



**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 # 5  
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# 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.

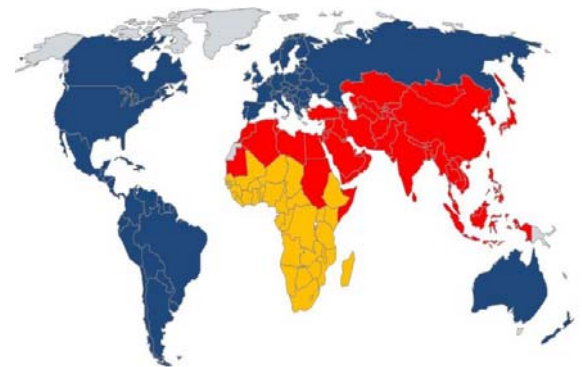
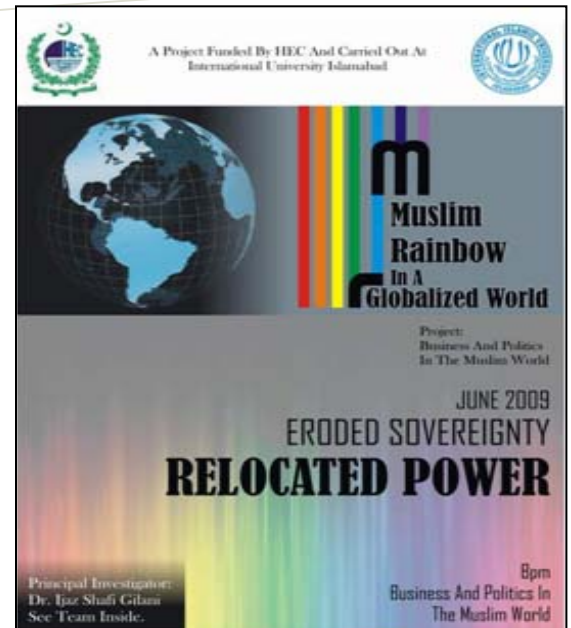
Why should one add another e-letter to many similar exercises already underway? We have pondered this question and here is what we believe to be our possible contribution or *Competitive Advantage*.

- ◆ 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 20 surveys from around the world. 4 of these surveys are multi-country while the rest are national surveys.

Week # 101

### Commentary on Gallopedia Polls

Dated: 2<sup>nd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2010'

President Barack Obama started his second year in office with 50 per cent job approval ratings. Will he be able to improve or maintain his ratings? The second year's start is quite important in the traditions of U.S. political system. President Obama's ratings are only better than President Reagan's (the worst ratings recorded for any U.S. president since Second World War) at the start of his second year in office. Barack Obama has somewhat maintained his popularity among Democrats with some decline in Independents along with a minimal support from Republicans. His support mainly remained high among men below 50 and generally among women across all age groups, but especially under 50. This trend remains reflective of the statistics of his pool of support in the Presidential election.

The 18 percentage point decline in popularity and a rise of 32 percentage points in disapproval is quite alarming in one year. However considering the tumultuous times with two unpopular wars accompanied by a financial crisis and manifesto to bring change tells the story that President Obama actually is walking a tight rope. Crucial decisions about healthcare bill and sending troops to Afghanistan got a mixed review from the public but the economic situation of the country remains a high priority. An improvement on this front might trigger a more positive review in this year. Americans may be concerned about war in Iraq & Afghanistan and terrorism but their most pressing concern continues to be the declining American economy. Americans at present are more concerned with their bread and butter rather than pursuing an aggressive foreign policy agenda. Obama's real test remains the overturning of the US economic slowdown. §



**TZIPI LIVNI - THE WOMAN VYING TO BECOME ISRAEL'S FIRST FEMALE LEADER IN NEARLY 40 YEARS**

**Zone 1  
ASIA**

#### MIDDLE EAST

##### *Governing Likud Keeps Upper Hand in Israel*

Israel's governing party remains the most popular group in the country, according to a poll by Shvakim Panorama released by Israel Radio. A prospective tally of seats shows that the Likud party would get 29 mandates in the next election to the Knesset, unchanged since July.

January 09, 2010

*Israelis Wanted Livni to Join*

#### Government

Many adults in Israel would have welcomed a deal to invite Kadima leader Tzipi Livni into the cabinet, according to a poll by Shvakim Panorama released by Israel Radio. 45.9 per cent of respondents support the proposal put forth by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, while 29.5 per cent oppose it.

