**ARMED PALESTINIAN MILITANTS FROM
A MILITIA LINKED TO THE FATAH
MOVEMENT**

Zone 1
ASIA

MIDDLE EAST

Fatah Keeps Lead in Palestinian Territories

The Fatah party remains the frontrunner for the next election to the Palestinian Legislative Council, according to a poll by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research. 43 per cent of respondents would vote for Fatah.

December 29, 2009

Zone 2
AFRICA

Trust, Confidence Key Issues for Zimbabwe Government

When Gallup asked Zimbabweans in July 2009 what they believed was the biggest obstacle for their power-sharing government to overcome, nearly 4 in 10 (39%) spontaneously mentioned a lack of trust and confidence. More than one in five (22%) cited a lack of political



will to implement reforms, and a similar proportion (19%) cited refusals by the president and prime minister to work together. It is that last problem, however, that best characterizes Zimbabwe's political situation since the coalition government formed in February.

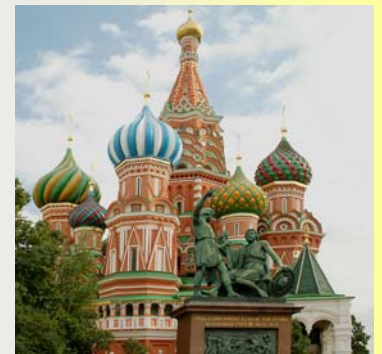
December 31, 2009

Zone 3
EURO-AMERICAS

EAST EUROPE

Who Will Modernize Russia, State or Entrepreneurs?

A majority of six in ten in Russia do not know what could be the possible driving force of introduction of innovations in Russia. A majority of Russians thinks that the successful transition from the commodity-



driven to innovation-driven economy mainly depends on state and state officials but a minority believes only entrepreneurs can do this.

December 8, 2009

United Russia Remains Powerful Political Force

Voters in the Russian Federation overwhelmingly prefer their governing party, according to a poll by the All-Russian Public Opinion Research Center. 53 per cent of respondents would support United Russia (YR) in the next legislative ballot.

January 01, 2010

Putin Leads 2012 Russian Presidential Hopes

Vladimir Putin is the early leader as voters in Russia ponder their choices for the 2012 presidential election, according to a poll by the Yury Levada Analytical Center. 27 per cent of respondents would vote for the former president if an election took place this Sunday.

December 28, 2009

WEST EUROPE



After Economic Crisis, Europeans are Beginning to Feel Positive

Standard Eurobarometer survey of Autumn 2009 show that European are beginning to feel released of the economic crisis that had grave impact on their lives. Though public is still passing through the difficult times but there are significant signs of improvement in the public opinion of Europeans.

December 2009

Two-in-Five French Find Islam Incompatible

A considerable proportion of people in France think the Islamic religion is not compatible with life in this European country, according to a poll by CSA published in Le Parisien. 40 per cent of respondents agree with this notion, but 54 per cent disagree.

December 29, 2009

Many Italians Would Follow Swiss on Minarets

Many people in Italy would vote in favour of banning the construction of minarets in the country if a referendum on the matter took place, according to a poll by Ispo published in L'Osservatorio. 46 per cent of respondents would vote in favour of the minaret ban, while 37 per cent would vote against it.

December 30, 2009

NORTH AMERICA

One-Quarter of Americans Believe Election of George W. Bush had Biggest Impact on America This Decade

When it comes to selecting one event among 6 different options that has had the biggest impact on America over the past ten years, one-quarter of Americans (25%) say it is the election of George W. Bush. Moreover they feel that U.S. has military and economic power become worse, and its influence over other countries has decreased over the last decade.

December 24, 2009

Terror Defines the Decade

According to a new Zogby Interactive poll, Americans have evaluated the last decade (to-date) and the results can be found in one word: Terror. When asked to pick one word/phrase to define the past decade, 21% of Americans chose "terror" followed by "decline" (15%) and then "loss of personal freedom/civil liberties" (13%).

December 30, 2009

2009 was a bad year, 2010 will be better

For all their differences, Americans largely agree on two things: 2009 was a lousy year for the nation, and 2010 is likely to be better. Nearly three-fourths of Americans think 2009 was a bad year for the country, which was



rocked by job losses, home foreclosures and economic sickness.

December 30, 2009

GLOBAL POLLS

People Predict Military Action in Iran in 2010s

Citizens in three countries foresee a U.S.-backed military intervention in Iran in the next decade, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 58 per cent of respondents in Britain, 56 per cent of Canadians and 54 per cent of Americans regard this as a likely possibility.

December 29, 2009

Nearly One in Five EU Residents Struggle to Cope Financially

In July 2009, at a time when several European economies were just coming out of recession, nearly one in five (18%) European Union residents said their household had at some time in the past year run out of money to pay ordinary bills or to buy food or other daily consumer items.

