



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 # 6
 Date: 05/02/10

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.

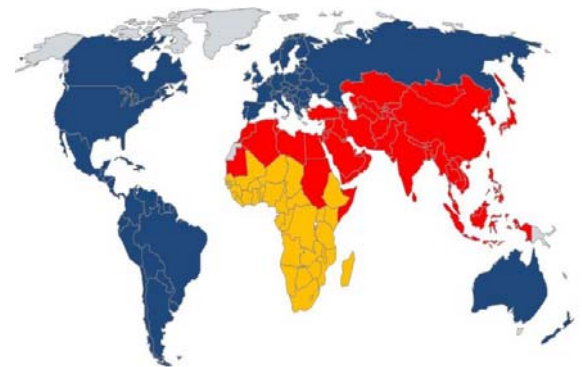
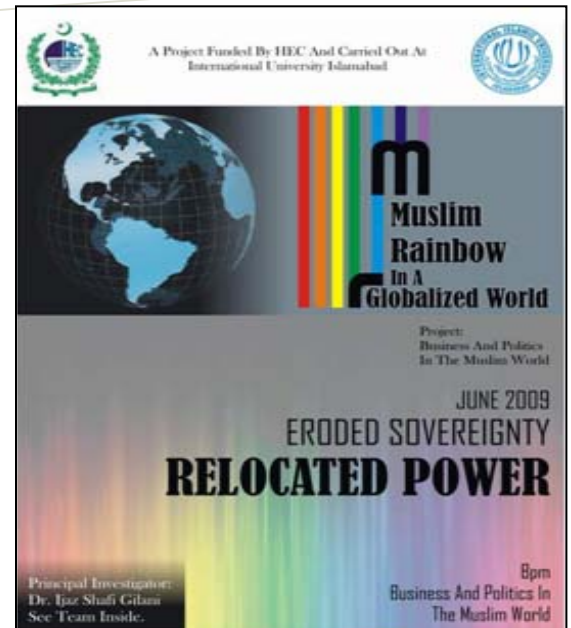
Why should one add another e-letter to many similar exercises already underway? We have pondered this question and here is what we believe to be our possible contribution or *Competitive Advantage*.

- ◆ 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

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

Week # 103

Commentary on Gallopedia Polls

Dated January 17-23, 2010

Many events and statements at the Turkish front in the year 2009 seem to indicate the assumption of a **leadership role in the Muslim world**. Withdrawal of PM Erdogan from Davos on **Palestine issue**, statements over **Iran issue**, active role in **Friends of Pakistan**, efforts to deal with the **Kurd issue**, opening of a new era of **relations with Armenia** and **visits to Muslim countries** all point in this direction. Interestingly according to polls, Erdogan who has been PM since 2003 still enjoys support of the majority of the Turkish citizenship. A majority is backing its leadership. Last week's poll shows that Turks are supportive of PM Erdogan statements regarding the peaceful intent of Iran's nuclear assets. Iranian nuclear issue on the other hand has received criticism not only from the U.S & the west. but also from several Arab states. What are the implications of this dynamic? How likely is it for Turkey to play a role in patching the gulf between Iran & the Arab states and perhaps even the west? Is this a coherent policy issue on part of the Turkish government?

Meanwhile the **Healthcare bill** remained significant on President Obama's agenda in the previous year and he succeeded in getting the bill moved a step ahead to become law though Americans themselves remained divided at best on the issue. At the commencement of the New Year however, this bill has lost public support again. Today more than half of Americans are *in favor of suspending work on the healthcare bill*. Moreover the polls show a sharp divide on this issue between republicans and democrats. Roughly seven in ten Democrats are in favor of going ahead with the bill while nine in ten republicans are in favor of suspending any further work on it. Independents are on the side of Republicans this time. Somehow similar are the approval ratings of President Obama; Democrats are very positive while Republicans are very negative of his performance. President Obama's ratings already destabilized last year, but will he be able to maintain his around 50 percent psychological mark with a new shift in American attitudes. These changes in Americans perceptions at the very beginning of the year show that Obama is going to have a **tough year ahead?**

-----§



Zone 1

ASIA

SOUTH ASIA

Indians Largely Unaware of Climate Change

Although India has emerged as a key player in global climate negotiations, the average Indian remains unaware of climate change. A Gallup survey conducted shortly before the Copenhagen summit last month shows 32% of Indians say

they know at least something about climate change, similar to awareness in previous years.

January 19, 2010

GCC

Saudi Public Backs Iran Sanctions but Split on Military Action

A highly unusual and credible



DESIGN/ISNA

private poll of Saudi citizens taken in late November 2009 by a reputable regional firm shows solid popular support for tough measures against Iran, even though domestic economic issues loom larger in the public's perception.

