



ASIA
MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA; WEST ASIA; SOUTH ASIA; NORTH ASIA; EAST ASIA
..... 4



AFRICA
WEST AFRICA; EAST AFRICA & HORN OF AFRICA; CENTRAL AFRICA; SOUTH AFRICA
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EUROAMERICA
WEST EUROPE; EAST EUROPE; NORTH AMERICA; LATIN AMERICA
..... 7



GLOBALIZED OPINION...2



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*.

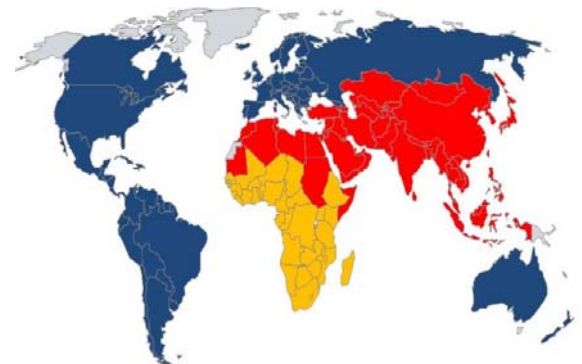
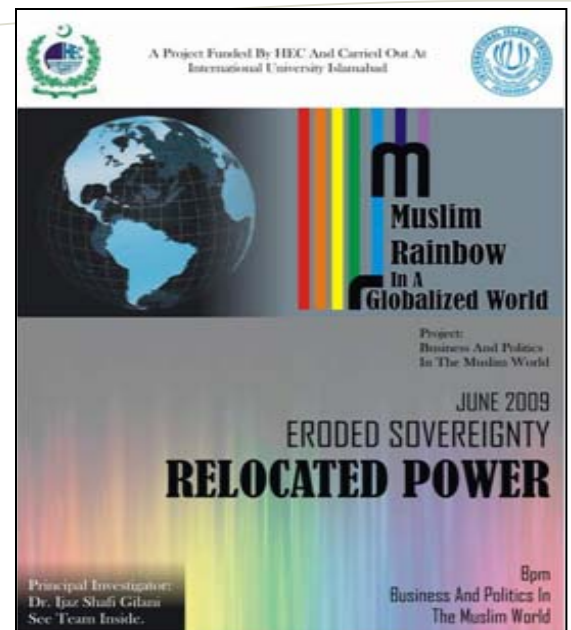
- ◆ We will make the e-letter a multi-layered presentation: in other words Friday on the Facebook will provide clicks to deeper levels of information; for comprehension (Maps and Data) as well as for elaboration



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



Globalized Opinions

This week's report consists of 20 surveys. As the year 2009 and the first decade of the 21st century commence, this report include reviews with year and decade end evaluations by publics in **U.S, Britain** and **Russia**.

Week # 99

Commentary on Gallopedia Polls

Dated 20th-26th Dec. 09'

The year 2009 was marked by the **Global Economic Crisis**. It is interesting to note that out of the three countries *US, UK* and *Russia* only **Russians** express positive views about the year 2009 and the nation's performance in the first decade of the 21st century. The reestablished of the Russian economy and political system after disintegration of the Soviet Union are primary factor for such confidence. The nation's leaders also enjoyed high support of the Russian public. *As one of the BRIC nations, is Russia back on track potentially to reclaim its position as a Super Power?*

On the contrary people in the **U.S.** describe this decade as the *worst decade ever* since **Second World War**. People in **Britain** have similar kind of views about the year 2009. The commonality between these two western capitalist countries has been that the popularity of their leadership fluctuated throughout. *President Obama* started with a very high profile but just in a year his ratings have also lost the initial luster. In this decade, Americans ratings of the Congress and their Presidents have lacked stability and for the most part have remained dismal.

In the aftermath of **9/11**, and the commencement of the **War on Terror**, the U.S. president enjoyed high ratings. Over the decade these have tapered out along with the declining popularity of war amid the publics having lost their faith in the decision to go to *Iraq* and more recently in the decision to go to *Afghanistan*. For most of the half decade, Americans highest concern was not to defeat terrorist in *Iraq, Afghanistan* or *Pakistan* rather they were more concerned about their declining economic conditions, a poor job market and inflation. These indicators seem to complement *Fareed Zakaria's* thesis of a '**Post American World**'. §



NETANYAHU, OBAMA & MAHMOUD ABBAS

Zone 1
ASIA

MIDDLE EAST

Palestinians Show Disappointment with Peace Process, Parties involved and the U.S.

AWARD recent survey of Palestinians show that Palestinians are getting disappointed with the peace process but they also show their commitment to peace.