December 29, 2009

.....§



Zone 1- **Asia: Summary**

Asia, Middle East & North Africa

**Zone 1- Asia Summary- Week #
100**

GCC

FERTILE CRESCENT

Political Front: In **Egypt**, the National Democratic Party's supreme policies council conference was held last weekend that focused primarily on Constitutional reforms. Meanwhile Mohamed Habib, deputy supreme guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, resigned from his posts in the group in opposition to the recent Guidance Office elections, from which he was left out.

The **Iraqi** elections' commission has singled out 15 countries for Iraqis abroad to vote in for the upcoming elections. meanwhile in **Lebanon** March 14 forces general-secretariat lashed back at **Hezbollah** Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah over his last speech on the occasion of Ashoura, saying they were surprised by Nasrallah's "unconcealed threats and nervous advices" he addressed to the Christians.

Geo-strategic Front: **Israeli** Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu discussed efforts to revive the stalled **Middle East** peace process with **Egyptian** President Hosni Mubarak. Cairo claims talks can only start when Jewish settlement activity stops.

Social Front: In **Egypt** the Ministry of Health announced five more swine flu deaths, raising the H1N1 death toll to 122. In the meantime Ministry of Tourism presented a new advertising campaign to attract tourists to the country.

Economic Front: **Iranian** soldiers have withdrawn 50m from an oil well along the southern **Iraqi-Iranian** border.

Riaz Salameh, Central Bank Governor told OTV that **Lebanon** could take advantage of the increase in the price of gold, adding that the **Lebanese** currency would be stable in 2010.

Geo-strategic Front: Palestinian President Mehmood Abbas paid visit to **Saudi Arabia** and discussed prospects of **Middle East** peace process. The **Saudi** government also seems keen to enhance ties with **Sudan, Malaysia** and **Egypt**. **France** has expressed its readiness to join the **UAE** in implementing its peaceful nuclear energy programme. In



the meantime growing relations of **UAE** with **Oman** and **South Korea** also grabbed attention. **Oman** has also been making efforts to boost ties with **Kazakhstan, Italy** and **Kuwait**. Growing **Kuwaiti** ties with **Bahrain, Turkey** and **Poland** also remained significant.

Qatar has reiterated its support for the **Palestinian** cause. Meanwhile some **Kuwaiti** Members of Parliament (MPs) have asked **Israel** to stop violations against holy Muslim sites in Jerusalem, particularly the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Social Front: **Saudi Arabia** has claimed victory in a conflict with **Yemeni** rebels. Meanwhile around 40 **Saudi** officials and contractors have been detained in the probe into the November 25 flood in **Jeddah** which killed 120 people.

Saudi Shoura (Consultative) Council has praised the increased budgetary allocations for education and manpower training. Meanwhile the **Saudi** ministry of education has been urged to play a major role in launching social awareness campaigns against sexual abuse of children.

Disabled students in **Bahrain** are to be given a chance to study for one year in the United States as part of a strategic plan to empower individuals with special needs. Remarkable increase in literacy rate has been a priority for **Oman** as well.

Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister H E Sheikh Hamad bin Jassem bin Jabor Al Thani figure on the list of 50 personalities of Financial Times (FT) who shaped the Decade 2000-2010 in the field of culture. Meanwhile **Qatar's** divorce rate has been steadily going up. A study conducted recently by **Qatar** University (QU) revealed that majority of pharmacists there lack knowledge about breast cancer.

Opposition MPs in **Kuwait** called Information Minister to close down what they called 'corrupt TV stations'.

Economic Front: In **United Arab Emirates** Ministry of Economy announced that prices of edible and non-edible commodities won't be increased. Meanwhile a \$40 billion deal by **UAE** to acquire nuclear reactors puts it ahead in a drive to meet fast growing power needs among its Gulf neighbors. It also allows greater export of its oil. **Oman's** total exports of crude oil stood at 199.54 million barrels during the first ten months of 2009, constituting a 10.9 % rise. Meanwhile **Qatar** seems quite optimistic about its growth in the year 2010 and 2011.

CENTRAL ASIA

Political Front: Despite smooth municipal elections process in **Azerbaijan** cases of interference of local authorities in the voting process in Naftalan was observed leading to the annulment of elections in the region.

A court in the northeastern

Kyrgyz sentenced four people to four years in jail each for holding an illegal protest during last July's presidential elections. meanwhile **Uzbekistan** held a parliamentary election in which four parties -- all of whom supported the rule of President Islam Karimov were competing.

