



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



EUROAMERICAS
 WEST EUROPE; EAST EUROPE; NORTH AMERICA; LATIN AMERICA



GLOBALIZED OPINION...



GLOBALIZED FINANCE...



GLOBALIZED ELECTIONS...

Trial Issue # 5
 Date: 29/1/10

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*.

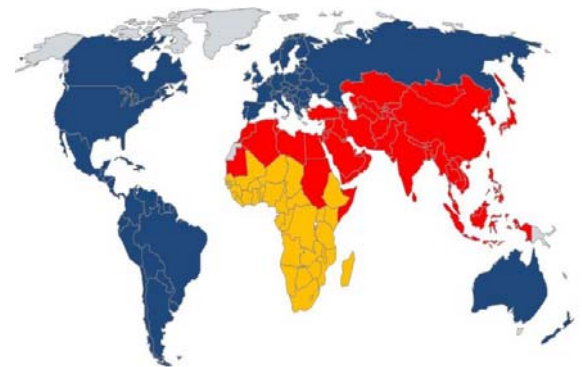
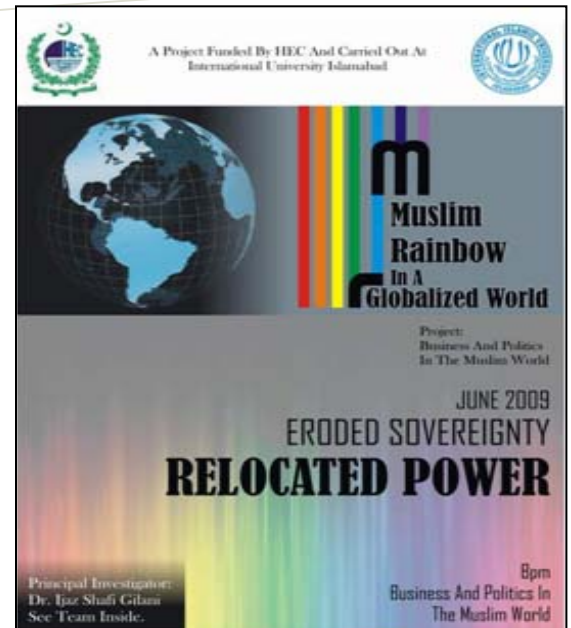
- ◆ We will make the e-letter a multi-layered presentation: in other words Friday on the Facebook will provide clicks to deeper levels of information; for comprehension (Maps and Data) as well as for elaboration



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 '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

Week # 102

Gallopedia Polls

Dated January 10-16, 2010

This week's report consists of 23 surveys including public opinion from across the world on various political, economic and social issues.

Zone 1 ASIA

NORTHEAST ASIA

Less Than a Third in Taiwan Approve of Ma

Taiwanese president Ma Ying-jeou continues to show a dismal rapport with his constituents, according to a poll by Global Views. Only 23.5 per cent of respondents are satisfied with Ma's performance, down 4.8 points since November.

January 11, 2010

Zone 2 AFRICA

Sexist Attitudes Pervasive in South Africa

A fifth of South African men think women belong in the house, according to a poll by Ipsos Markinor. 20 per cent of male respondents, and 14 per cent of women, share this point of view.

January 11, 2010



UKRAINE'S ORANGE REVOLUTIONARIES

Zone 3 EURO-AMERICAS

EAST EUROPE

Ukraine's National Election -- a Problem of Democracy?

Pew Research Center surveys show that Ukrainians are not only disenchanted with their current leadership and economic situation; they are also broadly dissatisfied with the democratic and capitalist

systems that evolved after the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s. In fact, of the former Eastern bloc publics surveyed, Ukrainians are the most unhappy with the transition to democracy and free markets.

January 14, 2010

WEST EUROPE

French Disappointed with National Identity Debate

Half of people in France are dissatisfied with a government initiative to launch a "great debate on the national identity," according to a poll by CSA published in *Le Parisien*. 50 per cent of respondents share this point of view, while 25 per cent say they are content with it.

January 14, 2010

Britons Want Shorter Time Limit for Abortions

Almost half of the population of Britain wants the time limit on abortion to be reduced from the current 24 weeks, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 47 per cent of respondents share this point of view, while 36 per cent would maintain the current limit.

January 14, 2010

Portuguese Split on Same-Sex Marriage



People in Portugal are divided in their opinion of same-sex marriage, according to a poll by Eurosondagem published in *Express*. 49.5 per cent of respondents oppose marriages between people of the same sex, while 45.5 per cent favour them.

January 11, 2010

NORTH AMERICA

Obama Image Unscathed By Terrorism Controversy

In the aftermath of the failed Christmas Day terrorist attack on a Detroit-bound airliner, the government's ratings for reducing the threat of terrorism have slipped. In addition, 33% now say that the ability of terrorists to launch a major attack on the U.S. is greater than it was at the time of 9/11; that is up only slightly from



November but is the highest percentage expressing this view in surveys dating to 2002.

