



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...

Friday on the facebook

WEEKLY NEWS MONITOR OF OPINIONS & EVENTS IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

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

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

WELCOME REMARKS

What is FOF?

Dear Colleagues,

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

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

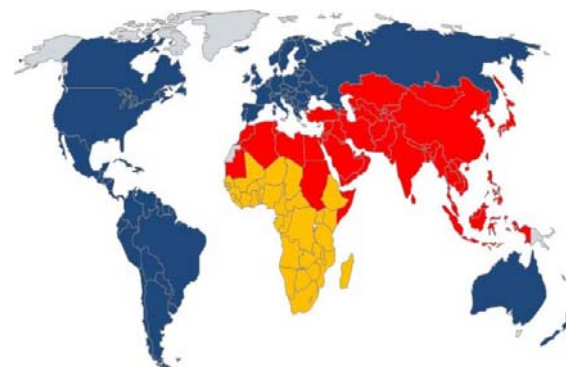
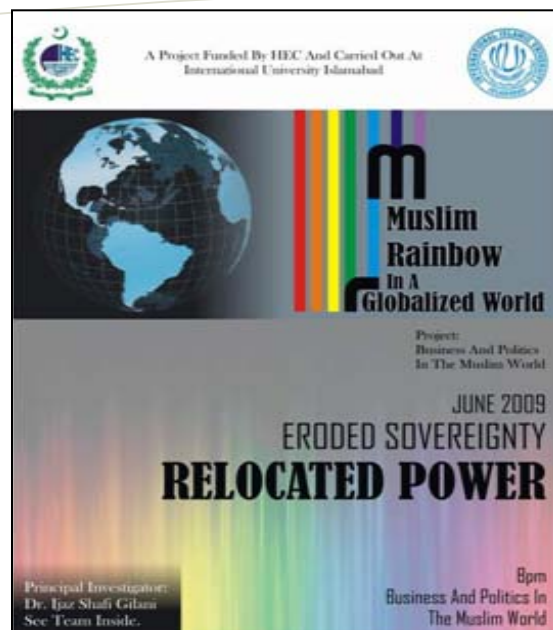
- ◆ We will make the e-letter a multi-layered presentation: in other words Friday on the Facebook will provide clicks to deeper levels of information; for comprehension (Maps and Data) as well as for elaboration



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

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

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



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



Principle Investigator- DR. IJAZ SHAFI GILANI



This week's report consists of 27 surveys. 5 of these surveys is a Global Surveys while the rest are national surveys.

Week # 106

Commentary on Gallopedia Polls

Dated February 06-13, 2010

Changing Times?

On the eve of Valentine day, BBC world service poll of 19 countries brought forward some spectacular findings. Three in ten across the world believe that internet is a good place to find a partner. Surprisingly, the largest numbers of respondents who believe in this usage of internet are from Pakistan (60%) and India (59). The least support for this idea is in U.S, South Korea and Britain.

In general the more developed nations are comparatively less enthusiastic about the usage of internet for finding a spouse while statistics in Pakistan are astoundingly high. Pakistani society is predominantly traditional. One would expect that highest support for this idea in the Muslim world might be in Turkey that touts an advanced and liberal society and yet around 60% there disapprove of the idea.

Thinking of India & Pakistan in a larger context suggests that both share history & to a large extent customs and culture. Both stand unmatched in their support for this idea. Does it mean that this high level of support refers to the changing attitudes of their youth towards their traditional marriage systems? Could it be a reaction to the traditional system? People in the developing countries generally appreciate the change. They attach high hopes with the 'change'. Is it an innovation correspondent to changing times? §



Zone 1
ASIA

MIDDLE EAST

Israelis Turn Frustrated with Netanyahu

The popularity of Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has decreased this year, according to a poll by Dialog published in *Haaretz*. 46 per cent of respondents are dissatisfied with Netanyahu's leadership, while 42 per

cent are satisfied.
February 11, 2010

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japanese Government Stays Below 50% Mark

Yukio Hatoyama's administration has not rebounded from a rapid slump in popularity, according to a poll by Kyodo News. 41.4 per cent of



respondents approve of the current cabinet, while 45.1 per cent disapprove of its work. Responses are practically unchanged since January.

February 11, 2010

Zone 3

EURO-AMERICAS

EAST EUROPE

Russians Say Yanukovich Will Benefit Their Country

People in Russia say Ukrainian president-elect Viktor Yanukovich will serve the interests of their own country, according to a poll by the Russian Public Opinion Research Center. 52 per cent of respondents share this opinion.

February 12, 2010

More Slovenians Content with Government



Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia, Borut Pahor

The popularity of Slovenia's current government has risen considerably this year, according to a poll by Ninamedia. 44.9 per cent of respondents say the work of the current administration has been successful so far, up 9.9 points since December.

February 13, 2010

WEST EUROPE

French Endorse Vote for Non-EU Foreigners

Most French adults think foreigners born in countries not in the European Union (EU) who reside in France should be allowed to vote in local elections, according to a poll by CSA published in *Le Parisien*. 55 per cent of respondents share this view, while 42 per cent disagree.

February 07, 2010

Dutch Divided on Afghanistan Mission

People in the Netherlands are split on their support for the country's military mission in Afghanistan, according to a poll by Maurice de Hond. 49 per cent of respondents endorse the Afghan commitment, whereas 45 per cent do not.

February 08, 2010



Britons Ponder Changing Electoral System

Two-in-five adults in Britain would change the current electoral system, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 40 per cent of respondents would cast a ballot in favour of the alternative vote system in a referendum, while 31 per cent would retain the first past the post approach.

February 07, 2010

NORTH AMERICA

Voters Divided Over Obama vs. Republican Candidate in 2012

Registered voters are about equally divided as to whether they would more likely vote to re-elect Barack Obama in the 2012 presidential election, or vote for the Republican candidate. 44 percent will favor Obama while 42 percent will favor a republican candidate.