Geo-strategic Front: *Hungarian*

FM called the Republic of **Azerbaijan** a strategic partner in the South Caucasus region. In the meanwhile **Kyrgyzstan** and **Uzbekistan** have resumed work of the intergovernmental commission on delimitation and demarcation of the state border after a 5-year break.

Tajikistan remained busy in negotiations with an Iranian envoy and President of Turkey to enhance cooperation. Meanwhile **Russia** has approved and supported the commissioning of the

Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Kazakhstan-China gas pipeline.

Social Front: Russian police have freed 15 **Kyrgyz** children who were forced to work in an underground factory in Moscow Oblast.

Economic Front: State Oil Fund of **Azerbaijan** (SOCAR) has announced to increase gas supplies to Russia up to 1 billion cubic meters per year in 2010. Meanwhile

Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan sales turnover amounted to \$140 million in 11 months of 2009. **Kyrgyzstan's** GDP growth reached 2.4 % in 11



Oil fields in Baku



months of 2009 taking 2nd place among CIS countries.

INDIA

Political Front: National level: The Prime Minister's working group on State-Centre relations, headed by Retired Justice Sageer Ahmad, has recommended restoration of autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir, a recommendation that BJP refused to accept while the opposition also voiced its criticism regarding the appointment of a retired judge.

Minister of State for External Affairs Shashi Tharoor has questioned the tightening of Indian visa rules in the backdrop of the David Headley case, the Pakistani-American's alleged involvement in the Mumbai attacks. He claimed that the policy will create hurdles for the expansion of tourism and foreign investment.

On the Maoist insurgency front, leader Kishanji has warned government of violent retaliation if the centre were to launch an operation against them.

Regional front: Andhra Pradesh's political crisis become more acute as the demand for Telangana state turned violent. Protest and strikes badly damaged law and order situation that has effectively restrained foreign and local investment in Hyderabad and other business centers of the state. In the meantime the Centre has called an all parties meeting to discuss and

solve the issue of statehood of Telangana region.

In Jharkand BJP has decided to form a coalition government with Jharkand Mukti Morcha and other regional parties.

Geo-strategic Front: The **Indian** Navy has planned to buy a state-of-the-art, multi-role, new generation carrier-based fighter aircraft to enhance its capabilities. Also India has expressed satisfaction with increasing Japanese presence in South Asia deeming it an appropriate counter for Chinese influence in the region.

Meanwhile General Deepak Kapoor in his recent speech mentioned India's strategy to be prepared for simultaneous two front wars with China and Pakistan, a comment that the later took strict notice of as intent of threat to its territorial integrity.

Social Front: In Maathur a village when Dalits were allowed to enter a temple after long negotiations, the upper caste Hindus left the village in protest.

Economic Front: Indian economic experts have forecasted fast growth of Indian economy in the coming decade, projecting that if India maintains 9-10% of growth rate it would overtake China till 2020 provided it controls its high fiscal deficit.

EAST ASIA

Political Front: UMNO members have expressed satisfaction with Najib Razak's performance since taking over the helm as party president and **Malaysian** PM. Meanwhile in the **Philippines** a candidate of the 2010 elections was shot and wounded, the second political victim of targeted attacks.

Cambodia has issued an arrest warrant for the country's main opposition leader Sam Rainsy, currently residing in Paris. He has been charged with inciting racial discrimination and intentionally damaging property.

Geo-strategic Front: The **Cambodian** PM has claimed to have seen a secret **Thai** government document outlining the plan to mount a coup, a charge the **Thai** PM denounced, claiming his government's clear policy to maintain good relations. He further added his intention not to interfere in **Cambodia's** internal affairs or criticize domestic **Cambodian** politics.

Social Front: A **Malaysian** court has ruled that Christians have the constitutional right to use the word Allah in reference to God; he further claimed that government's ban on non-Muslims using the word was illegal. A Christian group hailed the ruling as a victory for freedom of religion in the Muslim-majority country, where the issue has become a symbol of religious grievances of minority groups.

The United Nations refugee chief has called on the **Thai** Government not to deport around 4,000 ethnic Hmong to neighboring **Laos**.

Economic Front: **Indonesian** policy makers have been trying hard to attract more foreign investment to speed up economic growth and make inroads into unemployment and poverty. Meanwhile **Indonesia** and **Thailand** seem quite hopeful regarding speedy economic recovery this year. **Vietnam's** economy expanded at the fastest pace in more than a year in the fourth quarter with its Gross domestic product growing 6.9 percent from a year earlier as lending growth fueled construction and consumer sales. Meanwhile in **Singapore** despite its gross domestic product having climbed by 3.5 percent in the fourth quarter of 2009, growth for the full year remained

negative at minus 2.1 per cent. **Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore** and **Thailand** have announced to import and export almost all goods across their borders at zero tariffs.