January 06, 2010

#### EAST ASIA

##### *Aquino's Son Could Be Next Filipino President*



**SENATOR BENIGNO AQUINO, POPULARLY KNOWN AS NOYNOY AND SON OF FORMER PRESIDENT CORAZON AQUINO**

Benigno Aquino III, the son of former president Corazon Aquino, could win the race to become the next head of state of the Philippines, according to a poll by Social Weather Stations. 59 per cent of respondents think "Noynoy Aquino" should succeed the current president, down one point since September.

January 06, 2010

#### JAPAN & KOREA

##### *Hatoyama Drops Below 50% in Japan*

Public support for the Japanese government dropped considerably last month, according to a poll by Kyodo News. 47.2 per cent of respondents approve of Yukio Hatoyama's cabinet, down 16.5 points since November.

January 07, 2010

#### Zone 2



#### AFRICA

##### *South Africans Condone Zuma's Performance*

Most people in South Africa are satisfied with the leadership of Jacob Zuma, according to a poll by TNS Research Surveys. 58 per cent of respondents approve of their president's performance, up five points since September.

January 08, 2010

#### Zone 3

#### EURO-AMERICAS

#### EAST EUROPE

##### *Few Russians Want a New Stalin in Charge*

Few people in Russia would welcome a leader with the characteristics of former Soviet strongman Josef Stalin,

according to a poll by the All-Russian Public Opinion Research Center. 58 per cent of respondents disagree with the notion that modern Russia needs someone like Stalin, up six points since 2005.

January 04, 2010

**WEST Europe**

***Turkish Cypriots Would Shun Unity in Referendum***



Most people in Turkish Cyprus would not endorse a plan to unify the island with Greek Cyprus, according to a poll by Redborder Research Company. 51.2 per cent of respondents would vote down a proposal resembling the so-called Annan plan, which a majority supported in a 2005 referendum.

January 08, 2010

**NORTH AMERICA**

***Obama Starts 2010 With 50% Approval***

President Barack Obama begins his second year as president with 50% of Americans approving and 44% disapproving of his overall job performance. This is well below the 68% approval rating Obama received in his first few days as president, and matches his average for all of December -- which included many days when public support for him fell slightly below that important symbolic threshold.

January 6, 2010

**LATIN AMERICA**

***Most Argentines Reject Same-Sex***

***Marriage***

Many people in Argentina are against same-sex marriage, according to a poll by Poliarquía Consultores. 60 per cent of respondents disagree with allowing homosexual couples to get married.

January 05, 2010

**AUSTRALASIA**

***A Third of Australians Unhappy with Rudd in 2009***

About one third of people in Australia say the government led by Kevin Rudd underperformed in 2009, according to a poll by Essential Research. 31 per cent of respondents say the prime minister's administration did somewhat worse or much worse than expected last year.

January 07, 2010

**GLOBAL POLLS**

***Three Countries OK with New Airport Scanners***

People in three countries would prefer to go through an airport scanner than to be patted-down by an officer before boarding a flight, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 78 per cent of respondents in the United States, 73 per cent of Britons and 67 per cent of Canadians feel this way.

January 08, 2010

***Few People Expect Legally Binding Climate Deal***

People in three countries hold low expectations on the future of the Copenhagen Accord on climate change, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. Only 19 per cent of respondents in the United States, 16 per cent in Britain and 12 per cent in Canada expect the document to become a legally binding treaty.

January 06, 2010

***Majority of Yemenis See Benefit From Relations With West***

Gallup data reveal the average Yemeni sees greater interaction between the Muslim world and the West as a benefit and views the



quality of this interaction as personally important. This is also true for most of the predominant Muslim countries.

January 08, 2010

***Mixed Expectations For the New Decade by Adults in the Five Largest European Countries and the U.S***

Thinking ahead ten years, pluralities of adults 64 and under in the U.S. (43%) and Spain (41%) as well as 37% of Germans are optimistic about the new decade while 44% of French adults and 36% of Britons are pessimistic. Two in five Italians (41%) are neither optimistic nor pessimistic.

December 30, 2009

***The Western Balkans –a suitable case for “Shock Integration”***

Support for EU accession has remained high in all countries of the region except Croatia. More than half of the people interviewed in the other countries thought that EU membership would be a good thing. In Macedonia and Serbia, however, this share has declined over the past three years. Croats continued to see the EU critically – nearly 4 in 10 thought of EU membership as being neither good nor bad – and a relative majority (43%) would vote against accession in a referendum.