November 2009

WEST & CENTRAL ASIA

Afghans slightly more pessimistic after the presidential elections

The post Karzai election survey of Afghanistan show that Afghans are slightly more pessimistic about the situation in their country. They believe that security & crime along with unemployment are their highest concerns.

January 19, 2010



Half of Turks Would Vote to Join EU

Half of the population of Turkey would support their country's bid to enter the European Union (EU), according to a poll by MetroPOLL Strategic and Social Research Center. 49.7 per cent of respondents would vote "Yes" in a referendum on accession, while 34.9 per cent would vote against it.

January 21, 2010

JAPAN & KOREA

Trust in Hatoyama Quickly Eroding in Japan

The government led by Japanese prime minister Yukio Hatoyama is rapidly falling out of favour with the public, according to a poll by

Yomiuri. 45 per cent of respondents approve of the performance of Hatoyama's appointed cabinet, down 14 points since December.
January 23, 2010

NORTHEAST ASIA
Chinese Public Opposes Great Firewall

In the land of over 300 million Internet users, and a firewall that controls access to politically sensitive topics, most of the people feel that their government should not be able to limit what they read online.
January 20, 2010

Zone 3
EURO-AMERICAS



EAST EUROPE

Czech Governing Party Stumbles Again

The Czech Republic's governing Civic Democratic Party (ODS) appears to have lost a recent spike in popularity, according to a poll by Median. 23.4 per cent of respondents would vote for the ODS in the next legislative election, down 5.2 points since early November.

January 18, 2010

WEST EUROPE

Italians Want Immigrants to Take Values Test

The vast majority of people in Italy would like all immigrants seeking citizenship to take a test of Italian

civic values, according to a poll by Arnaldo Ferrari Nasi. 80.2 per cent of respondents share this view.
January 20, 2010

Britons Welcome Deal to Hold Leaders Debates

People in Britain are content with the decision to hold televised debates featuring the leaders of the Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 75 per cent of believe the debates are a positive development.
January 18, 2010

NORTH AMERICA

Americans Pick Rights Over Trade with China

People in the United States want their government to take human rights and minority rights into account when it deals with China, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 51 per cent of respondents feel this way, while 21 per cent would prefer to focus on the trading relationship.
January 23, 2010

In U.S., Majority Favors Suspending Work on Healthcare Bill

In the wake of Republican Scott Brown's victory in Tuesday's U.S. Senate election in Massachusetts, the majority of Americans (55%) favor Congress' putting the brakes on its current healthcare reform efforts and considering alternatives that can obtain more Republican support. Four in 10 Americans (39%) would rather have House and Senate Democrats continue to try to pass the bill currently being negotiated in conference committee.
January 22, 2010

New Economics of Marriage: The Rise of Wives

The institution of marriage has

undergone significant changes in recent decades as women have outpaced men in education and earnings growth. These unequal gains have been accompanied by gender role reversals in both the spousal characteristics and the economic benefits of marriage.
January 19, 2010

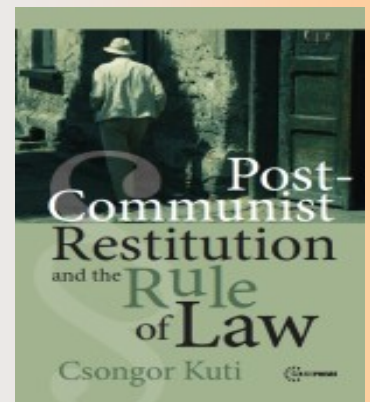
GLOBAL POLLS

Three Countries OK with Haitian Relief Efforts

People in Canada and the United States appear satisfied with the way their respective governments are dealing with the crisis in Haiti, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 60 per cent of respondents in the U.S.—and 52 per cent in Canada—believe their governments are doing the right amount in order to help the victims of the recent earthquake.
January 19, 2010

The Post-Communist Generation in the Former Eastern Bloc

A Pew Global Attitudes survey conducted in fall 2009 finds that members of the post-communist generation, who are now between the ages of 18 and 39, offer much more positive evaluations of the political and economic changes their countries have undergone over the past two decades than do those who were adults when the Iron Curtain fell.
January 20, 2010
.....§



Zone 1- *Asia: Summary*

Asia, Middle East & North Africa

Week # 102, Dated 16 to 22 January 2010

Zone 1- Asia Summary- Week # 103

TURKEY

Political Front: Kurdish and Turkish journalists held a one day meeting to discuss the role of media. Meanwhile Bar associations from 41 cities throughout Turkey met in Diyarbakir over the weekend to discuss the government's democratization initiative and urged the outlawed **Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK)** to withdraw from Turkey and to bring an end to military operations. A recently conducted survey indicates that a considerable part of the Turkish nation believes that a pro-coup formation exists within the military, but a larger part is of the view that the military would not dare to stage a coup d'état. The Military has also denied allegations that they have been involved in planning military coups to topple the government. Meanwhile Turkey's top court has annulled legislation allowing military personnel to be tried by civil courts.