January 14, 2010

U.S. Fear of Terrorism Steady After Foiled Christmas Attack

Gallup polls bracketing the 2009 Christmas Day terror incident -- in which a Nigerian man attempted to explode a bomb hidden under his clothes on a Northwest Airlines flight -- document little change in U.S. public concern about being victimized by terrorism.

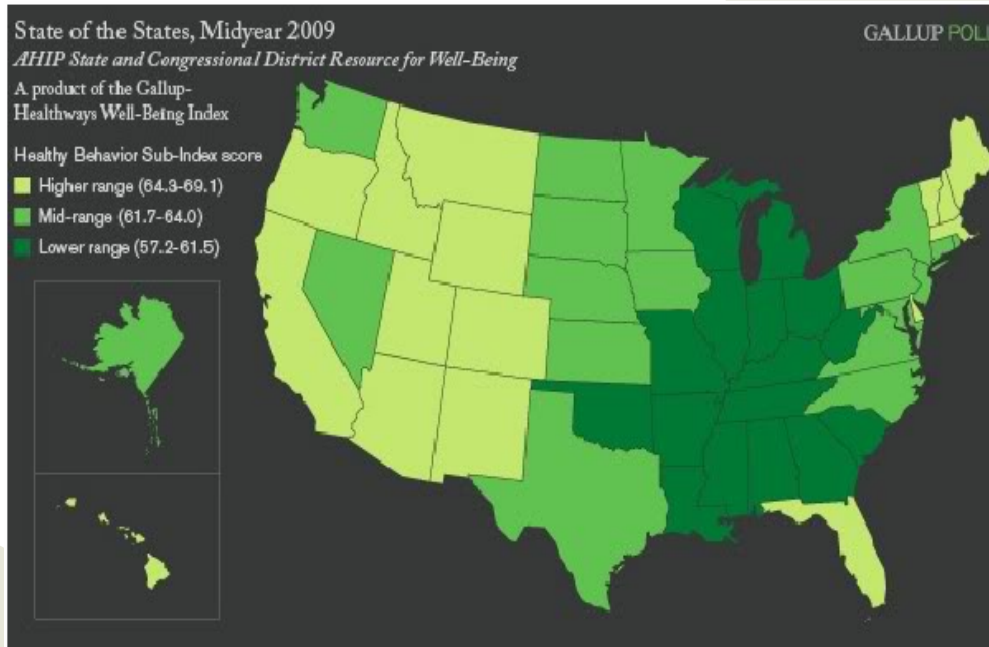
January 13, 2010

In U.S., Air Travelers Take Body Scans in Stride

In the midst of renewed discussion of heightened security measures to

thwart terrorist attacks like the Christmas Day attempt to blow up an airplane over Detroit, 78% of U.S. air travelers approve of U.S. airports' using full body scan imaging on airline passengers.
January 11, 2010

Americans Lose Ground in Most Areas of Well-Being in 2009
 Americans' overall well-being in 2009



precisely matched their overall well-being in 2008, with a Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index composite score of 65.9 for each year. However, how Americans got to that score was considerably different in 2009 than it was in 2008: 2009 scores fell behind for five of the six well-being sub-indexes, but the Life Evaluation Index score improved so much that it offset the declines in the other five areas.
January 14, 2010

Congress and Wall Street Are Blamed the Most for Americans' Current Financial Situation
 A new Harris interactive survey shows that almost three-quarters of Americans (72%) say they blame

Congress for their financial situation while 71% blame Wall Street.
January 06, 2010

Blacks Upbeat about Black Progress, Prospects
 According to a comprehensive new nationwide Pew Research Center survey on race, despite the bad economy, blacks' assessments about the state of black progress in America have improved more

dramatically during the past two years than at any time in the past quarter century.
January 12, 2010

Dissatisfaction with Prorogation Grows in Canada
 More adults in Canada disagree with their federal government's decision to prorogue Parliament, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 61 per cent of respondents share this view, up eight points in a week.
January 15, 2010

LATIN AMERICA
Survey Highlights Haitians' Vulnerability
 The effects of a 7.0-magnitude earthquake would be difficult for

any country to cope with -- but they are likely to be particularly crippling and long-lasting for Haiti, whose residents were already less likely than any other population in the Western Hemisphere to have access to essential goods and services.
January 14, 2010

GLOBAL POLLS

People in Three Countries Think Iran Wants Nukes
 People in three countries believe the Iranian government is attempting to develop nuclear weapons, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 71 per cent of Americans, 66 per cent of Canadians and 63 per cent of Britons agree with this notion.
January 12, 2010

Widespread Anti-Immigrant Sentiment in Italy
 According to Pew Research Center survey, Italians have a very negative view of immigrants. They believe that immigrants are having bad impact on the social and economic life of Italy.
January 12, 2010