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## Zone 1- *Asia: Summary*

### *Asia, Middle East & North Africa*

#### Zone 1- Asia Summary- Week # 101

##### **TURKEY**

##### **Political Front:**

**Turkish** PM has reiterated his commitment to democratic initiative in order to bring political reforms in his country and to resolve the **Kurdish** issue. Meanwhile the military's involvement in various plots to 'damage' democratic government has deteriorated its position in the country. In this light government has brought constitutional amendment allowing civilian courts to call army officers in the case of breaching law. The President and PM have however opined that that military is a strong institution that demands respect.

##### **Geo-strategic Front:**

**Turkish** Foreign Minister recently paid a visit to **Saudi Arabia**. Meanwhile **Palestinian** President Mahmud Abbass also paid a two-day visit to **Turkey**.

President Mehmet Ali Talat of the **Turkish** Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) has held several talks in Brussels regarding the resolution of the Cyprus issue. Talat also held meetings with the **Turkish** PM regarding the dispute. Meanwhile Greece has alleged **Turkish** fighter violated its air zone.

The **Turkish** President and his Iranian counterpart have reaffirmed their joint stance ruling out a "military solution" as a way to resolve the problems of war-torn Afghanistan. Meanwhile Iran and **Turkey** have established a technical delegation for the development of an industrial zone between the two countries.

**Turkey** has reiterated its support for Palestine and has strongly condemned Israel for deploying its troops in Gaza. At the same time growing **Turkish-Chinese** have also been significant.

As regards the **Turkish** membership in the EU, a split can be observed among various European countries. Germany as well as Belgium's newly appointed prime minister have backed **Turkey's** membership talks with the European Union. Meanwhile Spain has maintained a rigid stance regarding **Turkish** membership of the European Union. Spanish view has become critically important since it currently holds the rotating presidency of the EU.

##### **Social Front:**

Success of Imam-hatip Schools in **Turkey** has led many countries including **Bulgaria, Pakistan** and **Russia** to seek **Turkish** government's assistance in establishing such systems on their home



stead.

Hurriyat Daily's Editor-in-Chief Ozkok resigned from his post for having misread the ongoing situations in the country. Meanwhile a bill has been proposed by Republican People's Party (CHP) to postpone the implementation of a smoking ban in closed areas. Also Pope Benedict XVI has sought more freedom for the Catholic Church in **Turkey**.

##### **Economic Front:**

Despite economic recovery the **Turkish** textile sector still seems to be in doldrums amid 22% decreased exports. Meanwhile the **Turkish** Stock exchange has observed remarkable improvement.

##### **GCC**

##### **Geo-strategic Front:**

**GCC** nations have planned to invest USD 109 billion on rail projects in the next 10 years in order to resolve traffic congestion issues.

**Saudi** King Abdullah held talks with the **Jordanian** King on major regional and international issues. Also **Saudi Arabia** and Turkey have called on Iran to avoid escalating its standoff with the international community over its nuclear program. Meanwhile Hamas' leader Khalid Meshal has asked **Saudi Arabia** to play a special role in **Palestinian** Reconciliation. President of PNA Mahmud Abbass also paid a visit to **Kuwait**.

Pakistan and **Kuwait** Fund for Arab Economic Development have signed a loan agreement amounting to

\$50 million to finance the Reconstruction of Higher Education Institution Project in the earthquake affected areas of **AJK**. **Yemen's** president met a top US general to discuss boosting military cooperation. Meanwhile **Yemeni** Foreign Minister claimed that his country would not allow any foreign intervention in the fight against Al-Qaeda.

**Bahraini** Parliament's speaker has held a meeting with his **Iranian** counterpart. He extended his nation's support for the **Iranian** right to peaceful nuclear technology.

##### **Social Front:**

Last November's floods in **Jeddah** have drastically reduced the prices of property over there. Meanwhile the Labor Ministry of **UAE** has allowed workers to change their employer if he doesn't give them wages for two months. The government has also made tough laws against the consumption and production of tobacco.

World's tallest hotel was opened in **Dubai** on 7 January 2010.

##### **Economic Front:**

The heightened security screening imposed by the **United States** on passengers from 14 countries including **Saudi Arabia** is expected to negatively impact **Saudi-US** trade. Meanwhile **Bahrain's** pharmaceutical market has witnessed sharp decline in the year 2009 due to the global economic downturn. However above 4% growth is expected in the year 2010. According to a new report by the Royal Bank of Scotland Group the **UAE** and **Bahrain** have been added to a list of countries most at risk of suffering a sovereign debt crisis in 2010.