Geo-strategic Front: Turkey had exchanged diplomatic visits with *India, Mauritania, Serbia, Syria and Lebanon*. Turkish-Israeli relations remained strained in the wake of the Israeli complaint against a Turkish drama. Meanwhile Turkey has reiterated its commitment with *Palestine*. Turkish cordial ties with *Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iran, Iraq, US* and the *EU* remained potent as well.

Social Front: A ban on smoking so far seems successful in Turkey.

Meanwhile heavy snow and high speed winds have been affecting Istanbul, causing black outs as well as related natural gas and water outages.

Economic Front: Turkey and Russia have decided to remove a large part of previously erected obstacles against shuttle trade, a modern type of caravan trade which was facing excessive

duties to account for quality regulation and counter an increase in the unregistered economy. Meanwhile Turkish stock exchange remained fluctuating. Despite the Economic Crisis, 2009 proved to be a good year for Turkish tourist industry.

GCC

Geo-strategic Front: Yemeni warplanes struck outside a desert village near the border with Saudi Arabia on



Friday, killing six alleged Al-Qaeda operatives, including the group's top military leader in the country. Meanwhile Yemen has decided not to issue tourist visas on arrival to foreigners in an effort to prevent militants entering the country.

Turkish Premier Recep Tayyip Erdogan visited the headquarters of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Saudi Arabia and expressed his satisfaction over the 57-member group's increasing role on the world stage. Meanwhile a Kuwaiti MP has lashed out at his government after it announced plans to fund the building of a hospital in Basra and homes for Iraqi farmers, charging that it was making "unjustified concessions" to Iraq.

Tehran has said that it is ready to talk with the Kuwaitis on the "thorny" maritime border issue. All the while Gulf countries remained quite active in sending relief packages to the victims of Haiti.

Social Front: The UAE has become a popular destination among

expatriate workers from all over the world as employment prospects in the country have increased by up to 8.3 per cent annually. The Saudi Passport Department has launched a service to enable exit and re-entry visas to be issued online. On another side, in an effort to curb dengue fever from spreading in Jeddah, the local Department of Health Affairs has added pharmacists to its war on dengue.

The Saudi government seems keen to relax regulations governing the marriages between Saudis and non-Saudis. A revised draft law prepared by the Interior Ministry and the Cabinet's Committee of Experts allows government ministers, judges, Shoura members and students on foreign scholarships to marry non-Saudi women. The new law, which replaces the old one issued 38 years ago, is yet to be passed by the Council of Ministers.

Economic Front: Banking sector in Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia has observed remarkable growth. Stock exchange of Qatar, Abu Dhabi and Oman however fell sharply. Meanwhile property market in Qatar also witnessed a downturn. As part of a growing business interest in foreign countries, Kuwait has recently signed two investment projects with Kazakhstan.

FERTILE CRESCENT

Political Front: In Egypt the

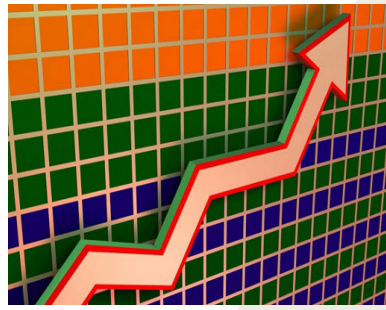


Muslim Brotherhood has elected a new supreme guide, Mohamed Badea' Sami, to head the group's Guidance Office. The list of nearly 500 candidates barred from running in Iraq's upcoming parliamentary poll has yet to be finalized, but it is already fanning sectarian tensions. Failure to implement sufficient electoral reform ahead of the municipal elections is expected to raise tensions among Lebanese voters.

Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas has asked the Obama regime to negotiate final borders of a **Palestinian** state with **Israel**. He further denied any chances of resumption of peace talks without complete freeze of **Israeli** settlements.