February 11, 2010

Americans OK with Openly Gay Soldiers

A proposal to repeal the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy is supported by two-thirds of Americans, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 66 per cent of respondents agree with allowing gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals to serve openly in the U.S. military.

February 13, 2010

LATIN AMERICA

Venezuelans Say Country is on Wrong Track

Most people in Venezuela have a negative perception of the country's state of affairs, according to a poll by Hinterlaces. 61 per cent of respondents say the Venezuela is heading on the wrong direction.

February 10, 2010

Chileans Expect Good Piñera Administration

Most people in Chile expect the government of president-elect Sebastián Piñera to be good, according to a poll by La Tercera. 62 per cent of respondents share high expectations regarding the new president, while 24 per cent think his performance will be just average.

February 09, 2010

GLOBAL POLLS

Americans, Britons Question Iraq War Deadline

Many people in the United States and Britain are skeptical about the scheduled timetable for the end of the Iraq War, according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 31 per cent of respondents in the U.S.—and 21 per cent of respondents in Britain—are very or moderately confident that all U.S. forces will withdraw from Iraq by the end of 2011.

February 09, 2010

Global Perceptions of U.S. Leadership Improve in 2009

Perceptions of U.S. leadership worldwide improved significantly from 2008 to 2009. The U.S.-Global Leadership Project, a partnership between the Meridian International



Center and Gallup, finds that a median of 51% of the world approves of the job performance of the current leadership of the U.S., up from a median of 34% in 2008. February 10, 2010

The centre-right Old dogs and new tricks

"THIS financial crisis", said Daniel Cohn-Bendit in 2008, "is for capitalist neoliberals what Chernobyl was for the nuclear lobby." As the recession began claiming the livelihoods of ordinary workers, other politicians of the left avoided the incendiary glee of the German MEP and former street fighter. Still, many shared his expectation of a popular backlash against their foes on the right.

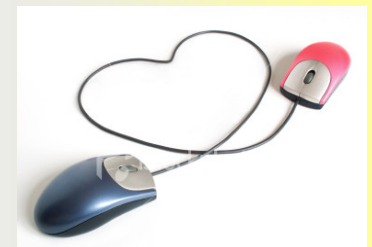
February 11, 2010

New Global Poll Shows Wide Enthusiasm for Online Dating

As Valentine's Day approaches, a new BBC World Service global poll shows that almost one in three (30%) web users regard the Internet as a good place to find a boyfriend or girlfriend.

February 13, 2010

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Zone 1- Asia Summary- Week # 106

GCC

Political Front: **Yemeni** President has issued a directive on cessation of hostilities against the Shi'ite *Houthi* rebels in the northwestern part of the country.

Geo-strategic Front: **GCC** and **EU** officials held a meeting to discuss ways of activating cooperation. Meanwhile **GCC** Secretary General has categorically rejected the International Criminal Court's (ICC) charges of genocide against **Sudanese** President *Omar Al-Bashir*.

Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister **Danny Ayalon** has denied apologizing to a senior **Saudi** diplomat before a rare public handshake between officials of the two states. Meanwhile UAE's police Chief has expressed the intention of seeking arrest of **Israeli** PM if evidence of Mossad's involvement in the killing of a senior Hamas official is found.

Social Front: *Human Rights Watch* has accused **Bahrain** of torturing detainees saying that prisoners in three cases mostly linked to protests in 2007 and 2008 in Shi'ite Muslim villages had been beaten and abused during interrogations. In response **Bahrain** has promised to investigate the situation.

Kuwait has reiterated its commitment to international Human Rights Legislation. All the while **Bangladeshi** PM during her visit to **Kuwait** stressed greatly on the need to strengthen ties between the two countries.

Economic Front: Bad managers, lack of adequate investment in scientific and technological research initiatives, near-absence of technical and vocational training for local manpower and the private sector ignoring manufacturing ventures have been identified as major challenges in steering the **Gulf** economies

away from their dependence on hydrocarbon resources. In addition to this **Saudi Arabia's** defense ministry would for the first time allow local firms to bid to supply basic materials excluding arms, with the long-term goal of encouraging a domestic military industry.

Massive renewable energy projects undertaken by the **UAE** and other Middle Eastern countries are expected to turn them into solar energy exporters along with their large hydrocarbon exports. Meanwhile **Saudi** *Armco* has concluded supply deals to purchase up to 7.14 million barrels of gas oil for delivery in 2010 from private trading firms and international oil companies.

Oman and **Iran** signed the minutes of the consultative meeting of the Joint Technical Committee regarding implementation of memorandum of understanding on tourism.

FERTILE CRESCENT



Political Front: Amnesty International has condemned **Egyptian** government for launching a crack down against its main opposition group, the *Muslim Brotherhood*.

The **Lebanese** Cabinet approved the adoption of pre-printed ballots in the upcoming municipal elections scheduled for June but ministers have failed to reach an agreement over other disputed reforms. Meanwhile a discussion is to start over a bill presented in **Israeli** legislature by *Yisrael Party* allowing expatriates to vote in elections. *Likud Party* however opposes the bill.

The campaign for **Iraq's** parliamentary elections has officially started amid a continuing controversy over a ban on scores of candidates. Many of those on the blacklist were banned for links to the Ba'ath party of former **Iraqi** leader **Saddam Hussein**. The ban has raised tensions between *Sunni* and *Shi'ite Muslims*.

Social Front: **Egypt** has offered soft loans and other incentives to encourage polluters to clean up. Meanwhile the **Lebanese** government is making plans to cope with natural disasters that have plagued the nation this past year.