Crumbling economy has caused instability in **Yemen** as a secessionist movement has started in the south while. A Shia rebellion has also started in the Northern part of the country.

The Middle East's first carbon dioxide recovery plant has been opened by **Bahrain's** Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC).

**CENTRAL ASIA****Political Front:**

Municipal elections in **Azerbaijan** observed low turn out as well as some procedural violations, leading to protests in three villages. Meanwhile the **Kyrgyz** opposition leader has alleged government involvement in a recent journalist's murder.

**Tajikistan's** upper chamber of parliament has approved amendments to the country's administrative code and code of civil procedure. Meanwhile Local **Tajik** officials have expressed satisfaction over their success in curtailing the influence of the banned Islamist movement *Hizb ut-Tahrir* in the northern Sughd Province.

**Geo-strategic Front:**

Iranian embassy has announced its plan to introduce visa free travel with **Azerbaijan**.

**Kazakhstan** has acquired the chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) commencing January, 1, 2010.

**Uzbek** government has released two detained **Kyrgyz** border guards. Meanwhile a **Tajik** citizen has been sentenced to 20 years in prison after being convicted of spying for **Uzbekistan**.

The Iranian President held a meeting with his **Tajik** counterpart during his visit to **Tajikistan**. Also Iranian officials have announced to allocate \$5mln in loan for the completion of the construction work of **Tajikistan's** Istiqlol tunnel.

**Social Front:**

A major terrorist attack along



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has held talks with his Tajik counterpart Imamali Rahman



the *Baku-Moscow* railway in Makhachkala has been prevented by FSB. Meanwhile *Sonet-129* by **Azerbaijani** filmmaker has claimed an award at the Golden Net international film festival in *Russia*.

**Economic Front:**

**Azerbaijan** launched its natural gas export to Russia on 1st January 2010. Meanwhile the Central Bank of **Azerbaijan** has announced new record levels of domestic commercial banks' assets - \$13.905 bn on exchange rate as of 1st December 2009.

The size of state social and pension payments have increased in **Kazakhstan**. Meanwhile the Government of **Kyrgyzstan** has announced its plan to build 12 small hydro power plants in the year 2010. As part of the monetary reform, new coins in the denomination of 1 and 2 manat have been put into circulation in **Turkmenistan** starting January 1, 2010. meanwhile the second pipeline from **Turkmenistan** to Iran has been officially launched on 6 January 2010.

**INDIA****Political Front:****National level:**

One of the senior members of BJP Yashwant Sinha who had been previously sidelined because of his confrontational stance with some key figures of the party, has now been offered the chairmanship of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs. Meanwhile BJP's former President Rajnath Singh has asked government to redefine the term 'minorities' in terms of regions in spite of religion.

As far as Telangana dispute is concerned eight parties talks for the

resolution of the issue failed. PM Man Mohan Singh has expressed serious concern regarding growing and declared it a major threat for the stability of the whole region.

**Regional front:**

Governments of Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Orissa have launched operations against Maoist and Naxal rebels, without remarkable success so far. At this critical moment Mamta Banerje has declared government's launched operation against rebels to be a failure.

**Geo-strategic Front:**

India has expressed serious concern over China's arms supply to Pakistan. **India** has also criticized the Gilgit-Baltistan development in Pakistan and has declared the region a part of **Kashmir**.

New Delhi has signed Testtia river agreement with **Dhaka** to resolve water dispute. The government has also asserted that it 'shares a strong bond' with **Afghanistan** and has expressed determination to further strengthen existing ties with **Africa**.

Meanwhile the increasing number of incidents regarding torture and killing of Indian students in Australia has become a serious concern for the government.

**Social Front:**

Man Mohan Singh has expressed dissatisfaction with Copenhagen's Climate Summit saying it failed India's expectations. In the meantime a Cold wave has claimed 125 lives in the country mainly in the northern region and UP.

**Economic Front:**

**Indian** markets experienced a boost as the New Year commenced. In the last quarter of 2009, Indian exports witnessed improvement; domestic demand also helped Indian economy gain stability. Meanwhile in a bid to boost employment, corporate sector in India has decided to train 1.1 lakh jobless youth for 3 to 4 months. Food inflation however has caused a

serious concern for the growing economy.

The Kerala High Court has directed the State government and the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) to ensure that a newly formed banking company, said to be based on Islamic principles, is not allowed to commence its operations until further orders.