Geo-strategic Front: More than 200 **Indonesian** Muslims protested in Jakarta against an underground wall being built to block a network of tunnels crossing **Egypt's** border with the **Gaza Strip**. Meanwhile in **Lebanon** about 200 people took part in a protest near **Egypt's** embassy, accusing Egyptian authorities of acting like an agent of **Israel**. Crowds set fire to US and Israeli flags.

Social Front: Government of **Egypt** has announced to send aid packages to the earthquake victims of **Haiti**. Meanwhile floods in several parts of the country have claimed 15 lives in the past four days and left a trail of destroyed houses in its wake. **Lebanon** also sent relief packages



to Haiti.

Economic Front: Although **Egypt's** GDP growth rate is expected to rise to 5.2 percent in 2010 and 6 percent by 2011, high food imports represent a significant burden on the economy. Meanwhile attempts to boost **Egyptian** exports have long been incorporated into the country's trade strategy, with expanded trade relationships with *the US, China, Russia and India* planned or under implementation. **Iraqi** Kurds have allowed central government to collect royalties of oil exports originating in their region. Figures released by the Directorate of Real Estate indicate that the number of property-sale transactions in **Lebanon** and the value of such transactions witnessed an increase in 2009. At the same time **Lebanese** tourist industry has performed remarkably well.

CENTRAL ASIA

Political Front: **Kazakh** opposition party Azat (Freedom) has requested the OSCE member-states to discuss with Astana the issue of putting opposition representatives on the list of Astana official delegation in the Organization. The **Kyrgyz** Constitutional Court has rejected President Kurmanbek Bakiev's proposal for a still-to-be-created Presidential Council to appoint an interim president in emergencies proclaiming it would strengthen the sitting President.

The son of jailed former **Kyrgyz** Defense Minister has warned to start an opposition

campaign against the government. Meanwhile at least six active members of an 'extremist' religious organization Hizb ut-Tahrir have been arrested in **Kyrgyzstan**.

Election preparations are on the way in **Tajikistan**. **Geo-strategic Front:** The **Azerbaijani** MPs would soon visit the US and would register their protest against the U.S Congress's decision to allocate funds to the **Armenian** community of the **Nagorno-Karabakh**. The United States has urged **Kyrgyzstan** to use its chairmanship of Europe's main security and human rights watchdog, to lead by example and improve its own record. Meanwhile a **Kyrgyz** border guard was shot by **Uzbek** border forces.

The United Nations has wholeheartedly welcomed the position of **Turkmenistan** playing a special role in the process of building peaceful life and socio-economic development in neighboring **Afghanistan**.

Social Front: Human Rights Watch has expressed serious concern regarding violation of rights of *Right defenders* in **Azerbaijan**. A Newspaper editor in Chief has been sentenced for 13 years in **Azerbaijan**. Meanwhile 2010 State's budget has placed special emphasis on social



Nazim Guliyev, founder and editor-in-chief of the Ideal newspaper

spending.

Law enforcement agencies get about 10 thousand domestic violence claims annually in **Kyrgyzstan**. Also the **Tajik** Culture ministry has made plan to tightly control Islamic Study Board in the Republic. **Turkmenistan's** president has ordered the removal of a prominent statue of former dictator Saparmurat Niyazov, in a move to assert his own authority and chip away at the personality cult of his predecessor.

Economic Front: The State Oil Company of **Azerbaijan** (SOCAR) has increased volumes of gas exports, 57.1 percent as compared to 12.1 percent in Nov. Meanwhile SOCAR intends to double gas supply to **Russia** by 2011. A **Kazakh** oil producer half-owned by China's largest oil company; has produced oil and gas equivalent of more than 6 million metric tons last year. **Kyrgyzstan's** gross domestic product (GDP) has increased by 2.3 percent in 2009. Meanwhile **Kyrgyzstan's** international reserve also grew by \$0.3 billion in 2009. **Turkmen** gas supplies to **Russia** since their resumption in January 2010 total 30 million cubic meters a day. Last year inflation remained at 5% in **Tajikistan**.

INDIA

Political Front:

National level: BJP & Leftist Parties have strongly condemned Congress for its inability to control inflation particularly upon food items. As far as insurgencies are concerned; government has decided to launch developmental programs in the effected areas in order to win sympathy of common public. Respective states have also asked the authorities to increase the number of troops to counter insurgents. At the **Kashmiri** front clashes between the freedom fighters and security forces have also been observed.

Regional Front: Amar Singh's

resignation has caused leadership crisis in Samajwadi Party.

Meanwhile Telangana protestors have disrupted the law & order situation of Andhra Pradesh.