Economic Front: **Egypt's** economy recorded its fastest growth in more than a year in the fourth quarter, boosted by tourism, construction and manufacturing, Economic Development. Meanwhile an agreement changing the price of **Egyptian** natural gas exports to the *Israel Electric Corporation (IEC)* signifying a 45 percent rise has come into force.

The Institute of International Finance (IIF) revised its estimate for economic growth in **Lebanon** to 8.7 percent in 2009. **Lebanon** has enjoyed a surprisingly countercyclical growth pattern, as its economy grew faster than *China* and *India* last year.

Iraq has urged **Iran** to implement a memorandum of understanding under which **Iranian** firms are required to implement big housing and construction projects in the country.

CENTRAL ASIA

Political Front: About 1,000 protesters gathered in a southern **Kyrgyz** village to demand the release of former *Defense Minister Ismail Isakov*. Meanwhile registration for **Tajikistan's** parliamentary elections has ended, with 150 candidates officially allowed to run.

Geo-strategic Front: **Azeri** President, during his visit to Germany, held meeting with *Turkish* Foreign Minister. *Turkish* Foreign Minister also paid visit to **Kazakhstan**. Meanwhile the **Israeli** Foreign Minister started a three day visit to **Azerbaijan**. **Turkmen** President too paid visit to *France* despite strong criticism from Rights groups.

Korea has announced to provide US\$12 million in aid to **Uzbekistan** this year in line with its effort to boost the two countries' strategic partnership.

Kazakh government has been struggling to get its airlines removed from the EU Blacklist. Meanwhile about 150



Continued...

Afghans imprisoned in **Tajikistan** have been transferred to Afghan officials.

Social Front: An **Azerbaijani** parliamentary committee has started working on a draft law on the de-*Russification* of **Azeri** last names. Meanwhile a **Kazakh** court has struck down a ruling blocking the press from printing potentially damaging material about the president's son-in-law.

A group of women engaged in recruitment for *Hizb ut-Tahrir* have been arrested in Bishkek, **Kyrgyzstan**. Meanwhile **Tajikistan's** Supreme Court has sentenced a suspected Al-Qaeda member to eight years in jail. Also the activities of a *Baptist Church* in **Tajikistan** were suspended following failure to register with the government.

An **Uzbek** photographer and film director was found guilty by a *Tashkent* court of portraying her country as "backward" in a collection of photographs and a documentary depicting the daily struggles of people in rural **Uzbekistan**. Some 20 supporters of the photographer held a rally outside the **Uzbek** Embassy in Moscow.

Economic Front: The SOCAR, **Azerbaijan's** state-run oil firm, has built a gas pipeline to the Lanchkhuti region of **Georgia**. Having become one of the largest (16.81%) shareholders in the *North-Caspian project*, **Kazakhstan** has started taking greater interest in its development and costs.

Uzbekistan has cut off natural gas import to the south region of **Kyrgyzstan**. Also only **Uzbekistan** has a higher index due to a 28.3% increase of investments inflow in 2009. Meanwhile the volume of investments in fixed capital in **Kyrgyzstan** has grown up by 19.7% in 2009.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has completed its microfinance systems development program in **Tajikistan**, facilitating the development of a vibrant and growing microfinance industry in the country. Meanwhile **Turkmenistan** and **UAE** have signed an agreement to enhance cooperation. Also last year's trade turnover between **Turkmenistan** and *Russia* amounted to US \$ 1,247 billion (excluding deliveries of natural gas), including exports to *Russia* totaling U.S. \$ 51 million, and imports to **Turkmenistan** totaling US \$ 196 million.

INDIA



Political Front: Rahul Gandhi has appealed for public mobilization against extremist policies of *Shiv Sena*. Meanwhile BJP has welcomed the judgment of the Andhra Pradesh High Court invalidating State legislation on reservation for minorities.

The Left Front government in *West Bengal* has announced the implementation of the *Ranganath Mishra Commission's* recommendations by deciding to reserve 10 per cent of government jobs for the economically, educationally and socially backward sections among Muslims.

Maoists blasted railway tracks and a train in *Orissa* and *Bihar*. Meanwhile the Maoists government of *Jharkhand* has demanded an end to deprivation to deal with insurgencies.

Geo-strategic Front: **India** has successfully test-fired its nuclear-capable *Agni-III* ballistic missile, with a range of more than 3,000 km. Meanwhile *Pakistan* has accepted **India's** proposal for negotiations without any preconditions.

Social Front: According to UNESCO **India** figures among the four countries that have seen a marked increase in systematic attacks on schools, students and teachers between 2006 and 2009. In **India**, nearly 300 schools were reportedly blown up by *Maoists* in this span.

Economic Front: Despite claims of having survived the economic crisis unscratched, some reports clearly indicate that poverty has increased in **India**. Job losses in **India** were primarily in export-oriented industries.

The *Orissa* government has refused to accept any financial assistance from the



European Union for rehabilitation of victims of *Kandhamal* riot.

CHINA

Political Front: Senior **Chinese** leader He Guoqiang has stressed the country's determination and efforts in fighting corruption in a lengthy report published recently.

Geo-strategic Front: **Chinese** PM has urged enhanced mutual trust and cooperation with *Japan*. Meanwhile **China** intends to strengthen ties with *India, South Korea, Nepal, Kazakhstan, Cambodia, Ukraine, Nigeria, Australia, Costa Rica* and the *US*.

China has called for increased diplomatic efforts and an early agreement for an internationally-backed nuclear fuel proposal for *Tehran* following its higher-grade *uranium* enrichment program.

Despite strong opposition from *China* the *US* President has announced his plan to meet the *Dalai Lama*.

Social Front: **China** has published Chairman Mao Ze dong's manuscripts on military theory and strategies and national defense, parts of which were made public for the first time. Meanwhile the country's drive to curb overseas trips by officials using public money has produced significant results.