## **EAST ASIA**

### **Political Front:**

**Indonesian** President Yodhoyono seems to have lost ground due to corruption allegations against some key figures of his regime. The president has sought help from coalition partners and some have also been involved in the investigation of the Vice President and Finance Minister's involvement in the 6.7-trillion-rupiah (723-million-dollar) rescue of Bank Century in 2008. In **Malaysia** 102 PAS members have recently joined UMNO.

Resignation of the health Minister in **Thailand** has led to what the PM considers a minor reshuffle. Meanwhile **Thailand's** United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD) has announced to launch a new series of protests aimed at toppling the ruling regime.

### **Geo-strategic Front:**

**Cambodian** Administrative Court has ruled against a cabinet resolution approving a **Thai-Cambodian** memorandum of understanding on the listing of Preah Vihear temple as a World Heritage site.

### **Social Front:**

Death toll of bird flu victims in **Indonesia** has reached 134.

Amidst increasing tensions in **Malaysia**, uproar among Muslims over the use of the word Allah by Christians increased over the weekend with the firebombing and vandalizing of several churches. **Malaysia** Foundation has strongly condemned attacks calling it a serious threat to racial harmony in the country.

Tens of thousands of **Filipinos** have been safely evacuated from the shadow of a volcano that began spewing ash and lava. Meanwhile a military commander of **Philippines** has declared Abu Syyaf to be a major threat despite continuous decline in its strength over the years.

### **Economic Front:**

**Indonesian** government expects its economy to grow by 6.6% annually from this year onwards. Meanwhile government has announced to reduce poverty level and to increase jobs in the years to come. Also the **Indonesian** Council of Ulema has asked the government to be more cautious about Halal food while importing it from Newzeland and Western countries. **Cambodian** government too has announced its plan to set up a body to certify Halal food in the country.

**Malaysian** government is keen to attain economic growth of 5% this year surpassing the projection of both IMF & the World Bank. **Malaysia, Thailand** and **Singapore** have also recently signed a Free Trade Agreement with **India** and **South Korea**.

A major source of concern for **Thai** people appears to be economy. A recently held poll by Bangkok University discovered that 39.7 percent of the total 1,123 respondents in Bangkok feared that the country's



economy would not recover. **Thai** government however seems optimistic about their economic recovery after the effectiveness of ASEAN Free Trade Area. Employment conditions in Thailand have remarkably improved aswell. Statistically unemployment in the country stood at 400,000 in December, or 1.1 percent of the working population.

**Philippines** and **Vietnam** have been identified as two of the most potential growth markets for alcoholic drinks. Meanwhile **Laotian** government has made plans to promote agricultural production of Lao people in both dry and rainy seasons, enhance the stabilization of the national macro-economy, increase the stabilization of state administration, and promote energy and mining production by improving its management procedures and mechanisms.

## **CHINA**

### **Political Front:**

Corruption has badly affected **Chinese** image at an international level leading to the government's efforts to deal with the menace. A total of 106,626 officials across **China** were penalized for disciplinary violations from January to November last year.

### **Geo-strategic Front:**

**China** has asked the US to cancel and cease arms deal with **Taiwan**. Meanwhile **China** has extended support for establishing dialogue between the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)** and the **United States**.

**China** has also reiterated its calls for diplomatic efforts on the Iranian nuclear issue as the United States seeks sanctions against Iran. Further more **China** has asked the international community to increase aid and assistance to **Afghanistan**.

**China's** efforts to boost ties with Uruguay, Britain, EU, Mexico, Africa, Singapore, Nigeria, Italy, Chili, Norway, Turkey, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand and Pakistan have been significant.

### **Economic Front:**

**China** has announced to encourage private enterprises to invest in publishing business. A survey by global marketing research firm ACNielsen has indicated remarkable growth in **Chinese** consumer confidence. Meanwhile **Chinese** stock exchange remained fluctuated. Total revenue in **China's** tourism industry is expected to grow 13 percent to hit 1.4 trillion yuan (205 billion U.S. dollars) in 2010, as the country has introduced favorable policies to back the industry.

### **Social Front:**

**China** has declared foreign workers an asset for the country's development. A senior Communist Party of China (CPC) leader called for intensified efforts to enhance media supervision to better channel public opinions and foster healthy social trends. One of the most important developments has been a remarkable decrease in the swine flu. §

# Zone 3- Euro-America: *Transatlantic Community*



**German** Chancellor Angela Merkel

## Zone 3- Euro-Americas Summary Week # 101

### WESTERN EUROPE

A new poll shows that **German** Chancellor Angela Merkel's new center-right government faces wide public dissatisfaction after a stumbling start that has been dominated by squabbling over planned tax cuts. Meanwhile according to an official estimation **German** retail sales fell by around 2.0 percent in 2009 from the previous year, as consumption fared better.