Geo-strategic Front: In wake of **Indian** chief of the army staff Deepak Kapoor's statement regarding the ability to launch two front wars against Pakistan and China, the Indian defense ministry and foreign office have been trying to retreat from army chief's stance by saying India wants peace with its neighbors and has no extra territorial ambitions. **Indian** detainee Ajmal Kasab has again denied his involvement in the incident of 26/11. India has also recently signed two pacts of cooperation with



Botswana.

Social Front: Swine flu death toll has reached 1,113 in **India**.

Economic Front: After striving hard against global economic turmoil, **Indian** industries have started recovering. Meanwhile economists expect an increase in GDP this year.

CHINA

Political Front: Senior **Chinese** leader has encouraged judges and judicial workers to improve their work at grass-roots levels in a bid to ensure social justice and the people's legal rights.

Geo-strategic Front: **Chinese** growing ties with *East Asian countries, Japan and Austria*

grabbed attention. **China** has also provided **Pakistan** with security scanners. Meanwhile UN has appreciated China for its assistance for earthquake victims of **Haiti**. Lastly, the Google controversy has caused a strain in **US-China** relations.

Social Front: Signs of expansion of the income gap between **China's** urban and rural residents have emerged amid the official data showing otherwise strong economic growth. Meanwhile five officials have been removed from their posts and deprived of their Party membership for alleged corruption after a probe into a landslide that killed 277 people.

Economic Front: Google has postponed the launch of two mobile phones produced specifically for the **Chinese** market.

China's economy expanded 8.7 percent in 2009 from a year earlier, exceeding the government's annual growth target of 8 percent. The country posted a drastic increase in fixed-asset investment in 2009 as the world's third largest economy aimed to spend more on property, roads and other infrastructures to sustain the economic growth. **China's** industrial added value also rose 11 percent in 2009 from a year earlier. Meanwhile exports in 2009 stood at 1.2 trillion U.S. dollars, down 16 percent from 2008, and imports reached 1.01 trillion U.S. dollars, down 11.2 percent from a year earlier. More than 11 million jobs have also been created.

----- §



Zone 3- Euro-America: *Transatlantic Community*



Week # 103- Dated January 17-23, 2010

Zone 3- Euro-Americas Summary Week # 103

WESTERN EUROPE

The **British** government raised its terror threat assessment last week from "substantial" to "severe", the second-highest level, suggesting an attack on the country is "highly likely".

An official of the watchdog body for **Italy's** judiciary has announced the barring of a judge who refused to hear cases because of the presence of crucifixes in the nation's courtrooms.

The finance ministers of Euro zone nations backed **Greece's** anti-crisis plan last week, but warned that the country must take urgent measures to reduce its public debt and budget deficit.

SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

Romania's EU Agriculture and Rural Development Commissioner-designate Dacian Ciolos was approved unanimously for the post on January 15th after his hearing at the European Parliament (EP) in Brussels. According to data supplied by the EU's statistical office, Romania and **Bulgaria** are among the EU members whose citizens face the highest risk of poverty in the bloc.

Meanwhile the **Romanian** Supreme Defence Council has announced plans to send 600

additional troops to Afghanistan this year, increasing their presence to more than 1,600.

Outgoing **Croatian**

President Stipe Mesic has warned that he would intervene militarily if **Republika Srpska (RS)** tried to secede from Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).

Pristina-based daily Koha Ditore reported that the government and the International Civilian Office (ICO) are intensifying efforts to create a new municipality in northern **Kosovo**. Meanwhile the Montenegrins in Kosovo have demand to be recognized as a national minority and have also sought better diplomatic ties between **Montenegro** and **Kosovo**.

The Council of Europe (CoE) issued a report last week urging an end to the political crisis in **Albania**. The CoE said the contested June 2009 general elections should be investigated, as the opposition, including the Socialist Party (SP), has demanded.

UN war crimes tribunal prosecutors insisted last week that the sentence of former **Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)** Army General Rasim Delic be more than doubled, from three to seven years in prison.

US/CANADA

In the **USA**, Overruling two important precedents about the First Amendment rights of corporations, a bitterly divided Supreme Court ruled last week that the government



may not ban political spending by corporations in candidate elections. The ruling reversed a century-long trend to limit the political muscle of corporations, organized labor and their massive war chests. It also recast the political landscape just as crucial midterm election campaigns are getting under way.

President Barack Obama's administration scrambled to save the nomination of Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke as more opposition emerged from members of the president's own party. This underscores a shift in the political landscape after the loss of a seat in Massachusetts that ended the Senate supermajority for the party.

China has rejected a call by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton for the lifting of restrictions on the Internet in the communist country, denouncing her criticism as false and damaging to bilateral ties.