China's top political advisor Jia Qinglin has urged religious groups in the country to pool the wisdom and strength of believers to explore ways of helping promote economic and social development.

China's central government has earmarked 3.17 billion Yuan (463.9 million U.S. dollars) to cover tuition fees of city-born children in primary and junior high schools nationwide. Meanwhile central government has allocated 37.2 billion Yuan (5.45 billion U.S. dollars) to subsidize nationwide medical reforms.

The *Islamic Party of Turkestan* (IPT), and *Uighur jihadist organization*, released a video on February 10, 2010 claiming responsibility for a number of attacks in **China** last year.

Economic Front: A top **Chinese** think tank forecasted the nation's economy would experience a mild rebound this year, with gross domestic product expanding around 10 percent year on year. Meanwhile production of 68 **Chinese** large and medium steel and iron industries has observed sharp decline. All the while its auto sales doubled in

January.

Taiwan's January exports to the Chinese mainland reached 9.54 billion U.S. dollars, the highest figure in 17 months. Meanwhile Saudi Arabia, Iran and Angola remained the top three oil suppliers to China. Last week the Stock exchange of China as well as Hong Kong witnessed a remarkable boost.

EAST ASIA

Political Front: Indonesians have started looking for mature democracy in their country amidst various reforms being introduced by the government.

Thai opposition's inability to avoid political crisis in their controlled states has clearly evinced weakness. Meanwhile an anti-government group in the country has started mobilizing masses to launch demonstrations later this month.

Geo-strategic Front: Cambodia has hit out at Google over what it called a "radically misleading" map of the disputed Thai-Cambodia border, accusing the world's biggest search engine of being "professionally irresponsible".

Economic Front: Indonesia remained at the top in terms of its economic growth in the region in the last quarter of the year 2009. Meanwhile inflation in Philippines has increased remarkably.

Officials from Cambodia and Laos have expressed positive hopes regarding improvement of bilateral trade. §

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Zone 2- Africa: Summary

Week # 106; Dated 7 to 13 February 2010



GOODLUCK JONATHAN

POLITICS OF SECURITY AND CONFLICT ISSUES

West Africa: Nigerian Vice President Goodluck Jonathan assumed office as acting president last week as President Umaru Yar'Adua's 10-week hospitalization in Saudi Arabia has sparked political turmoil at home.

In Côte d'Ivoire demonstrators went on a rampage last week, burning down a sub-prefecture building in protest at the possible striking off of the electoral roll of people of foreign descent. Following the crisis President Laurent Gbagbo dissolved the government and dismissed the electoral commission.

Last week's clashes between Christians and Muslims in eastern Guinea have left one person dead and two missing. Meanwhile following the exile of former junta leader, Guinea's interim president has named a union leader to head a council charged with managing a transition from military to civilian

rule.

Mali has announced that it will not give in to demands from al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) to free Islamist radicals held in its prisons in exchange for a French hostage as the French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner arrived unexpectedly in Mali a week ahead of the deadline set by the group. Meanwhile two Malian negotiators met leaders of al-Qaeda last week in a bid to free six European hostages.

Central Africa: The United States Ambassador-at-large for War Crimes, Stephen Rapp, has said that his office has intelligence reports confirming that the alleged financier of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, Felicien Kabuga is still in Kenya. Meanwhile in Rwanda visiting United Nations Police Commissioner General, Ann-Marie Orlor, has urged the government to contribute more police personnel for UN peacekeeping missions.

Idriss Deby, Chad's president visited Sudan in a thaw in relations that deteriorated in 2008 amidst accusations against both sides of supporting anti government fighters.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL ISSUES IN DOMESTIC POLITICS

West Africa: Liberia's ex-information minister Laurence Bropleh has been charged with corruption after being accused



MAMADOU TANDJA, NIGER'S OUSTED PRESIDENT

of pocketing the salaries of fictional employees.

Talks between Niger's government and the opposition to end a political crisis were suspended last week.

After 18 years of successful multi-party democracy, Ghanaians are bracing themselves to review the Fourth Republican Constitution. Following cabinet's approval of a memorandum on the consultative review, government has established an independent body to spearhead the process.

The Nigerian government has ordered investigation into a video clip aired on Al-Jazeera, showing extra judicial killings of defenseless cripples and underage citizens by the Nigeria Police Force, during the Boko Haram sectarian violence in Borno State, last year.

With 7.8 million people in Niger - or three fifths of the population - facing moderate to severe food insecurity, the United Nations has appealed for international aid to help the impoverished nation.

South Africa: Following the scandal regarding Jacob Zuma's adulterous relationship, the South African president



has issued a public apology. Zuma's state of the nation speech last week was overshadowed by the scandal.

According to a new report from the *South African* Institute of Race Relations, violent crime is not necessarily linked to high poverty rates.

As *Zimbabwe's* Unity Government marked a shaky first year in power, former opposition party the MDC says that fresh elections may need to be called as political parties have failed to resolve their deadlock.

A case involving U.S.-based multinational companies and *South African* victims of apartheid is making its way through the U.S. court system. The claims totaling hundreds of billions of dollars allege the multinationals helped the pre-1994 racist apartheid government perpetuate human rights abuses.

Meanwhile *Zimbabwe's* unity government has been plunged into another crisis as new regulations designed by President Robert Mugabe's loyalists demand that 51 percent of all companies be given to blacks.

A study done by MISA-*Mozambique* on behalf of UNESCO on media development in has found that Mozambique has a political and legal framework favorable to freedom of expression, pluralism, and diversity in the media. However, constraints still persist in the practical application of media-friendly laws and policies. For example all print media in *Mozambique* operates exclusively in *Portuguese* and are thus not accessible to the majority of the population.

Malawi introduced free basic education in 1994, and the number of pupils enrolled in primary schools rose from 1.9 to 3.2 million; how ever current figures from the ministry of education indicate that up to 20 percent of children aged between six and

13 still do not attend primary school.