CHINA

Political Front: China's top political advisor Jia Qinglin has called for efforts to push peaceful relations with **Taiwan**. Meanwhile at least 15 governor and ministerial-level officials have been brought down against charges of corruption. Senior Chinese leaders also met in Beijing to discuss China's anti-corruption drive in 2009, and to plan next year's battle against graft.

Geo-strategic Front: *Senegal* and **China** have recently signed a technical and economic cooperation agreement. Meanwhile *Nepali* Prime



Minister termed his visit to the country as a milestone in the history of cordial and cooperative relations.

Chinese strong ties with *North Korea, Russia* and *EU* also remained significant.

The *Republic of Congo* has received a donation of 3.5 billion FCFA (about 7.6 million U. S. dollars) from **China** to finance the central African country's health facilities.

China has also opposed *Israel's* new settlement plan in East Jerusalem.

Social Front: The Chinese government has vowed to facilitate foreign journalists' work in the country while beseeching them to obey Chinese laws.

A total of 606,100 tourists from the **Chinese** mainland visited **Taiwan**

in 2009, fulfilling expectations despite the impact of H1N1 flu and the global economic downturn.

There have been three rounds of talks between Google and Chinese writers whose works were copied by the Internet giant without authorization. The fourth round of talks is expected to begin soon.

While talking about environmental issues **Chinese** PM claimed that despite their adherence to various summits aimed to make environment better; China has got the right to develop its industries.

Economic Front: Chinese huge economic market has become an attractive destination for the US investors. A free-trade agreement between China and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) took effect on 1st Jan. 2010. **Chinese** stock exchange has been performing well throughout the week. While the **Chinese** farmers saw their per capita annual net income rise to a historic high of 5,000 yuan (735 U.S. dollars) in 2009.

Hong Kong & Macau: The average wage rate for all major sectors fell 1.8 percent in **Hong Kong**. The Hong Kong economy has continued to rebound since pulling out of recession in the second quarter, with the latest statistics show a reversal to year-on-year growth in exports in November. The unemployment rate for the period of September to November 2009, reached 3.3 percent, slightly dropping by 0.2 percentage point over the previous period of August to October. **Macao's** trade deficit for the first eleven months of 2009 has widened by 5.6 percent over the same period of last year. §

Zone 3- Euro-America: *Transatlantic Community*



BRITISH MAN EXECUTED IN CHINA

Zone 3- Euro-Americas Summary Week #100

WESTERN EUROPE

Relatives of a **British** man executed in *China* have accused Britain of being diplomatically powerless due to its economic dependence on the Asian giant.

Meanwhile *Yemen* has welcomed **British** Prime Minister Gordon Brown's announcement of an international meeting in London (January 28) on combating extremism in the Arabian Peninsula country. **Britain** is also considering introducing new technology such as full body scanners to improve airport security after the attempted Christmas Day airline attack.

Dutch Foreign Minister Maxime Verhagen has denied fresh accusations by the *Venezuelan* government that the Netherlands is supporting U.S. spy flights over its territory. In the meanwhile *Pope Benedict XVI* in his speech at the start of the New Year issued an appeal to all armed groups to "stop, reflect and abandon the way of violence". Jan. 1 is also the Roman Catholic Church's World Day of Peace.

SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

Bulgaria says it will send 30 more troops to the NATO-led forces in *Afghanistan* to join a unit guarding the airport in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar. **Bulgaria** currently has 497

troops in Afghanistan, with 270 of them guarding the Kandahar airport, which has been plagued by insurgent attacks.

Rasim Ljajic the **Serbian** official in charge of capturing war criminals resigned last week because his team has failed to arrest Ratko Mladic, who allegedly orchestrated the massacre of more than 7,000 Muslims in **Bosnia**. Meanwhile *President Boris Tadic* has insisted that authorities are capable of arresting former Bosnian Serb military commander Ratko Mladic. He added that the resignation of Ljajic is an act of political responsibility.

The *opposition Democratic Party of Serbia-New Serbia* (DSS-NS) coalition filed a motion with the Constitutional Court last week challenging the constitutionality of the *Vojvodina statute*. Critics say the statute is a move in the direction of eventual independence for Vojvodina an autonomous **Serbian** province.

In **Macedonia** effective on January 1st, smoking in all restaurants and bars in the country has been banned.

Meanwhile in **Albania** five ministries have joined an emergency task force to monitor the situation in the north where following heavy rains the Fierza hydro plant and the Drin River threaten to flood surrounding areas.

In **Croatia** voters went to the polls



on December 27th to elect their next president amid a deepening economic crisis and fears of growing corruption. In the meanwhile about 4,000 people gathered in *Zagreb* on December 26th to protest the arrest of five former members of a special police unit suspected of committing war crimes against civilians during the 1991-1995 war in **Croatia**. **Kosovo** Parliament adopted its 2010 budget last week without absolute majority. Opposition members walked out, saying they did not have enough time to review some amendments that were presented only a day before the vote.