Meanwhile World markets slipped lower last week, led by bank stocks after President Barack Obama proposed a sweeping overhaul of Wall Street to avert future financial crises. President Barack Obama's plan to limit financial risk-taking is expected to force banks, such as Goldman Sachs (GS.N) or JPMorgan (JPM.N), to shed parts of their



Continued...

private equity operations.

According to the Bank of **Canada**, the nation's economy is on track to recover this year and the outlook has improved since October. Meanwhile according to a recent poll **Canada's** ruling Conservatives are slightly ahead of the main opposition party and an election now would most likely result in deadlock.

LATIN AMERICA

Argentina's Central Bank remains at the center of a worsening row between President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner and the bank governor and now threatens to engulf the Congress and the courts. Last week President Fernandez, the controversial leader accused her own Vice President Julio Cobos of plotting to destabilize **Argentina** and cause the fall of the government to further his own ambition.

Brazil says food prices held inflation at 4.3 percent in 2009, the lowest in three years and below the government's target of 4.5 percent. The chairwoman of the International Olympic Committee's oversight panel has said that Rio de Janeiro is on track to overcome infrastructure and security challenges and deliver a "very good" 2016 Olympics.

Mexico is sending 2,000 police officers to boost security in violence-ridden Ciudad Juarez after human right groups criticized an army-led clampdown against drug gangs in the border city.

Meanwhile the country hosted



a preliminary meeting for the Group of 20 (G20) summit attended by senior officials of G20 foreign ministries.

President Hugo Chavez suspended rolling blackouts in **Venezuela's** capital a day after they began and sacked his electricity minister, saying government officials imposed a rationing plan riddled with mistakes. **Venezuela's** government has imposed blackouts of four hours every other day throughout the country to combat an



energy crisis, which experts say will further jeopardize the country's worsening economy.

President Hugo Chavez has also announced a 25% increase in **Venezuela's** minimum wage to try to blunt the effects of soaring inflation. Last week the government also nationalized a chain of supermarkets controlled by **France's** Casino on charges of price gauging after the government devalued the *bolivar* currency. It has also seized three banks and ordered two other financial institutions closed, as the country reeled from a currency devaluation implemented to improve state finances.

Last week the **Honduran** Congress voted to withdraw from

the **Venezuela**-led trade bloc called the **Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (ALBA)**. **Salvadoran** President Mauricio Funes has also announced this week that his government will not adhere to the ALBA bloc, despite a recent declaration of intention to join. Meanwhile according to **Venezuelan** Finance Minister Ali Rodriguez the ALBA bloc's common currency, an electronic compensation system called the Sucre will be put into use starting this month.

While the Chavez voiced the government's intention to mend ties with the *United States*, the overture was followed last week by accusations that the US was using the earthquake in Haiti as a pretext to occupy the devastated Caribbean country.

The **Venezuelan** government has sent a second humanitarian aid taskforce to Haiti. Meanwhile **Brazilian** efforts in Haiti include the provision of food and water to the devastated region. Also the country's Defense Ministry is studying the possibility of sending additional troops. **Mexican** President Felipe Calderon too has pledged 15 to 20 tons of aid a day in the wake of the crisis.

----- §



Emerging Trends on a Globalized Planet:

A view from the Muslim World

BPM-Global Opinion Trends 07-08

If the world has become a global village and people from all over the world are inter-dependent and inter-connected with each other than it is imperative and very useful to find out what the global opinions are over a range of topics. Polling agencies help to create a 'virtual town hall' where people's opinions are raised. This report identifies trend in polling data for the years 2007-08



Summary of the Global Opinion Report

It's often said nowadays that the world has contracted in to a 'Global Village', but what does this term mean in the specific context of opinion polling? Just like a tight-knit, inter-connected, and interactive village community, the 206 or so odd countries have increasingly become highly inter-dependent and inter-connected with each other. When it comes to global opinions there are certain events, or issues that are of interest for the whole world and everyone has an opinion on them. When people answer the pollsters about these issues, they create a 'virtual town hall' of over six billion people across the world. This is the beginning of a new public sphere for the 21st century, and the global opinion polls are the key tools of the new media required for this new public

sphere.

In this report the whole globe was scanned for public opinion polls from January 2007 to June 2008. Numerous surveys were collected and analyzed, but we have limited our subject to global politics and society. This analysis is based on data collected from 800 polls, asking 14000 questions on broadly 125 subjects. The surveys have been grouped together under 8 headings and a ninth miscellaneous category. Thus this study can be considered a barometer of public opinion during 2007-08. The following four trends were found to be the most prominent:

1. Global disapproval of US led war on terror. The disapproval has not declined since the trend took shape after American interventions in Iraq in 2003.
2. Global approval of democratic



governance. This is a world wide trend across geographic, socio-economic and cultural boundaries.