Central Africa: In Rwanda Joseph Ntawangundi, an assistant to presidential aspirant Victoire Ingabire Umuhiza has been arrested against charges of genocide. Meanwhile Human rights reports that in advance of *Rwanda's* August 2010 presidential election opposition party members are facing increasing threats, attacks, and harassment.

In the *Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)* internally displaced people (IDPs) are still being abducted by armed groups for forced labor in several territories in North Kivu Province, even as authorities beef up security in IDP camps. Eight months after the end of joint military operations by (*DRC*) and *Uganda*, many parts of *Oriental* Province, in northeastern DRC, are still in turmoil. Meanwhile in the western Equateur Province, parents are keeping children at home amid security fears.

According to fresh estimates released by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) the number of women raped in eastern *Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)*, where sexual violence committed by warring factions has reached endemic proportions, topped 8,000 last year.

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND DOMESTIC POLITICS

South Africa: *South Africa* and Australia have signed an agreement that will frame future bilateral cooperation on climate change issues.

Central Africa: In *Rwanda* the Environment Management Committees at the sector levels have been tasked to become vigilant in curbing down activities leading to environmental destruction.

POLITICAL ECONOMY



West Africa: A United Nations Panel of Expert has indicted *Liberia* for 'abuse of internal control' for failing to comply in the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification (KPC) system accusing it of exporting diamond valued over US\$7.4m.

In line with efforts to meet its last quarter of 2010 time line to start pouring *Ghana's* first commercial oil from the jubilee fields, Tullow Ghana Limited has began the installation of a number of sub sea equipment required for siphoning oil from under the seabed.

South Africa: Last week *Southern African* parliament ratified an agreement of the International Monetary Fund, an agreement on the Establishment of Zambezi Watercourse Commission (Zamcom), and the SADC Mutual Defence Pact. Meanwhile the issue of the border between *Malawi* and *Tanzania* remains unresolved.

South Africa's unemployment rate in the fourth quarter of 2009 remained virtually unchanged at 24.3 percent.

Central Africa: A special summit dealing with the issue of illegal exploitation of natural resources in the *Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)* is to be organized seeking to boost the peace process in the country.

The Government of *Rwanda* signed six agreements with the World Bank (WB) seeking finances for various government programs to the tune of \$120.3 million. The government will also be getting Euros 38.5 million loan from a *German* development bank, the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) (Reconstruction Credit Institute).

Meanwhile the *Japanese* government has given *Rwanda Television (RTV)* a grant of 46.1 million Japanese Yen (approx \$0.5m). §

Zone 3- Euro-America: *Summary*

Transatlantic Community

Week # 106- Dated January 24-30, 2010

WESTERN EUROPE

About 2,500 people marched through downtown *Oslo* in a protest last week against a **Norwegian** newspaper that printed a caricature of the Prophet Muhammad.

Phil Jones, the professor behind the "*Climategate*" affair, has admitted some of his decades-old weather data was not well enough organized contributing to his refusal to share raw data with critics.

The head of MI5 has denied officers withheld information over what it knew about the torture of a **UK** resident. The Court of Appeal earlier ruled that Mr Mohamed could learn what MI5 knew about his 2002 mistreatment while in secret detention in *Pakistan*.

As Europe edges toward emergency guarantees to stem market panic amidst the **Greek** financial crisis, **Germany** is suffering from growing doubts about the European experiment it has long championed. Eurozone leaders promised last week (February 11th) to help **Greece** overcome its severe financial crisis but stopped short of offering financial assistance.

SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha confirmed last week (February 11th) his government's intention to transform the country into a "regional electricity superpower".

EU envoy to **Macedonia** Erwan Fouere and US Ambassador to Skopje Philip Reeker on Wednesday (February 10th) strongly rejected as unacceptable a recent remark by the leader of the



Democratic Party of **Albanians** (DPA). Menduh Thaci said that if the government continues to discriminate against Albanians, there will be war in **Macedonia**. The opposition DPA has been boycotting parliament since last summer, protesting the government's policy towards **Albanians**.

Fierce blizzards have blocked dozens of roads and left about 20 towns and villages without electricity in **Romania**. Mean while the country confirmed last week that it is ready to take part in the new version of the US anti-missile defence shield.

Croatian Army Chief of Staff Slavko Baric said last week that almost half of the country's troops have been sent on a prolonged unpaid holiday because of national budget constraints.

Shunning warnings from the international community, the parliament of **Republika Srpska** (RS) adopted a law on February 10th that could pave the way for a future referendum on the entity's independence; further destabilizing **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (BiH).

RUSSIA

With NATO and the US increasingly seeking help in Afghanistan, Russia has refused to provide any. Meanwhile Russia is increasingly warming up to the U.S. sanctions push against Iran, a move that China has so far opposed.

According to the US ambassador to Russia the new arms reduction treaty between the two states reflects a link between strategic offensive and defensive weapons. Former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was in Russia last

week in an effort to reduce **Russia's** anxieties over NATO expansion and a proposed US missile defense system in **Romania**.

Meanwhile **Russia's** military doctrine through 2020, publicized last week does not include a provision for pre-emptive nuclear strikes, as officials had previously suggested.