Poverty Most Serious World Problem, Says Global Poll
 Extreme poverty is a more serious problem for the world than climate change, terrorism, or the state of the global economy, according to a new annual global poll across 23 countries conducted by Globescan for BBC World Service.
January 17, 2010
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Zone 1- Asia: Summary

Asia, Middle East & North Africa

Week # 102, Dated 09 to 15 January 2010

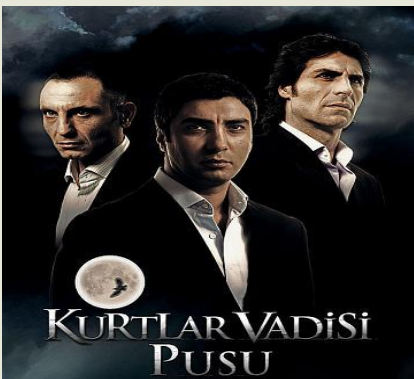
Zone 1- Asia Summary- Week # 102

TURKEY

Political Front: The Government has reiterated its commitment for the democratic initiative. Surveys however have revealed public's hesitation regarding the government's plan to resolve the Kurdish issue via reforms. Serious concerns have been expressed in the wake of new clashes in various cities across the country. Meanwhile Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) leader has reiterated his call for early general elections, claiming that the current government has lost its dynamism and is no longer able to rule the county. All the while a considerable portion of the Turkish nation backs the foreign policy pursued by the Justice and Development Party (AK Party) government.

Geo-strategic Front: Turkey's growing ties with Russia, Pakistan, UAE and Lebanon remained significant. President Mehmet Ali Talat of the **Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC)** and Greek Cypriot leader Demetris Christofias met under a new and intensified stage of negotiations.

Israeli Foreign Ministry expressed uneasiness over a popular **Turkish TV series, "Kurtlar Vadisi"** (The Valley of The Wolves), through diplomatic channels. In the meanwhile **Turkey** strongly condemned Israeli behavior and demanded their apology



letter which was later on submitted by Israel. The Turkish PM also condemned Israel for violation of Lebanese air space.

Turkey and Spain have recently discussed all possible chapters to be opened in the accession negotiations under the Spanish EU Presidency.

Social Front: Roman Catholics have joined an array of sects seeking recognition in **Turkey** in order to have access to rights and protections afforded



to minorities, particularly in the fields of education, charitable organizations and property ownership.

Economic Front: Turkey's unemployment rate declined to 13 percent in the three months through November. Meanwhile hydroelectric power plants have become significant in producing energy from domestic renewable sources and reducing dependence on external and expensive energy.

GCC

Political Front: Yemeni President has offered to open talks with Al-Qaida, given it agrees to lay down arms. Meanwhile a suspected Al-Qaida figure has been killed and four got arrested in a raid on a house. At the same time the **Iranian** President has strongly condemned **Saudi Arabia** for its treatment of **Yemeni** rebels. An influential Muslim scholar has warned the **Yemeni** government that its support for the US war against terrorism would have adverse domestic effects.

Geo-strategic Front A local

Islamic preacher has urged Saudi authorities to explore the prospect of imposing a ban on travel to the United States, if the United States sticks to its decision to undergo an "enhanced screening" of passengers from **Saudi Arabia**. At the same time, the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sent a message to the US administration seeking clarifications regarding the recent US announcement about heightened security checks for **Saudi** passengers. At the same time the **Syrian** President has pledged to work with **Saudi Arabia** to promote reconciliation between various **Palestinian** factions.

The government of **Dubai** has expressed its consent to host headquarters of the UN if it shifts from New York. Meanwhile **Kuwait** seems keen to sign a peaceful energy pact with France.

Social Front: **Saudi Arabia's** Shura Council has passed a legislation to make amendments in the Criminal Procedure Law by which death sentence shall be carried out with a unanimous decision instead of the existing majority vote. Meanwhile **Saudi Arabia's** Human Rights Commission has commended the steps taken by the government to empower women and elevate their position and status in the society. **Kuwaiti** government has also introduced various reforms for their women.

Qatari government has started



investing heavily in promoting research, spending 2.8 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on funding studies in various fields. **Kuwait** has also taken steps to ensure payment of wages to foreign labors.

Economic Front: The **UAE, Oman** and **Bahrain** business confidence levels all declined in the last quarter. According to HSBC's quarterly the index fell from 81.4 to 80.2 between the third and fourth quarters of 2009. **Dubai's** ruler approved the Gulf emirate's 2010 budget with a deficit of 2 percent of gross domestic product, deeper than last year and in line with a budget committee's proposal. **Oman's** gross domestic product (GDP) at current prices declined by 27.4 percent as of the end of the third quarter of 2009 compared to the same period in 2008, new data has showed.