US/CANADA

The Christmas Day attack on a jetliner over Detroit, combined with technological improvements to protect people's sense of modesty, could lead to dramatically wider use of full-body scanners that can see through travelers' clothing. *Dutch* officials announced immediate use of the machines at *Amsterdam's* airport, where the *Nigerian* accused of trying to blow up the Northwest Airlines plane began his flight. *Transportation Security Administration* (TSA) already operates 40 of them in **U.S.** airports, has bought an additional 150 and plans to buy 300 more.

Many **Americans** predict 2010 will be a better year than the last one, even if they fear that the



Continued...

U.S. economy and their own financial circumstances won't improve. A whopping 82 percent are optimistic about what the New Year will bring for their families, according to the latest AP-GfK poll.

LATIN AMERICA

Hondurans burned life-sized dolls of ousted President *Manuel Zelaya* and de facto leader *Roberto Micheletti* in a traditional New Year ritual a small town south of the capital Tegucigalpa. Villagers also set fire to an effigy of **Venezuelan** President *Hugo Chavez*, who supported fellow leftist Zelaya and threatened military action. On the other hand about 200 people gathered outside the **Brazilian** Embassy to show support for ousted President Zelaya inside while they celebrated New Year's Eve with food and music.

Haitian President *Rene Preval* pledged a fair legislative process during his Independence Day speech. He however failed to address the issue of disqualification of 15 political groups that has prompted international criticism and opposition threats to try to disrupt the Feb. 28 vote.

According to the Economy Minister Amado Boudou

Argentina's economy could grow up to 7 percent in 2010 as the worst of the global financial crisis eases

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit and **Brazilian** Foreign Minister Celso Amorim announced last week their agreement to launch a



EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT HOSNI MUBARAK (R) LISTENS TO BRAZIL'S FOREIGN MINISTER CELSO AMORIM DURING THEIR MEETING IN CAIRO, DECEMBER 27, 2009.



and his **Cuban** mentor Fidel Castro would die in 2010.

Meanwhile **Paraguay** is the only remaining *Mercosur's* full member which still has to vote for **Venezuela** to join the South American trade block, following last week's **Brazilian** senate divided approval.

Colombia's President Álvaro Uribe has disavowed any aggressive statement against **Venezuela**, at a time when the relations between the two countries are going through the worst diplomatic crisis in recent history. Uribe's statements came a day after his

Venezuelan counterpart Hugo Chávez presided over a military parade in a frontier zone in which he repeated his complaint that an attack on his country is being planned from **Colombia**, with the support of the *United States*.

Venezuela has further criticized the "attempts of destabilization" allegedly promoted by the United States in Iran, accusations that the US vehemently denies.

On the financial front **Venezuelan** and *Chinese* government officials and business leaders met in Caracas last week to discuss bilateral relations. §

new mechanism for strategic dialogue between the two countries. Meanwhile **Brazil's** tax collection is expected to rise 11 percent this year with faster economic growth accounting for the increase.

The U.S.-based Committee to Protect Journalists is urging **Mexico's** government to swiftly investigate the recent murder of a local newspaper owner. Meanwhile on the drug war front in **Mexico**, increasingly powerful and lethal cartels have raised the level of violence while the government of President Felipe Calderón has



MEXICO'S DRUG WAR

escalated the battle against them. On the economic front according to the Energy Ministry **Mexico's** projected electricity consumption is to increase by an average of 3.6% per year through 2024, requiring additional capacity of about 27,300 megawatt. Also *Mexico City* received 10.4 million tourists in 2009 and expects that figure to increase to 14 million this year, helped by events such as free public viewing of World Cup games, according to city officials.

Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez scoffed on Wednesday at U.S. magazine Newsweek's predictions that he would be toppled by a military coup



HUGO CHAVEZ AND HU JINTAO

Microscopic Analysis: 'India's Revised Military Doctrine- A new Chapter in the Sino-Indian Dynamic?'

In remarks reported last week, Indian army chief Gen Deepak Kapoor reaffirmed that India was evolving a new military doctrine, outlining some of its key elements. The Army is now revising its five-year-old doctrine to effectively meet the challenges of a possible 'two front war' with China and Pakistan, deal with asymmetric and fourth-generation warfare, and enhance strategic reach and joint operations with IAF and Navy.

Dr. Maleeha Lodhi, a leading Pakistani academician and diplomat, notes that under the recent revisions:

* The Indian army is revising its five-



year-old doctrine to meet the challenge of war with China and Pakistan.

* The development of the "cold start" strategy is progressing "successfully."