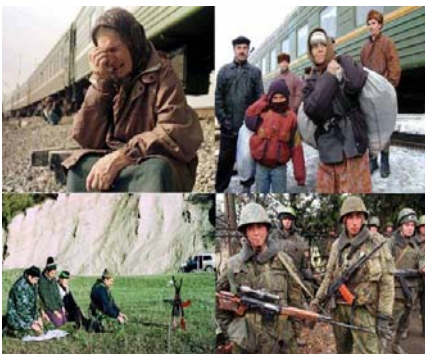
Prime Minister Vladimir Putin promised **Baltic** statesmen last week that **Russia** would curtail its sewage dumping in the *Baltic Sea* and reassured them that the Nord Stream pipeline would not harm the Sea, as Finland nears a decision on the final permit for the pipeline.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said last week that nuclear energy development was a national priority, in particular as an instrument for combating global warming. Meanwhile **Russia's** nuclear chief Sergei Kiriyenko said that the first reactor of the Kudankulam nuclear power plant in India being built using Russian technology and expertise will be launched in 2010 as scheduled.

Last week the *Japanese* government adopted a document claiming that **Russia** "illegally occupies the *South Kuril Islands*." The disputed territories have been under **Russian** administration since World War II in accordance with international agreements. Tokyo, however, claims the islands should be returned to Japan.

Sberbank became the first **Russian** bank to ever make the Top 20 Most Valuable Banking Brands list, compiled by Brand Finance. The bank is rated 15th, and lists its 2010 brand name value at \$11,729 billion after showing a 160-percent growth





last year.

Last week around 20 **Chechen** 'militants' were killed in counter-terrorist operation in southern Russia.

Russia's Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has launched a large-scale offensive against excessive vodka consumption aiming at reducing the level of alcohol consumption by half by the year 2020.

The **Russian** Federal Guard Service has lifted a January 2008 ban on professional photo and video shoots on the *Kremlin's* territory on orders of President Medvedev.

A group of *French* holders of bonds issued by the *Czarist* government of **Russia** during World War One have urged Moscow to pay out the century-long debt threatening to seize the **Russian** property in Paris through courts. The International Federative Association for **Russian** Bond Holders (AFIPER) estimates the value of bonds at \$137 billion (100 billion Euros).

US/CANADA

President Obama has called on the Republican Party for a bipartisan meeting geared at discussing the deadlock healthcare issue. Meanwhile Key Democrats and Republicans in the Senate reached a rare bipartisan agreement last week on steps to spur job creation. According to a latest *New York Times/CBS News* poll, **Americans** blame former President *George W. Bush*, Wall Street and Congress much more than they do Mr. Obama for the nation's economic problems and the budget deficit.

LATIN AMERICA

A memorandum of

understanding (MoU) to cooperate in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy has been signed between the *Russian* state nuclear company, Rosatom and **Argentina's** Ministry of Federal Planning, Investment and Services. Meanwhile the *Canadian* government too made an agreement with the *Atomic Energy Commission* of **Argentina** to work peacefully on nuclear technology.

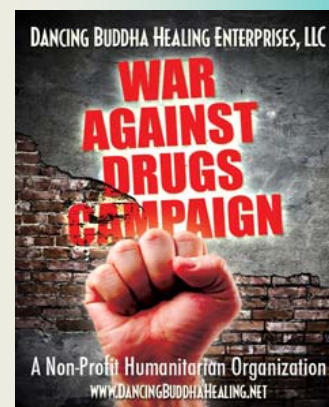
With history repeating itself **Argentina** and the United Kingdom are once again engaged in a dispute over Falkland Island. U.K government has acquired a contract for the drilling in the region that **Argentina** has a disputed claim over. In 1980 both countries fought a war over the island that touts a billion dollars oil reserve.

According to a *Sao Paulo* newspaper, the **Brazilian** government has decided to buy 36 Rafale fighter aircraft from *France* at \$6.2 billion. The government however announced that a decision is yet to be finalized though **Brazil** is planning to upgrade its air force. *France* and *Sweden* are in competition to provide the facility.

Meanwhile in preparation for the 2016 Olympics, the **Brazilian** government is incentivizing its police forces with promises of bonuses while providing special training for the high profile event.

Brazilian government has issued the license to build the controversial hydroelectric dam in the Amazon rainforest a \$17 billion project, to be the world's third largest dam at Xingu. River. Contention exists over the issue of relocation of an estimated 12,000 resident Indians.

Installment of virtual fence at **US-Mexican** border, a project initiated by the Bush administration at a total cost of \$6.7 billion, has now been



delayed till 2014. Meanwhile the death of 16 school children in **Mexico's** war against drug cartels has sparked a heated blame debate in the congress. Journalists have voiced reluctance to perform their duties where 89% of the crimes against journalists are still unresolved and the figure is even higher in the case of citizens.

Heavy rains in **Mexico City** have claimed 33 lives and have left 3500 homeless.

Trucking dispute between US and Mexico regarding the violation of NAFTA trade agreement against allegations of U.S. protectionism is to be resolve in the US congress.

Amidst its electricity crisis **Venezuela's** Chavez has sought help from long term ally **Cuba**. Meanwhile the police used tear gas, plastic bullets and water cannons on the student gathered in Caracas to protest against the government. The same day supporters of Chavez gathered in the city to celebrate the Day of Dignity marking the 18th anniversary of the failed coup attempt against Chavez. The UN has taken note of Rights violations in **Venezuela** where two students died last week in similar protests.

Twitter an internet social blog is becoming popular in **Venezuelan** community where Chavez opponents employ it to criticize government's policies freely. Previously 5 channels critical of the government have been refused licenses renewals. Chavez has also launched his own radio show to broadcast directly to the nation. §

Telescopic Analysis: Issues in Global Demographic Trends

Paul Ehrlich's 1968 work '**The Population Bomb**' forwarded the thesis that mass starvation would strike in the 1970s and 1980s, with the world's population growth outpacing the production of food and other critical resources. However planning and innovation such as the agricultural 'Green Revolution' have proved these fears unfounded.

Jack A. Goldstone in fact notes that since the 1970s, global economic output has increased and fertility has fallen dramatically, especially in developing countries.