FERTILE CRESCENT

Political Front: The result of **Lebanese** Parliamentary elections has created a situation where Hezbollah would reportedly retain its stockpiles of arms and would have veto power over major government decisions. Meanwhile a national committee has been formed in order to abolish political Sectarianism by building consensus among various **Lebanese** factions. Consensus building however seems to be a tough task. On the basis of 'law of the committee of justice & accountability' government of **Iraq** has barred nearly 500 politicians and



political parties from contesting upcoming national elections. This decision of government has raised criticism within various circles as many parties have threatened to boycott.

Geo-strategic Front: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton urged **Palestinians** and **Israelis** to resume peace talks "without preconditions," backing **Palestinian** aims for a state along the 1967 boundaries. The United States voiced its support for a wall being built by **Egypt** to block a network of tunnels stretching out from the Gaza Strip, arguing it would stop arms smuggling.

Meanwhile **Lebanon** and **Syria** have criticized the tight security screening recently introduced by the United States against travelers from the two Arab nations.

Social Front: **Lebanon** has expressed serious concern regarding climate change.

Economic Front: **Egyptian** tourist industry has been doing well despite economic crisis.

CENTRAL ASIA

Political Front: Government of **Azerbaijan** blocked entry of US and Norwegian embassy officials into a village where locals came in clash with police. Meanwhile Election Commission announced the result of municipal elections and nullified election result in a few of the municipalities. Three organizers of a rally supporting jailed journalists in **Kazakhstan** went on trial; they condemned the

government for being politically motivated. Meanwhile a **Kyrgyz** opposition leader has criticized the United States for not speaking out about media freedom and other rights violations in **Kyrgyzstan**. **Tajik** National TV channel has announced to provide air time to all political parties for pre-election debates.

Geo-strategic Front: Despite the issue of delimitation of Caspian Sea **Azerbaijan** & **Turkmenistan** continue to enjoy cordial ties. **Azerbaijan** suspects **Armenian** involvement in the destruction of **Azerbaijani** cemetery in Gazakh region.

Kazakhstan has formally begun its one-year chairmanship of the *Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)*. Meanwhile, the country has also appointed an ambassador for **Uzbekistan** after 17 months without a diplomat in Tashkent. **Kazakhstan** has angrily denied allegations that it planned to sell uranium ore to Iran. Meanwhile a batch of contraband ammunition has been found in a cargo that has arrived in **Kazakhstan** from the United States.

The Iranian President has hailed the launch of a gas pipeline link to Iran from its energy-rich neighbor **Turkmenistan**. Also **Turkmenistan** has resumed





Turkmen Iran Gas Pipeline

natural gas supply to *Russia*.

Social Front: The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has condemned the prosecution of media activists in **Kazakhstan**. President of **Turkmenistan** has signed a document authorizing the transfer of US \$ 500 thousand as humanitarian assistance for people of Haiti affected by the earthquake. Uzbek President has unveiled a new monument as a replacement for Soviet monuments in downtown Tashkent that were taken down last year.

Economic Front: The State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) has renewed statistical data on **Azerbaijani** oil export via the major pipeline Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC). According to it 2.8 million tons of **Azeri** oil was delivered via BTC to Turkey's Ceyhan port in December 2009. Inflation in **Kazakhstan** amounted to 6.2 percent in 2009. President of **Kyrgyzstan** signed a decree passing control over all economic crimes to the State Financial Police department.

CHINA

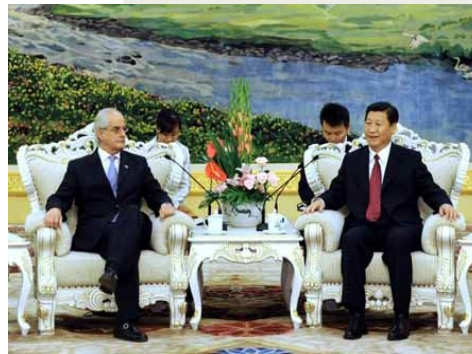
Political Front:

Former general manager of the **China** National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC), has been stripped of his post and his membership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) for "serious violations of the law and breaches of discipline."

Geo-strategic Front: **China** has successfully conducted test on ground-based midcourse missile interception technology within its territory. Meanwhile the United States has announced to issue an official

protest to the **Chinese** government over a major espionage attack targeting Google's computer systems and rights activists' e-mail accounts.

China and *Argentina* have agreed to proceed from a long-term perspective, strengthen high-level exchanges, advance practical cooperation in areas of finance, energy, infrastructure construction, and promote contacts and coordination on such issues as climate change and the reform of international financial system in a bid to elevate bilateral ties to a new level. **Tanzania** has expressed thanks to **China** for the support and assistance to the east African country. Meanwhile **Chinese**



CHINESE VICE PRESIDENT XI JINPING (R, FRONT) MEETS WITH ARGENTINA'S FOREIGN MINISTER JORGE TAIANA (L. FRONT)

growing ties with *Vietnam, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei, Saudi Arabia, Kyrgyzstan, Germany, Japan* and *Europe* also grabbed attention. **China** has also called for improved contacts in order to achieve a peaceful resolution of the Iran nuclear issue.