* Five "thrust areas" will determine the new doctrine:

- i) Dealing with the eventuality of a "two-front" war.
- ii) Countering "both military and non-military facets of asymmetric and sub-conventional threats."
- iii) Enhancing "strategic reach and out-of-area capabilities" to protect India's interests from the Persian Gulf to the Malacca Strait.
- iv) Attaining "operational synergy" between the three services.
- v) Achieving a technological edge over adversaries.

According to Dr. Lodhi the emerging doctrine appears to be both aspirational and emulative. Aspirational because its breadth and sweep reflects a mindset that seeks to create "big power" dynamics by projecting India as a rival to China and aiming to develop a capacity to act in two combat theatres simultaneously. She further notes that the doctrine also emulates the US

Pentagon's Quadrennial Defence Review undertaken every four years and borrows superpower language to assert the need to build "out of area" capabilities and acquire "strategic reach", quoting it as 'the most presumptuous tenet of the doctrine which employs the idiom of big powers without, however, the capability to back it'.

Another analyst notes The mentioning of China in Indian chief statement is a mere indication to West and US that now India is ready to take a role of regional power a counter against communist China.

Over the years a Chief irritants to the Sino-Indian relationship have been a continuing border dispute.

At the security front India is also concerned by China's burgeoning defense expenditure, its building of infrastructure along the border, and its "string of pearls" strategy of setting up naval bases in the Indian Ocean. According to one Indian analyst India is now taking steps -- albeit belatedly -- to strategically counter the stark military asymmetry with China in the eastern sector.

On the other hand China has its own strategic concerns, particularly the fact that India is being courted by the U.S.



in a strategy aimed at forging a regional alliance comprising India, Japan, Australia and the U.S.

This week Army chief General Deepak Kapoor will be visiting Myanmar, a country with which India has ramped up diplomatic as well as military ties to counter China's deep strategic inroads there.



With the revised Indian defence doctrine where Pakistan has been prompt in its response, describing India's reported move as 'betraying hostile intent' and reflecting a 'hegemonic and jingoistic mindset'. The People's Republic of China has not come out so far with any official reaction on the subject.

An Indian analyst D S Rajan comments that it is interesting to note that the same theme of India's 'two front war', worded a bit differently as 'two front mobile warfare' has figured in an in-depth authoritative Chinese evaluation of India's defence strategy, done as early as November 2009. Titled 'Great Changes in India's Defence Strategy -- War objective shifts to giving China importance, while treating Pakistan as lightweight', the analysis contributed by Hao Ding, a researcher of the Chinese Academy of Military

Sciences, published in the Party-affiliated Chinese language organ, *China Youth Daily*, on November 27, 2009, identifies five shifts that have taken place in India's defence strategy:

'In terms of goals, India now aims at becoming a global military power in contrast to its earlier objective to acquire a regional military power status'.

'From the point of view of strategic guidelines the 'active defence' concept has replaced the old line of passive defence'. India is stressing on taking initiatives so as to be able to conduct a hi-tech 'limited conventional war' against the enemy 'under conditions of nuclear deterrence'.

The write-up says that in 21st century, India has done a reassessment of the military threats coming from Pakistan and China. It considers that in comparison to Pakistan, China is politically stable with a fast developing economy, a continuously accelerating

military modernization drive and growing comprehensive national strength. Therefore, the potentials of 'China threat' to it are on the rise.

In matters of strategic deployment, India has shifted to a strategy of stabilizing the western front and strengthening the northern front as well as giving equal emphasis to land and sea warfare, in contrast to the earlier stress only on land warfare.

A recent Chinese assessment by an analyst under the title 'Panoramic View of International Military Situation in 2009', the analysis contributed by Ma Kang, deputy director, Institute of Strategic Studies, National Defence University, *Liberation Army Daily*, December 29 highlights the defence budget increases in the US, Russia and India. It points to India's '24 percent defence budget increase' in 2009 as compared to previous year as well as efforts to build an aircraft carrier of its own, launch of first home made submarine Arihant and goals set towards possessing 'three dimensional nuclear strategic capability.'

What stand out are the unmistakable adversarial tones with which the two highly placed Chinese experts have talked about India. What Indian analysts highlight is the apparent dichotomy in the thinking of the civilian and military apparatus in China on relationship with India.

At top-level defense talks in Beijing last week, China and India announced the resumption of their "Hand in Hand" military training exercises in 2011, the first positive news in China-India relations in several months. Quoting what Indian analysts deem as mixed signals from china, they note that it would be in India's interests to continue 'engaging' China. It should at the same time take all necessary steps to protect its strategic interests; whereby they assert India's revised defence strategy proves that it is prepared to do the same.§

Discussion Question:

Is the revamped Indian strategy too ambitious in its approach or is it a balanced assessment of a swiftly evolving regional dynamic?