Projections by the United Nations Population Division claim that global population growth will nearly halt by 2050 with a stabilized world's population at 9.15 billion (Today's global population is 6.83 billion.). Barring drastic catastrophes global economic output is expected to increase by two to three percent per year, meaning that global income will increase far more than population over the next four decades.

Another striking demographic pattern apparent in China, India, and the Middle East is the rapid growth of the global middle class. *Martin Walker*, a senior scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center notes that absent a shock factor such as war or famine, a society with a falling birthrate tends to be 'aspirational'. While the planet's population is expected to grow by about one billion people by 2020, the global middle class will swell by as many as 1.8 billion, with a third of this number residing in China. Whether the biosphere can adapt to such increases in consumption remains a critical question.

Walker further notes that this predicted demographic transformation world perhaps make the world look a lot more like Europe. 'The world is aging

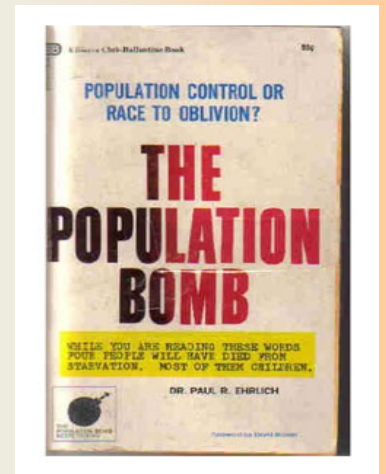


in an unprecedented way. A milepost in this process came in 1998, when for the first time the number of people in the developed world over the age of 60 outnumbered those below the age of 15. By 2047, the world as a whole will reach the same point.' The world's median age is 28 today, and it is expected to reach 38 by the middle of the century.

Projections of much lower dependency ratios and a higher demographic dividend are touted by many developing economies as an optimistic growth facilitator. Taking



Turkey as a case in point according to Goldman Sachs G&S, the country's population growth averaged around 2.3 percent per annum during 1950-2000. In this period, the population more than tripled, to 70 million, and the labor force quadrupled, to 50 million, leading to a virtual collapse in the underlying dependency ratio, which fell from around 75 percent in the 1950s and 85 percent in the 1960s to around 55 percent by the turn of the



century. Ibrahim Ozturk notes that at present Turkey's demographic transition is gradually maturing, but it is far from complete. 'Turkey's demographic dynamics will remain favorable for decades to come and the sheer numbers will continue to drive the economy forward, allowing for strong growth and rapid catch-up, particularly in the next 20 years when Turkey will still enjoy a demographic bonus, i.e., a declining dependency ratio.'

The social and political implications of an aging population are alarming. At a 2004 conference in Paris, Heikki Oksanen of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs noted that the European social model of generous welfare states is facing a crisis because the number of retirees is rising while the number of working-age people is declining. But according to Walker these projections don't capture the full picture. He supports this by counting three mitigating factors:

- Below optimal projections of retirement age that understates productive life span of populations in these societies.

- Low work force participation rates even in advanced Europe depicting suboptimal participation of women in the work force skew the results. The EU has set a target participation rate of 70 percent for both sexes.
- Thirdly dependency ratios of the 21st century are going to look remarkably similar to those of the 1960s where in 1965 in the United States there were 95 dependents for every 100 adults between the ages of 20 and 64. Even though most dependents in the 1960s were young, most of the dependents of 2009 are older, with more dependency still to come. However it has proved to be a sustainable situation.

Another important consideration may be the positive impact on the environment and finite resources mitigated by shrinking populations. The growth of population can contribute to freshwater scarcity or degradation



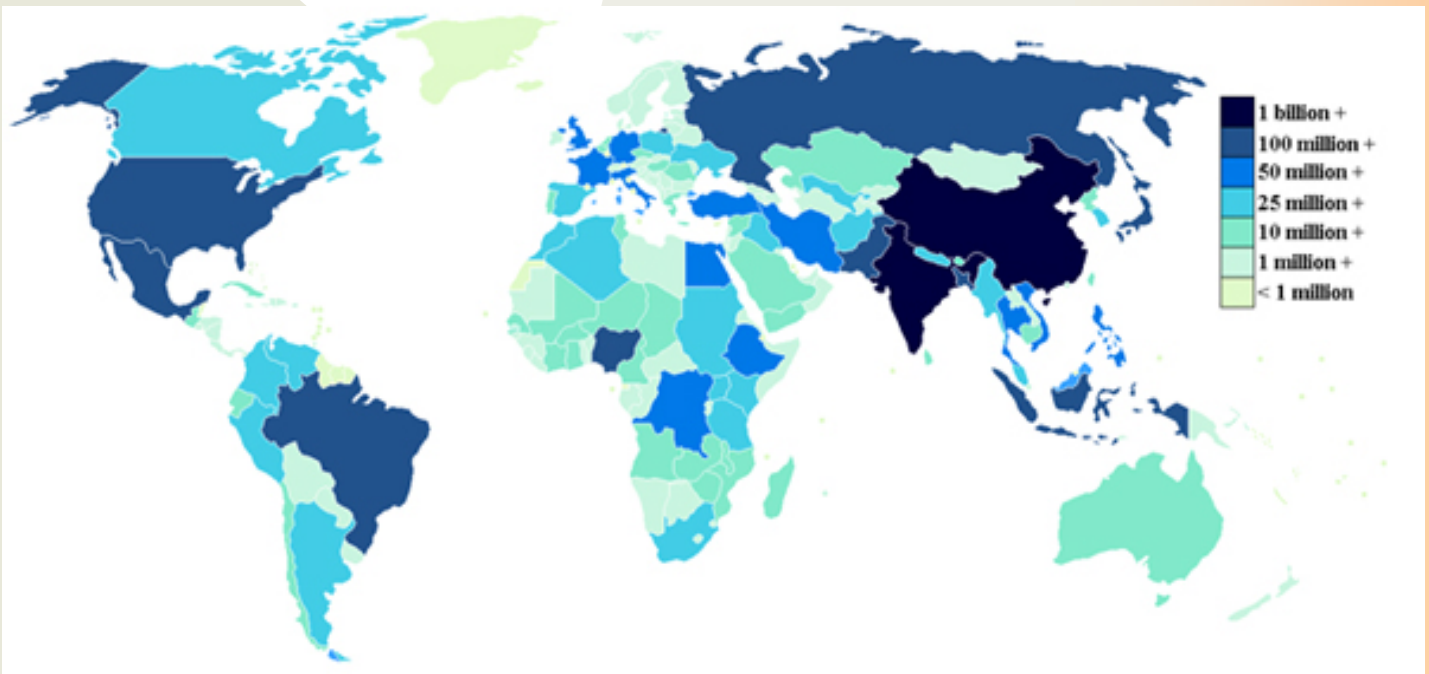
of cropland, which may in turn exacerbate the impacts of climate change. In regions of the world that lack capacity to sustain it, population growth can hinder sustainable development.