China and *Russia* also aimed to boost their political ties by arranging more frequent diplomatic exchanges. Meanwhile the US decision to sell arms to **Taiwan** might create tension between US and **China**.

Social Front: **China** has sent relief packages to Haiti in order to assist them in the process of recovery. Meanwhile government of **China** has started taking

quick measures to end corruption. A senior **Chinese** leader has called for deepened reforms and more innovations in the country's arts sector for greater cultural development. Meanwhile **China** has insisted its stand for an open Internet under proper regulation following Google's widely-concerned statement of a possible retreat from the country. Law enforcers in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region have set anti-terrorism as the main task in their work.

China's State Council, or Cabinet, claimed that the so-called "five districts referendum" proposed by some social groups in Hong Kong would violate **China's** Constitution and the region's Basic Law.

Economic Front: **China's** foreign exchange reserves almost hit 2.4 trillion U.S. dollars by the end of 2009, up 23.28 percent year on year. **China** discovered nearly 5 billion tones of iron ore deposits in 2009. Meanwhile **Chinese** shares as well as FDI remained high. **China's** foreign trade in 2009 however dropped 13.9 percent from a year earlier to 2.21 trillion U.S. dollars.

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Zone 3- Euro-America: Transatlantic Community



Week # 102 - Dated January 10-16, 2010
Zone 3- Euro-Americas Summary
Week # 102

WESTERN EUROPE

Britain has ruled out copying the United States by proposing a special tax on banks to recover state funds used to bailout lenders during the financial crisis. Meanwhile the **British** government banned an Islamist group **Islam4UK** on charges of glorifying al-Qaida and having links with terror plots in the UK and abroad.

Oxford, Cambridge and other **British** universities have voiced alarm at the government's plan to cut their funding. Unlike most elite institutions in the United States, Britain's top schools rely almost exclusively on taxpayers; but strapped for cash, the government has slashed its higher education budget by 600 million pounds (nearly \$1 billion) over the next three years.

EU's new commissioner for economic and monetary affairs has ruled out excluding Greece from the **Euro zone**, despite the country's financial crisis. Meanwhile Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou has unveiled a three-year plan to restore financial stability to his economically embattled country.

UN Special Envoy for **Cyprus** Alexander Downer has said that he is satisfied with intensified talks on reunification that began this week between Cypriot President Demetris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat.

A top French lawmaker has submitted a draft law this week

banning Islamic dress (head-to-toe robe and veil) anywhere in public, a measure that would set a European precedent

A deadly shooting rampage against **Togo's** soccer team in Angola has pushed **France** into an awkward position, leading to the opening of a terrorism inquiry into the role of an Angolan separatist that it had been backing for years

Dutch lawmaker Geert Wilders, one of the country's most popular politicians, is due to go on trial in March for allegedly insulting Muslims as a group and inciting hatred and discrimination against them. Meanwhile U.N. human rights officials have voiced concern about **Italy's** deep-rooted racism against migrants following clashes in a southern town between African farm workers, residents and police.

Pope Benedict XVI's planned visit to **Rome's** main synagogue this week has sharply divided Italian Jews. Some are angered by his efforts to push World War II Pope Pius XII towards sainthood who, many believe turned a blind eye to the persecution of Jews during the War.

SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

Montenegro has recently established diplomatic relations with Kosovo while **Mauritania** has become the 65th country to recognize **Kosovo's** independence. Meanwhile the KFOR (**Kosovo** Force) has called the **Serb** parallel structures in **Kosovo** dangerous, and a violation of UN Resolution 1244.



Further more Wolfgang Ischinger, former EU envoy for **Kosovo's** status has said that **Serbia's** membership in the EU will be conditioned on resolving its disagreements with **Kosovo**,

The EU's new Foreign Affairs chief-designate, Catherine Ashton, has called for an effective strategy to overcome the political stalemate in **Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)** while rejecting the idea of holding a referendum on the status of BiH's entities, as requested by **Republika Srpska** Prime Minister Milorad Dodik. Meanwhile President Boris Tadic has said that Croat and Muslim representatives must apologize for war crimes committed against Serbs in the former **Yugoslavia**.

Albania has requested activation of the **European Civil Protections Mechanism** to help it cope with floods caused by torrential rains and melting snows.

US/CANADA

The **US**-based democracy watchdog group **Freedom House** has revealed in its annual survey that for the fourth year in a row, setbacks in political rights and civil liberties in 2009 outweighed improvements of freedoms around the world. The results represent the longest continuous period of decline for global freedom in the nearly 40-year history.