**France** wants to speed up the way it prosecutes genocide and crimes against humanity, creating a special investigative unit in a Paris court as more suspects allegedly linked to *Rwanda's* genocide are turning up in the country. Meanwhile government ministers, intellectuals and activists clashed this week over whether to set quotas to ensure more low-income students attend a handful of "grandes ecoles," university-level institutions seen as the country's premier path to prosperity and power.

In the **UK** two former Labour Cabinet members sent a letter to fellow Labour lawmakers calling for a secret ballot on Brown's leadership, a challenge that exposed a badly divided party months before a national election that polls predict it will lose.

Meanwhile the debate over the use of full body scanners continues in **Britain** where human rights activists are rallying against the technology already being experimented at Manchester Airport. European nations are divided over the issue while the **United States**, **Britain** and the **Netherlands** have already announced plans to install the

scanners amid growing worldwide security concerns.

Residents of an **Italian** town beat with iron bars, shot at and ran over immigrants, wounding nine, in a second night of racially charged violence. The clashes in the southern town of Rosarno, which erupted last week during a protest by mainly African farm laborers, had injured 18 policemen and 19 foreigners in two days.

**Portugal's** parliament passed a bill last week that would make the predominantly Catholic nation the sixth in Europe to permit gay marriage.

The current holder of the rotating EU presidency **Spain** has said that **Greece** should not expect a bailout from the 27-nation bloc and must instead deal with its ailing finances itself. Meanwhile promising to pursue a new deal on global warming through the Group of 20, *Herman van Rompuy*, the new **EU** president, said halting global warming remains a key target for the Europeans whose proposal for ambitious pollution cuts by 2020 found no takers at the December climate conference in *Copenhagen*.

In a sharply worded statement *China* warned the **Swiss** government last week against accepting two Guantanamo inmates belonging to its ethnic minority *Uighurs*, calling them terrorist suspects who should face Chinese justice.

### SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

The **Serbian** government has announced (December 31st) its decision to file a lawsuit against **Croatia** at the



**Israeli** Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman



International Court of Justice (ICJ), claiming that war crimes were committed against **Croatia's** ethnic Serb population between 1991 and 1995.

A new regional structure for **Serbia** became effective on Friday (January 1st), under which the country will be divided into seven statistical units -- *Belgrade, Eastern, Western, Central, Southern and the regions Vojvodina and Kosovo and Metohija*. Also **Serbia** took over the chairmanship of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) for 2010. The agreement, which was signed on December 19th, 2006, unites **Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Montenegro, Croatia, Moldova, Macedonia and Albania**.

**Bosnia and Herzegovina** (BiH) became one of the five new non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for 2010-2011, replacing **Croatia** as a representative of Southeast European countries over the next two years. The remaining four new members are *Brazil, Lebanon, Gabon and Nigeria*.

Meanwhile (BiH) High Representative Valentin Inzko has warned that a referendum proposed by the **Republika Srpska (RS)** government is not within the entity's constitutional authority and violates the *Dayton Peace Agreement*.

**Israeli** Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman has alleged that the Balkans are "the next destination" for al-Qaeda and other Islamic extremist groups, pointing specifically to areas populated by **Bosnians and Albanians**.

**Kosovo's** President Fatmir Sejdiu has asked EULEX

Continued...

(European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo) and the International Civilian Office (ICO) to support authorities in their efforts to dissolve parallel Serb structures in the country.

## US/CANADA

Last week's drone attacks along the *Pakistan-Afghan* border resulted in deaths of seven CIA employees. The deaths are being perceived as a severe blow to the expertise of the CIA.

Meanwhile Hundreds of law enforcement officers are being trained as federal air marshals to ramp up security in the aftermath of the near-catastrophic attempt to blow up an airliner on Christmas Day. Also the most recent estimates of released terror suspects from *Guantanamo* returning to the fight are about one in five, a revelation which is expected to stroke an already fierce debate.

The Obama administration is gearing up for a fresh attempt to re-launch stalled *Israeli-Palestinian* peace talks after the effort hit a dead end last year. In a flurry of meetings in Washington and in European capitals this week and next, senior administration officials will explore new approaches to bringing the two sides together.

In **Canada** the Liberal Party has signaled it would not try to topple the minority Conservative government, despite Prime Minister Stephen Harper's unpopular decision to have Parliament suspended until early March. Meanwhile the recovery in **Canada's** job market stalled in December as employers unexpectedly cut 2,600 jobs



after hefty hiring in November; another sign that the economic revival will be sluggish rather than in leaps and bounds.