3. Majority support for globalization at the level of popular opinion, although reservation are expressed in various



segments of opinion in both rich and poor countries.

4. Widespread support for cooperation and co-existence rather than clash and conflict among cultures and civilizations.

Apart from these broad global opinion trends, there were certain regional distinctive trends and patterns. In Africa, the United States and the United Nation enjoy a much greater degree of support and respect than any where else in the world. Africa is considered the most economically backward region, but at the same time its people are the most optimistic about their economic future.

Furthermore, while

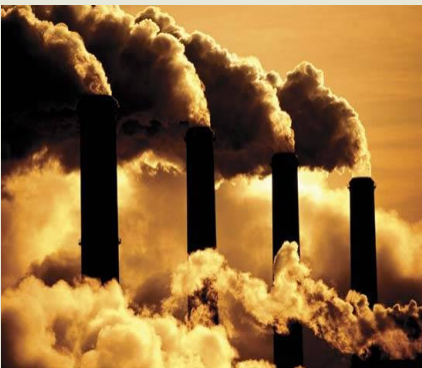
Continued...

Continued...

terrorism is perceived as a major threat in the rest of the world, it is not such a big issue in Africa and instead diseases are considered the biggest threat.

While in the Americas and Western Europe we see a lot of concurrence in opinions with the rest of the world, but there are certain social and ethical issues that are uniquely important specifically to this region. Hence, issues like abortion, gay rights, euthanasia, alcohol, sexual freedoms etc. are issues that are probed in this region, but not very salient in other regions. In Eastern Europe's case the E.U. and support for joining it are major issues that are inquired about in opinion polls.

In Asia it is worth noting that disapproval of the 'War on Terror' is highest than in any other region in the world. The Muslims in Asia feel that this war has been unjust and waged on false pretences, and they, understandably so, feel that only Muslims have become the main focus of this war. This feeling of persecution and disrespect has bred a new trend in the Muslim world, calling for a resurgence of religion and their Muslim identity.



The global opinion trends also show that concerns about the economy and its future were major issues throughout the world. By 2008, with the exception of India and China, the public perception of the state of their national economies had nosedived. Moreover, there seemed to be a majority opinion that there was a need for a change in the global economic and financial structures and processes. People across the world blamed U.S. economic policies for bring about the economic mess and for the increasing poverty, and they espoused that developed countries should be held more accountable for their actions.

There are certain other issues that have grabbed the attention of the global audience, like how the U.S. and E.U. are at loggerheads with Iran over its plan to develop its nuclear capabilities. The general world opinion is negative about Iran's plan to pursue its nuclear plan, but at the same time, Iran isn't perceived to be a great threat to the world's security, not even by the U.S. and Europe. Israel is the only country that is an exception as the opinion there is that Iran is a real security threat.

The environment and global warming has also become a major global issue, and polls show that generally people from all over the globe are concerned about the environment and would like urgent action to be taken to ameliorate the situation. People claim to pay green taxes and protect the environment even at the cost of the economy. Another area of perceived threat is nuclear weaponry; people all over the

world hold the consensus that nuclear weapons should be eliminated.

The Beijing Olympics was also a hot topic for polling in the year 2008, as there were many protests regarding the human rights abuses of China against Tibetans. Generally, the polls showed that global opinion was supportive of China joining the Olympic Games.

Part 2- opinion polling behind the data and trends that we observed in the first part:

This section looks at which areas and subjects were covered by the polls and how their frequency differs in different world regions. Looking at all the 800 surveys done during the time period stated, 148 countries were covered by at least one survey. There were a vast number of topics that were covered by these surveys, but we divide those subjects in to 9 broad categories:

1. **Governance:** This category includes democracy, leadership, government crisis, and economic aspects.
2. **Global Unrest:** This category includes conflicts that are causing unrest in a specific region as well as around the globe, for example the nuclear issue of Iran.
3. **Globalization:** This category includes various aspects of globalization, like free trade, immigration, foreign investment, E.U,

Continued...

Continued...

U.N. etc.