Meanwhile in the US

Continued...

the number of sole breadwinner working moms rose last year to an all-time high, while the number of stay-at-home dads edged higher aswell, in a shift of traditional gender roles caused partly by massive job losses. By the numbers, about 4 percent or 963,000 moms were the only parent in the labor force. The share of fathers as the sole worker was much bigger -- 28.2 percent or 7.3 million -- but still the lowest since 2001. The share of couples who both work stayed the same at 66 percent or 17 million. There were 158,000 stay-at-home dads, up from 140,000 in 2008. Still, the number is less than 1 percent of married couples.

President Barack Obama has slammed Wall Street's "audacity" for fighting a bailout fee he wants to slap on financial firms and said his Republican opponents had sided with big banks. With Obama's popularity hovering around 50 percent and congressional elections in November, analysts comment that the White House wants to cast itself alongside ordinary Americans while branding Republicans as the party for the rich.

According to a recent poll **Canadian** Prime Minister Stephen Harper's decision to suspend Parliament has cost his party its lead in public support, where Harper's Conservatives show 31 percent popular support and the opposition Liberals show 30 percent

LATIN AMERICA

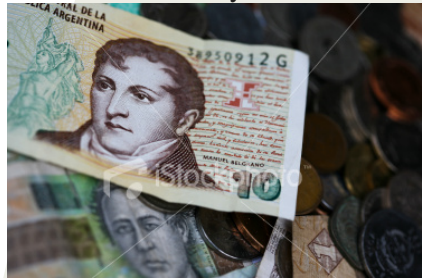
Speculations about the proper tracking of aid money to **Haiti** are on a rise especially since *U.S.*



Venezuela's Mercosur Bid

government auditors pulled out of the country years ago after concerns over kidnappings and other crimes. Meanwhile *France* has suspended expelling illegal immigrants from Haiti in the wake of the disaster.

A judge has ordered **Argentina's** fired Central Bank chief to be restored to his post, a day after President Cristina Fernandez removed him in a bitter fight over control of the bank's reserves. The Bank's Chief reportedly refused to use international reserves to pay the external debt. **Argentina's** stocks, bonds and currency have lost



ground in the wake of the dispute.

Meanwhile Cristina Fernandez has condemned political moves aided by the country's justice sectors to impede the running of her government. The president has also ordered the military to declassify all "dirty war"-related documents.

Brazil's Human Rights Minister Pablo Vanucchi has threatened to resign if the military are successful in changing a bill creating a truth commission to review human rights violations that occurred during **Brazil's** military dictatorship (1964-85).

Meanwhile **Mexican** President Felipe Calderon has declared jobs and reducing poverty his top two priorities in 2010, while

the fight against drug cartels that dominated the first half of his presidency placed third.

Venezuela's hopes of an early inclusion into the Mercosur trading bloc suffered a new blow as Paraguayan Vice President Federico Franco ruled out ratification of the pact while **Venezuelan** President Hugo Chavez 'harbored designs' on the landlocked state.

Also **Venezuela** is at risk of a devastating power collapse as drought pushes water levels precariously low in the country's biggest hydroelectric dam, posing a serious political threat for Hugo Chavez. The President has announced a sharp devaluation of the country's currency, a move that reflects the financial stress faced by his government since the price of oil, the country's top export commodity, fell from its peak as a result of the global financial crisis.

AUSTRALASIA

Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith said Tuesday that ties with India had not been undermined by a series of recent attacks against Indians living in **Australia**. The unsolved stabbing murder of 21-year-old Nitin Garg earlier this month caused anger among Indians in Australia and overseas and prompted India's External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna to suggest it would hurt ties.

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Emerging Trends in a Globalized World (2008-09)

Our search for the Muslim world has brought us to a search for the world as a whole. As one begins to explore the Muslim world it soon becomes a search for the whole world because the Muslim population is so widely dispersed across it. The Muslim world, as we shall soon elaborate, is best explained as a **Rainbow** of nations, races, languages and classes, similar to, but perhaps outshining, other world religions on the trait of diversity. Hence, a study of the Muslim world can be meaningful within a broader study of the world as a whole--it should be a global study.



A New 'Political Map of the 21st Century'

For the purpose of this study we have divided the world into **3 Geographical Zones**: Asia, Africa and Europe-Americas-Australasia. The zones are divided into **10 Regions**: North America, Latin America, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Africa, Middle East and North Africa, West Asia, South Asia, East Asia, and North Asia. There are further divided into **40 sub-regions**.

The three zones of the world are not only unequal in the size of their population but also in their past and current economic conditions. This division is neither fixed nor eclectic to serve all purposes. But for analyzing current social, political and economic developments in the world we find it quite instructive. We would like to explore its

suitability as a new "Political Map of the 21st Century". (The proposed maps are given in the text)

This study is divided into 5 principal chapters. The first three describe and explain recent political and social trends with a focus on 2008-09. The next two take up two aspects of the globalized world, namely global opinion as a new public sphere and global finance as the vanguard of globalization. Our findings are briefly sketched below.