Related Links/ Bibliography:

<http://www.asiantribune.com/news/2010/01/14/old-start-indian-threat-pakistan-china>
<http://gokunming.com/en/blog/item/1317/china-ndia-military-drills-back-on-for-2011>
<http://www.upiasia.com/Security/2009/09/04/cnas-military-advantage-over-india-vanishin-9317/>
<http://www.indiadaily.com/editorial/21245.asp>
<http://thecurrentaffairs.com/contemplating-a-ationale-for-general-deepak- Kapoor.html>
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Eye-1-China-Army-chief-on-Myanmar-visit/articleshow/5107164.cms>
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Ar-y-reworks-war-doctrine-for-Pakistan-hina/articleshow/5392683.cms>
<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,971,1931739,00.html>
<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,697595,00.html?iid=sphere-inline-bottom>
<http://news.rediff.com/column/2010/jan/07/ho-china-views-indias-new-defence- doctrine.htm>
<http://www.daily.pk/why-china%E2%80%99s-nores-india-and-its-new-E2%80%98military- doctrine%E2%80%99-14334/>
<http://www.thenews.com.pk/print1.asp?id=21651>

CHINA/INDIA: COOPERATION AND COMPETITION



Venezuela's Controversial Leader'

During the 1980s and 1990s, Venezuela was deteriorating at a rapid pace where its GDP plummeted around 40 percent. In a state of widespread unrest, Chávez then a lieutenant colonel led a military coup in February 1992 against the government. Although the coup failed and Chávez spent the next two years in prison, his bold defiance catapulted him onto the national political stage and launched his career. Over the years he has survived an attempted coup, a roll back election, a second term in office and after having initially lost a referendum to introduce constitutional change expanding his influence, Chavez later won another vote in 2009 that eliminated term limits barricading his entry in the next elections.

On entering politics Chávez's combative style and straight-talking populist charisma served well in a country marked by pervasive discontent. His fierce indictment of the old political order and his promise of a "revolution" held wide appeal among poor Venezuelans. Unlike the "out of touch" politicians, Chávez projected a sincere concern for those living in poverty which meant around three-quarters of the population.

Chávez's political project, as one analyst notes, has been an eclectic blend of populism, nationalism, militarism, and, socialism, combined with a "Bolivarian" emphasis on South American unity. Chávez's proponents project him as a popular leader in a system of "Participatory democracy," focused on empowering and mobilizing Venezuelans.

Harris Whitbeck a CNN correspondent notes that to his most ardent backers in Venezuela and among the international left, Chávez is a hero driven by humanitarian impulses to redress social injustice and inequality -- problems long neglected by a traditional political class intent on protecting its own position while denying the masses their rightful share of wealth and meaningful political participation. He is bravely fighting for Latin American solidarity and standing up to the overbearing United States. With charisma and oil dollars, he is seizing an opportunity to correct the power and wealth imbalances that have long defined Venezuelan and hemispheric affairs.



Critics however view Chavez as having despotic tendencies, a most recent exemplar of charismatic, populist leadership that emerged from the severe crises of the past two decades in Latin America. Although opinions differ on whether Chávez's rule should be characterized as authoritarian or democratic, a vast majority agrees that in contrast to his predecessors, Chávez has made the welfare of the Venezuelan poor his top priority. The Nobel laureate economist Joseph Stiglitz has noted, "Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez seems to have succeeded in bringing education and health services to the barrios of Caracas, which previously had seen little of the benefits of that country's rich endowment of oil".

The renowned political scientist Noam Chomsky has also voiced his interest in Chávez's policies commenting that many are quite constructive. He also says that the Venezuelan president seems to have the overwhelming support of the people in his country. "He has gone through six closely supervised elections," a significant observation. Even *The Economist* has written that "Chávez's brand of revolution has delivered some social gains."

In Venezuela the poor receive free



health care and education. Some analysts observe that the opposition's lack of success stems from its past unwillingness even to recognize, let alone devise solutions to, the deep social problems that Chávez has identified. Chávez's government, meanwhile, has undertaken important social programs and launched workers' cooperatives in urban slums.

Venezuela's oil wealth too has made massive expenditures possible providing food, education, and medical care to underserved populations, which have undeniably had some effect. Even the Colombian magazine *Semana*, generally critical of Chávez, named the Venezuelan president "man of the year" for having "modified the political map of the subcontinent, distributed his oil wealth in every direction, challenged the United States, and gone from being perceived as a tropical clown to the Latin American leader with the greatest political influence."