## LATIN AMERICA

**Argentina's** government plans construction of a pipeline that would allow more imports of natural gas from **Bolivia** taking it up to around 27.7 million cubic meters per day.

President Lula da Silva's advocacy of truth commission to investigate human rights crimes committed by **Brazil's** military government (1964 to 1985) has been strongly opposed by the nation's



## BRAZIL'S FLOODS

military leaders. **Brazilian** officials announced plans to create the commission late last year, noting that **Chile** and its President Michelle Bachelet had set an example for other South American nations to follow.

At least 19 people have died in **Brazil** after flooding caused by heavy rain.

Turkey and **Brazil** have agreed to implement together an action plan for strategic partnership in the wake of *Turkey-Brazil* relations having improved significantly over the last years in both regional as well as global issues. Meanwhile according to the Industry and Trade Ministry **Brazil's** exports plunged by 22 percent in 2009, after a full decade of record growth, to hit \$152 billion (R1.114 trillion). Also the **Brazilian** government has announced a goal to cut

carbon intensity up to 38.9pc by 2020. The cut will be measured against **Brazil's** average annual emissions between 1996 and 2005.

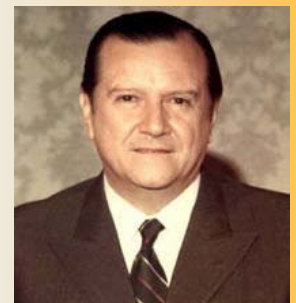
In **Mexico** the capture of a reputed kingpin following the death of his brother has knocked out most of a brutal drug trafficking dynasty after a crackdown on corruption stripped the Beltran Leyva cartel of many snitches within security forces.

In the meanwhile **Mexico** has announced plans for improvement of its government-funded health insurance to cover 10.3 million people, or almost one in every 10, by the end of 2009.

*Dutch* Foreign Minister Maxime Verhagen has dismissed as unfounded **Venezuela's** latest statement accusing the *Netherlands* of helping the *United States* prepare an attack from its islands in the Caribbean. Also the **Venezuelan** government has rejected statements by **Peruvian** President Alan García, according to which the **Bolivian** President Evo Morales is verbally attacking **Peru** following instructions of President Hugo Chávez.

Meanwhile Oil-rich **Venezuela** has ushered in 2010 with new measures rationing electricity use in malls, businesses and billboards, as Hugo Chavez's government aims to save power amid a crippling drought, a move that business leaders warned could worsen **Venezuela's** economic recession.

Rafael Antonio Caldera, who helped establish democracy in **Venezuela**, went on to serve two terms as president and issued the pardon that allowed Hugo Chavez to rise to power, died on Dec. 24, 2009, at age 93. §



RAFAEL ANTONIO CALDERA

## Microscopic Analysis: 'Turkey's Civil Military Relations- An Evolved Paradigm?'

"Due to our old habits, we have been facing difficulties in adapting ourselves to today's laws," President Abdullah Gül said recently upon questions over the ongoing search being conducted by a civilian judge at a military headquarters, for the first time in Turkish history.

In a latest Turkish military scandal the search is in connection with an investigation into an alleged assassination plot against Deputy Prime Minister Bülent Arınç in mid-December. In the wake of this most recent



assassination scandal Turkey's top general said last week that reports of a military plot to undermine the government were part of a smear campaign to divide the armed forces and pledged he would never tolerate coup activities.

The controversy has raised tensions between the military and the AK Party, which has roots in political Islam but also embraces center-right and nationalist forces. In 2001 the AKP was formed under the leadership of Erdogan as a split from the main Islamist party and the "old guard." Along with sharp shifts within the Turkish bourgeoisie in general, the wing with Islamist sympathies had also changed profoundly. The AKP distanced itself from the traditional line of the Turkish Islamist movement known as the "national view" doctrine and adopted a very friendly approach to the West and global finance capital and its policies are reflective of any right-wing party in Turkey.

Since Mustafa Kemal Atatürk founded the modern secular Republic of Turkey in 1923, the Turkish military has perceived itself as the guardian of [Kemalism](#), the official state ideology. The Turkish Armed Forces *TAF* still maintain an important degree of influence over politics and the decision making process regarding issues related to national security, albeit with a decrease in the past decades, via the National Security Council.