Asia and the Muslim World are restless

We have identified three common trends in Asian politics, economy and society:

The *first* and foremost socio-political trend in Asia is its widespread unrest and instability. But the unrest and instability expresses itself through populist



violence, which is selective and sporadic. This is different from the popular uprisings accompanied by mass demonstrations and revolutionary upheavals in the twentieth century. Instead the unrest in the 21st century has led to either demand for, or holding of elections, and reform of democratic



governments. Violent unrest, on the other hand, is generally associated with situations where a foreign power is involved, such as Iraq, and violence is generally expressed through acts of terrorism.

A *second* trend is Asia is the high economic growth and rapid development. All Regions in Asia have experienced rapid economic growth. That is at least partially responsible for the restlessness identified above. Asia had historically been wealthy and prosperous, but it lost its affluence and glory in the age of industrialization and colonialism. It has been on the path of recovery from the middle of the twentieth century. One region of Asia after another is waking up; it began with Japan, followed by Korea and the so called

Continued...

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Asian Tigers. Others started to 'look East' as a metaphor and it seems that sooner or later the 'catch-up' phenomenon is unfolding everywhere. Lately the trend has been adequately captured by Fareed Zakariya in his influential book "The Post-American World."¹ The trend of economic growth in Asia is intertwined with increasing globalization of economies. Beginning with Japan and continuing through the economic growth of East Asian Tigers, China and India, growth is largely owed to exports as the lead sector. The globalization of western capitalism has both benefited from and triggered this trend.

The *globalization of economies*, combined with liberalization of economic controls has over the years weakened the authority of the traditional state over its citizens. The authority of the traditional state has eroded considerably over the years. While part of the eroded authority was passed on to global businesses and related institutions, another part drained away to the civil society. Thus, despite the fact that globalization has led to growing disparities of income, rising rates of poverty and the



misery of dislocating traditional lifestyles, a majority opinion in Asia looks upon globalization of economies rather favourably. Governments and traditional elites whose authority gets eroded by globalization are skeptical, even critical of globalization. Yet a majority in the population of the same countries expresses a favourable view about economic globalization as they believe that its benefits outweigh its costs for them.*

It is increasingly apparent that globalization of economies spills over to other areas of life. It has led to the emergence of mega states, which foray into acts of regional and global governance and mis-governance. The United States, European Union and NATO are assuming precisely this role.

This leads us to the *third trend* in the Asian regions: The United States is engaged in two active wars in Asia, i.e. in Iraq and Afghanistan. Alongside it is deeply involved in what it describes as the 'war on terror,' which spreads across all regions of Asia. From Philippines through Indonesia, Thailand, South Asia, Central and West Asia and the Gulf, all these Asian regions are struggling to come to grips with globalization of local conflicts and a process through which the world mega-states, led by the United States, are actively involved in them.

To summarize, one year of systematic study of social and political trends all across Asia shows that three trends are present throughout all Asian regions.

These are firstly, the trend of political unrest unleashed by the second trend, namely rapid economic growth, globalization of world economy, erosion of state authority creating a large number of dependent or mini-states on the one hand and a small number of dominating mega-states on the other. The newly emerged mega-states, notably, the United States are thus responsible for introducing the **third** trend, namely, the emergence of high or low intensity global "war on terror" led by the United State of America.

But Asia is vast and populous. It spans more than 60% of the world's population. And as we have explained elsewhere it has at least 16 distinct sub-regions. It is imperative that we look at each sub-region separately as well as analyze the extent to which they conform to the overall trends and the extent to which certain sub-regions have other distinct trends of their own. This led us to develop a new Regional and sub-Regional classification, to which we shall now turn.

For the purposes of this Exercise we have divided Asia into five Regions beginning with the Middle East and the Gulf (*inclusive of North Africa*) in Western most Asia. This region is inhabited overwhelmingly by Arabic speaking people. Moving eastwards we consider Western and Central Asia as another region, constituting 10 countries beginning with Turkey and continuing through Pakistan.

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Together the region constitutes 10 countries which are primarily Turkish and Persian speaking with the exception of Afghanistan where Pushto is used (*in addition to Persian and Turkish*) and Pakistan where an Indic mixture of Turkish and Persian, Urdu has become an independent language in its own right. As we move further east we find the most populous region which includes India and 6 other South Asian nations including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives and Burma. Further to the East are Asian nations constituting Malay (*dominant*) and Chinese languages. In addition, there are Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam/Indo-China. That leaves Northern Asia with China, Japan and the Korean peninsula.