An aging population in developed countries and young, still-rising populations in developing countries—and growing employment opportunities, combined with cheaper communications and transport, also increases the ‘demand’ for migration.

Opportunities rising from a shrinking society can even be identified from a socioeconomic perspective. The shrinkage, especially the even more

spectacular diminishment of the labour force makes it indispensable to mobilize the hidden reserves on the labour market (Straubhaar 2006a, Meier 2004 :). This may concern for the most part groups that currently are not well integrated in the labour market, mostly the elderly, women, immigrants and unskilled workers. Given the intensifying debate about immigration a better integration of immigrants in the labour market may help to maintain social peace. A similar argument can be made concerning the elders. The claim that younger workers are more productive ignores that older employees dispose of more experience, balance and calmness. (Börsch-Supan 2004: 8).

Considering these multifarious issues and discussions in the current debate on demographics, it is quite apparent that there are no straight answers available. However this current debate is at the crux of many socio political developments and projections that are being complimented by a healthy academic participation. §



Summary- Para States, Quasi States, and Black Spots: Perhaps Not States, But Not ‘Ungoverned Territories,’ Either

Edited by Bartosz H. Stanislawski



In today’s technologically and economically connected world, problems like crime and terrorism have metamorphosed into boundary less arenas, often stemming their operations from remote regions lacking effective, recognized governance. To term these as ‘ungoverned’ however would be incorrect leading to false assumptions on part of policy makers.

The term ‘Black Spot’ was coined to account for those spaces on the world map that appear to be outside of effective, recognized governmental control, sustained by illicit operations, and capable of breeding and exporting insecurity. Such zones lack formal, legitimate, democratic or state control and are in effect are controlled by structures that are undemocratic and intent on forwarding their own interests. In this stead ‘Black Spots’ represent territories in which and from which both transnational organized crime (TOC) and terrorism operate, often becoming criminal terrorist entities. These are places in the shadows of global attention and usually prefer to remain below the radar of security agencies.

Control of Territory and the Concept of State:

The 1933 Montevideo Convention on the Rights and Duties of States defines states as entities that have a) a permanent population, b) a defined territory, c) government, and d) the capacity to enter into relations with other states.

This definition implies complete or near complete control over territory and the monopoly over violence instrumental in the enforcement of laws of the state.



Lacking these, a state de facto lacks credibility in the international arena.

Degree of ‘Stateness’:

Exceptions to the 1933 Montevideo Convention may exist, for example Israel’s borders since its inception have been highly disputed but the majority of the world does not question its statehood.

Also states may differ based on the degree of their territorial control and performance of governmental control. De jure but not de facto states became common in the postcolonial birth of many new states. Hedley Bull and Adam Watson (1984: 430) called them ‘nascent’, ‘quasi’ or ‘pseudo’ states or states due to international ‘courtesy’. Such ‘quasi states’ possess many features of sovereign states that result from their formal membership in the international community, but they lack ‘the political will, institutional authority and organized power to protect human rights or to provide socio-economic welfare’ (Jackson 1990:21). ‘Privatization’ of the ‘public’ domains ensues, resulting in ‘nepotism, patronage, bribery, extortion, and other personal or black market relationships’ (Jackson 1987: 527) or simply in ‘kleptocracy’ (Andreski 1968). Some examples of such states may be found in Afghanistan and Pakistan (McGirk 2004), parts of Caucasus and southern Europe (King 2001) and third world post conflict countries (TI- Global Corruption Report 2005).

Quasi-States and their Varieties: ‘As-If States’ and ‘Almost-States’:

As-If States may be termed as those that enjoy international recognition but lack de facto control of their territories, while ‘Almost States’ lack international recognition but are characterized by efficient internal control. Charles King (2001) notes examples of ‘Almost States’ may include Nagorno

Karabakh (Azerbaijan), Transnistria (Moldova) or Abkhazia and South Ossetia (Georgia). He further notes that since the hostilities between these ‘almost states’ and the central governments have ceased, they have become ‘informational black holes’ where very little is known about them to the outside world.

Black Spots:

In the international security environment, entities may not always be categorized as weak states, failed states or para-states. one key characteristic defining them as black spots may be that they are territorial entities in which illicit actors or ‘transnational criminal organizations... demonstrate the potential... to challenge state sovereignty and gain local dominance’ (Bunker and Sullivan 2003:48).

When states, the guarantors of compliance with international legal standards, lack absolute control over their de jour territories, security concerns may be raised that may warrant external intervention. This however has been traditionally disputed by the concept of sovereignty. Black spots are thus areas that lack international recognition, and government control but nor are they ‘ungoverned’. §

		International Recognition	
		Present	Absent
Predominant Territorial Control By Authorities	Present	States	Almost-states
	Absent	As-if states	Black Spots

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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