The military has had a record of intervening in politics. In 1997 the Turkish

military presented an ultimatum to the Islamist-dominated coalition government ultimately dislodging the ruling regime. This was the fourth military intervention in Turkey since the end of the Second World War. The Turkish military had previously carried out coups in 1960, 1971 and 1980. Where the 1960 and 1971 military coups had institutional reform as their objective, the 1980 action was undertaken to shore up the order created by the earlier interventions. In the course of the military intervention in 1997, General Cevik Bir, the deputy chief of general staff, cynically declared that the aim of the army "was to readjust the balance of democracy."

During the last two decades many bourgeois commentators, including certain sections of the so-called "left," have claimed there is no longer any possibility of a major military intervention in Turkey—either overtly or covertly. Analysts however are divided on this issue. The variables dominating the current political arena are multifarious and unprecedented, Turkey's bid for the EU being a vital point of reference here.

Scandals, controversies and speculations have been at their zenith this past year and so far there is no indication that the tide might ebb. In the last couple of years documents surfaced in the media that indicated that some former commanders led by the commander of the gendarmerie, General Sener Aydin, had planned two separate military coups in 2003 and 2004 under the codenames Sarikiz (Daisy) and



Ayisigi (Moonlight). These however never manifested.

The 'threat' of renewed action by the Turkish military has also come to light in the high-profile court case and investigation into a conspiracy known as Ergenekon, in which a clandestine ultra-nationalist group is charged with attempting to create a chaotic political environment with the aim of triggering a direct military intervention.

Referred to as the concept



of 'Deep state' it is believed to be a group of influential anti-democratic coalitions within the Turkish political system, composed of high-level elements within the intelligence services, Turkish military, security, judiciary, and mafia. The notion of deep state is similar to that of a "state within the state" and in the Turkish case seems to be a social phenomenon, seemingly based on a confluence of fact and conspiracy theories. It is a term widely used to describe renegade members of the security forces said to act outside the law in what they judge to be Turkey's best interests.

The police investigation into Ergenekon was launched in June 2007 after the discovery of stacked away explosives said to be of the same make used by the military. There are also indications that the investigation has managed to link Ergenekon with the two failed military coup attempts devised by military commanders.

On June 12 2009, the liberal left Taraf daily published an unclassified document outlining another covert operation titled "Action Plan against

**Reactionary Forces**" in the context of the Ergenekon case. The alleged action plan was for the military to combat the "reactionary activities" against secularism prepared by senior staff Colonel Dursun Cicek and defined the ruling AKP and the Gulen movement as threats to the secular order in Turkey. The plan outlined various measures to undermine public support for the AKP and advocated a conspiracy against the Gulen movement to present it as an armed criminal group that could be construed as a terrorist organization. Later a report prepared by three experts at the Istanbul Council of Forensic Medicine (ATK) showed that the signature on the original copy belonged to Colonel Cicek, hence dispelling allegations of it being a forgery. However a segment of military officers are reportedly convinced that this is not a plot against the AKP government conducted by the armed forces but rather the reverse.

The government is also investigating another manifestation of the alleged plot by Naval officers under the name '**Operation Cage Action Plan**' aiming to attack non-Muslim minorities to discredit the ruling Islamist-rooted AK Party

The alleged plan, one of several reported in Turkish media, could add to strains between the secularist military and the government. The alleged "Cage Operation Action Plan" involved bomb attacks, kidnappings and assassinations against non-Muslims, which would then be blamed on Islamists. Turkish prosecutors are also currently investigating a separate alleged plot that implicates retired and serving military officers to overthrow the AK Party of Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan.

According to one analyst under the conditions of a global financial and economic meltdown, Turkish society today faces a new acute crisis and conditions of profound instability. Given the extreme divisions and loss of credibility and influence on the part of the "secularist" parties—the once mighty "centre-right" parties have no representation in parliament at the moment—only one force is capable of providing a violent corrective to the AKP government: 'the Turkish military'.

However some analysts observe that the recent uproar has underlined the waning influence of the generals as the Muslim country has pushed liberal reforms aimed at winning membership of the European Union. "The era when the military in Turkey could take charge of the country is over and it has become more answerable to the

public," says Hugh Pope, an author, "There is a readjustment under way in the civilian-military relationship in Turkey,". §

### *Tentative Discussion Question:*

*Which camp of debate are you more inclined towards, those who believe that another Military intervention is eminent in Turkey, or those who believe the Civil Military paradigm has evolved into one that would not tolerate such intervention?*

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**ERGENEKON SUSPECTS AS REPORTED BY THE MEDIA**



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.

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