Africa is beginning to confound its stereotype

Africa is a vast and resourceful continent, and its Northern and North-eastern predominantly Arabic speaking part blends in more easily with the Arab Middle East. But even the rest of Africa generally referred to as sub-Saharan Africa is a world of its own, resourceful, resilient and rich in past and present history. It houses 11% of the world's total population, matching the combined population of Western and Eastern Europe. It has a variety of cultures and religions, bringing in different shades of Christianity, Islam and traditional naturalist/animist faiths.

Africa, it seems, suffered the most from modern day colonialism. The



19th and 20th centuries will perhaps be remembered as centuries of sufferings, tragic and turbulent. Modern colonialism was rapid in destroying old cultures without the empathy, time or local acceptability to replace it with alternative syntheses of old and new. Thus the 20th century Africa underwent massive turbulence especially when traditional colonialism experienced its sunset days. Racial wars, class conflict and breakdown of governance combined to make Africa the underclass of the world. As the 20th century closed, the horror stories of a failed state in Rwanda reinforced that image. Yet there were counter-currents. Africa resisted the apartheid and finally won a war against it. That also happened during the closing decade of the 20th century.

At the onset of the 21st century



Africa is undergoing a transformation. *But perhaps images outlast realities.* The stereotypes shaped by the 20th century continue to colour our reading of the 21st century Africa.

As we poured through hundreds of thousands of pages of information and analyses about Africa during the last one year, our image of Africa is shaping up to be more complex, more nuanced and more hopeful about its future.

Two trends stand out in our analysis of Africa:

The first trend suggests a shift in political governance from the 20th century authoritarian politics to democratic regimes. They are often flawed. Yet the direction is unambiguously towards prospects for better governance. During the period of our analysis several national elections were held in Africa. Some were very peaceful and meaningfully democratic. Others were either flawed, farce or even (*partially*) fratricidal. The last would possibly describe several months of tribal violence in Kenya in the aftermath of an election in December 2007. Yet other elections such as in South Africa were reasonably free and fair; these can be considered progress towards better governance. Other elections especially, in Zimbabwe aroused considerable controversy within the country, regionally and in several world forums. It

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dramatized 21st century realities of globalized states, bearing the potential to usher in re-colonization, global governance by distant powers or other more favourable alternatives.

This discuss leads us to the second trend in Africa, a trend that portends greater acceptability of American pre-eminence (*some would term it hegemony*) in global affairs. This trend has been explained in greater detail in the text in Paper # 4.

Europe, Americas and Australasia are struggling with their declining status in the 21st century

Europe and Americas together constitute 25% of the world’s population. But they have a much higher share in the world’s GDP at 59%. For several centuries they have been at the leading

edge of scientific, economic and cultural development in the world. As the new century dawned many believed that it would be an American century. Yet as the century is progressing, this prospect is seen as less probable. While the remaining 75% of the world rises, the comparative advantage of Americas and Europe is beginning to diminish.

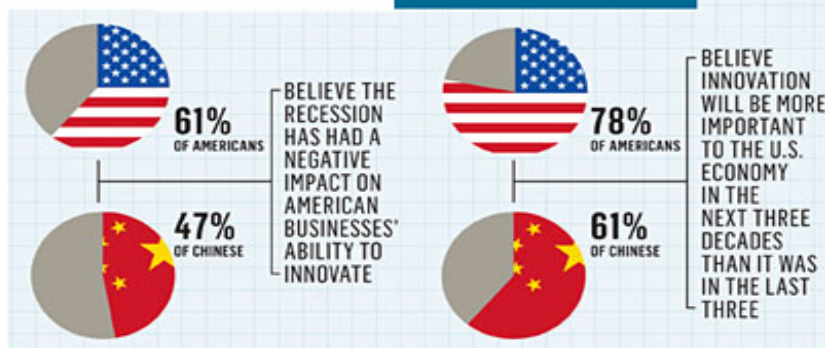
Each of the two components of this quarter of the world is divided into two: America, into North America and Latin America; Europe into West and East. Events in the 20th century produced sharp economic and political cleavages between the two. Those cleavages seem to be healing in the 21st century and the economic disparities between the more prosperous and the left behind parts are diminishing. The two Europes and the two Americas are moving closer to each other in more than one ways. That is the **first trend** we have noticed in our

year long monitoring exercise. In Americas the Latinization of North America and globalization of Southern economies is creating a new mix.

In Europe, East European countries and people are seeking a new identity by its strong urge to enter the European Union, which was initially a Union of West European Nations. In comparison with Americas the question of identity is more important in Europe. This arouses intense debates on integration of populations which are seen as being from outside the Zone. The debates and actions relating to integration of migrant work forces, and entering into regional unions is the **second trend** identified by our year long monitoring. We see this trend strongly linked with the relative homogeneity of this zone compared to the other two. History has made this zone less multi-ethnic or multi-cultural compared to the two other zones.

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The Decline of Western Innovation



By Daniel McGinn | NEWSWEEK

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Principle Investigator- DR. IJAZ SHAFI GILANI



BPM- Business & Politics In the Muslim World