4. **Family & Society:** This category includes issues like family life, family finances, education, gender related issues etc.
5. **Environment:** Issues like climate change, green taxes, pollution, health, energy etc. are included in this category.
6. **U.S. and the American People:** This category has many issues related to the U.S., like its image abroad, its politics, foreign policy, the American people and their values etc.
7. **Emerging Powers:** This area has questions related to the emergence of China, the quality of its products, Russia, future allies and threats etc.
8. **The Resurgence of Religion:** This category deals with issues related to religion, like religion in politics, Muslim identity, extremism, clash of civilizations etc.
9. **Other Issues:** This is a residual category grouping together a number of varied topics, like Olympics 2008, Tony Blair, Armenian genocide, space exploration etc.



frequently included in opinion polls in that region. This information is compiled and presented in Table 1.1, with the subjects presented in descending order for each region from top to bottom:

In Western Europe and Americas ‘Global Unrest’ was the most frequent topic, making this region distinct from all the other regions where Governance was the most frequent subject of opinion polls. In South America even though governance is the top most probed area, different aspects of this subject are asked here than in other regions of the world. Hence, South America is distinctive because here the economic aspects of governance are the most frequently mentioned subject rather than the political aspects of governance, which are the most frequent in other areas.



In West Asia and the Greater Middle East Global unrest in absolute terms was explored the most compared to all other regions, and the ‘areas of unrest’ was also considered a highly important issue. This might be because most of the terrorist attacks, insurgencies and instability is geographically located in this region.

South Asia turned out to be the most unrepresented region in this study, and only a few opinion research agencies were discovered in the region. These agencies themselves primarily, and almost exclusively, focused their attention on India, Pakistan and Bangladesh; thereby other South Asian countries remained almost un-explored.

The world has become increasingly integrated, and events in one part of the world affect all the other parts as well. This new public arena demands tools that help to unearth the global opinion trends about important global issues. This report tries to achieve exactly this goal and highlights some of the major issues that global populations care about. The major world-wide trends show that there is a wide-spread disapproval of the ‘War on Terror’ and as a result the image of U.S. and even the U.N. suffers. Secondly, people all over the world hold the democratic governmental set-up with high regard Thirdly, globalization is generally

The report then looks at different regions and which topics are most

Continued...

perceived as beneficial for countries, but there are some mixed views about this topic. Finally, contrary to Samuel Huntington’s claim that there will be an inevitable clash of civilization accompanying globalization, most people believe that there is no inherent reason for such a clash. They believe that the current unrest and conflict isn’t due to any

religious or cultural reason, but due to economic and political reasons.

Actual nature of the polling activity:

Here we see that there are certain topics that are much more frequently mentioned and of particular interest than others. The subjects are divided in to 9 topics, and we see how each region differs in its area of interests.

Overall, the world faced certain challenges regarding the economy, the environment, political structure and emerging powers and family and morals. In most subject categories we see that, to a large extent, there is a certain concurrence of opinions worldwide. There are a few anomalies and certain distinctive regional traits but, in general, there is a clear indication that in most important issues affecting the globe, the people of the world are more or less united

Table 1.1

The most frequently probed topics in different regions

World	Western Europe and North America	East Europe	South America	Africa	West Asia/Greater middle East	South Asia	East Asia
1. Governance	Global unrest	Governance	Governance	Governance	Governance	Governance	Governance
2. Global Unrest	Governance	Globalization	Globalization	Globalization	Areas of unrest	Globalization	Global unrest
3. Globalization	Globalization	Family & Society	Family & Society	Family & Society	Global Unrest/ Religion	Family & Society	Globalization

Countries that could not be covered by any survey as per available data

1	North Korea	20	Papua New Guinea	40	French Polynesia
2	Bahrain	21	American Samoa	41	Malta
3	Libya	22	Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	42	Luxembourg
4	Oman	23	Northern Mariana Islands	43	Iceland
5	Comoros	24	Maldives	44	Greenland
6	Syrian Arab Republic	25	Bhutan	45	Liechtenstein
7	Djibouti	26	Equatorial Guinea	46	Monaco
8	Qatar	27	Seychelles	47	Netherlands Antilles
9	Somalia	28	Mauritius	48	St. Kitts and Nevis
10	Brunei	29	Gabon	49	St. Lucia
11	Macao, China	30	Cape Verde	50	Grenada
12	Timor-Leste	31	Swaziland	51	Dominica
13	Palau	32	Congo, Rep.	52	Bermuda
14	Marshall Islands	33	Cote d'Ivoire	53	Guam
15	Fiji	34	Lesotho	54	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
16	Samoa	35	Sao Tome and Principe	55	Suriname
17	Tonga	36	Gambia, The	56	Bahamas, The
18	Vanuatu	37	Eritrea	57	Barbados
19	Kiribati	38	Guinea-Bissau	58	Virgin Islands (U.S.)
20	Solomon Islands	39	Mayotte	59	New Caledonia

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