Arguing the other side Whitbeck notes that to his opponents -- the embattled domestic opposition and many in Washington -- Chávez is a power-hungry dictator who disregards the rule of law and the democratic process. He is on a catastrophic course of extending state control over the economy, militarizing politics, eliminating dissent, cozying up to rogue regimes, and carrying out wrong-headed social programs that will set Venezuela back. He is an authoritarian whose vision and policies have no redeeming qualities and a formidable menace to his own people, his Latin American neighbors, and U.S. interests.

Many argue that the "Chávez is good for the poor" hypothesis is inconsistent with the facts. Francisco Rodríguez notes that Chávez's political success does not stem from the achievements of his social programs or from his effectiveness at redistributing wealth. Rather, through a combination of luck and manipulation of the political system, Chávez has faced elections at times of strong economic growth, and

driven by an oil boom bigger than any since the 1970s. Coined as Cháveznomics, the economists Rudiger Dornbusch and Sebastian Edwards have characterized such policies as "the macroeconomics of populism." Populist macroeconomics is invariably characterized by the use of expansionary fiscal and economic policies and an overvalued currency with the intention of accelerating growth and redistribution.

Regardless of whether the conditions of Venezuela's poor have marginally improved or marginally worsened under Chávez, his "Bolivarian Revolution", critics argue, is hardly a sustainable model for Venezuela's or the region's predicament. Its approach is fundamentally clientelistic, perpetuating dependence on state patronage rather than promoting broad-based development. Random land-reform measures and occasional confiscations of private property have had less of an economic than a political and symbolic rationale. Further more Venezuela's oil dependence is cited by the critics as a trend in striking continuity with previous governments, yet another example of Venezuela's "oil curse" undermining sustainable policy.

On the international front Chavez's Firebrand comments have colored his persona in the world arena. He is a staunch Cuban ally and has been a vocal supporter of Iran and Palestine against Israel. In September 2006, Chavez's speech to the United Nations General Assembly, in which

he referred to then US President George W Bush as "the devil", was met with applause. In November 2007 Chavez fell out with Spain after a run-in with King Juan Carlos during the final session of Ibero-American summit in Santiago. Last year however, Chavez congratulated Barack Obama on his election victory and has indicated he is ready to "start a process of rapprochement" with the US.

Chavez's opponents say he has undercut Venezuela's democracy by systematically concentrating power in his own hands. Some of the measures in support of this argument, which Chavez insists are meant only to uphold the laws, include:

- Refusal to renew licenses of dozens of critical radio stations and a television channel. A controversial law punishing journalists for writing 'harmful' material has also been introduced.
- Slashed budgets after opposition candidates captured five governorships and Venezuela's two biggest cities in elections.
- Nearly 400 politicians put under investigation for corruption, hence barred from running for office.

Public opinion despite having declined still depicts substantially high support for the controversial Latin American Leader. According to a recent [Gallup survey](#) President Hugo Chavez's popularity among Venezuelans has waned in recent years. Less than half of Venezuelans (47%) in August 2009 said they

approved of Chavez' job performance however the number is still substantially higher than the 35% who voiced disapproval. Nevertheless the polarity of views both domestically and internationally regarding Hugo Chavez continues to fuel the debate.

.....§
Discussion Question:

In your opinion whose case holds' greater weight, Chavez's proponents or his critics?



Bibliography/Related Links:

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/124232/Chavis-mo-Losing-Steam-Venezuela.aspx>
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chavismo>
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8180109.stm>
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/country_profiles/1229348.stm
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/3517106.stm>
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/7858041.stm>
<http://www.opednews.com/articles/Arthur-Shaw-Why-is-Hugo-C-by-Arthur-Shaw-100103-628.html>
http://www.stratfor.com/analysis/20091213_intelligence_guidance_week_dec_13_2009
http://www.stratfor.com/analysis/20100111_venezuela_upside_devaluation
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/7892196.stm>
<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/world/AP/story/1399092.html>
<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/61703/michael-shifter/in-search-of-hugo-ch%C3%83%C2%A1vez>
<http://74.125.153.132/search?q=cache:Ip5ov0IVpTYJ:www.miamiherald.com/news/world/AP/story/1399092.html+opponents+of+hugo+chavez&cd=8&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=pk>
<http://edition.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/americas/12/03/venezuela.referendum/index.html>
<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/64459/bernardo-alvarez-herrera-and-francisco-rodr%C3%83%C2%ADguez/revolutionary-road>
<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/57418/kurt-weiland/will-chavez-lose-his-luster>
<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/63220/francisco-rodr%C3%83%C2%ADguez/empty-revolution>



Business and Politics in the Muslim World (BPM) refers to a study funded by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, and is conducted at the International Islamic University (IIU), Islamabad.

Principle Investigator- DR. IJAZ SHAFI GILANI



BPM- Business & Politics
 In the Muslim World