Moreover they also getting disappointing with the parties involved in the process and they are also not satisfied with the role of the U.S. government.

December 15, 2009

EAST ASIA

Half of Japanese Deny Vote to DPJ and LDP



JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER YUKIO HATOYAMA

Many people in Japan would not cast a ballot for either of the country's two main political parties in the next election, according to a poll by NHK. 35.6 per cent of respondents would vote for the governing Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), and 17.7 per cent would back the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

December 27, 2009

Zone 2
AFRICA

Women In South Africa Standing Up For Gender Equality

Presently, women in South Africa are maintaining their optimism about the future of their families, children and the country.

However, when women look at



their own lives, they are less optimistic now than a year ago. Furthermore, most of the women in South Africa are intolerant of gender inequality, especially with regard to the right to education.

17 December 2009

Zone 3
EURO-AMERICAS

WEST EUROPE

Britons Side with Banning Minarets in UK

People in Britain are open to the idea of banning minarets, according to a three-country poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 37 per cent of respondents in Britain

would vote in favour of a ban, while 25 per cent would vote against it.
December 22, 2009

UK-2009 'Worst Year For One In 20'

A recent YOUNG survey shows that one in 20 people in Britain describe 2009 as their worst year ever and almost half say they are most worried about money or debt.
Dec 14, 2009



Sarkozy's Disapproval Rating Soars in France

The proportion of people in France who express disappointment with Nicolas Sarkozy's performance has risen sharply, according to a poll by Ifop published in *Paris Match*. 61 per cent of respondents disapprove of the president's leadership, up six points since October.
December 23, 2009

Swedes Now More Receptive to Joining Euro

The proportion of people in Sweden open to adopting the common European currency has grown over the past five years, according to a poll by Statistics Sweden. 44 per cent of respondents would vote *Yes* in a referendum on adopting the euro, up seven points since November 2004.
December 26, 2009

NORTH AMERICA

The Decade in Review: Four Key Trends

A review of decade long Gallup data shows four major trends. Satisfaction with the direction of the country and approval ratings of Congress and president both declined as compared to a decade ago. In 2001 terrorism was the highest concern but soon after it economic concerns became the top problem and it dominated the decade.
December 23, 2009

Americans Agree with Obama on Wall Street

Many people in the United States believe Barack Obama was right when he referred to Wall Street bankers as "fat cats", according to a poll by Angus Reid Public Opinion. 83 per cent of respondents agree with their president.
December 23, 2009

Public Looks Back at Worst Decade in 50 Years

As the current decade draws to a close, relatively few Americans have positive things to say about it. By roughly two-to-one, more say they have a generally negative (50%) rather than a generally positive (27%) impression of the past 10 years. This stands in stark contrast to the public's recollection of other decades in the past half-century. When asked to look back on the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, positive feelings outweigh negative in all cases.
December 21, 2009

LATIN AMERICA

Chileans Doubt Peru's Accusation of Spying
The large majority of Chileans



CHILE & PERU

grant no credibility to claims by the Peruvian government that Chile was spying on their military, according to a poll by CERC. 76 per cent of respondents share this opinion.
December 24, 2009

AUSTRALASIA

Climate Change Deal is Important for Australians
Three quarters of people in Australia think reaching a global agreement on climate change is the most important thing the country can do, according to a poll by Essential Research. 74 per cent of respondents share this point of view.
December 25, 2009

New Zealand's National Ends Year on High Note

New Zealand's governing National party ends 2009 with a solid support rate, according to a poll by Roy Morgan International. 54 per cent of respondents would vote for the conservative party in the next election to the House of Representatives.
December 23, 2009
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New Zealand's Labor party 1957 poster

Zone 3- Euro-Americas: *Transatlantic Community*



**PROTESTS REGARDING IRAQ INQUIRY
FEATURING 'TONY BLAIR'**

**Zone 3- Euro-Americas Summary
Week # 99**

WESTERN EUROPE

In **Briton** the *Iraq Inquiry*, which is investigating the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, in an effort to keep proceedings clear of party politics has affirmed that British leader Gordon Brown and other senior ministers wouldn't testify until after the next general election.

Meanwhile on the climate front Yvo de Boer a top U.N. climate official says the 193-nation **Copenhagen Global Warming Summit** that ended last weekend outlined a way forward for negotiators and succeeded in mobilizing emergency funds for poor nations to prepare for climate change. The last hour limited accord brokered by Obama is being set aside amid acrimony over the failure to reach a legally binding deal.

In **Greece** President Karolos Papoulias declined his **Macedonian**



**THE UNITED NATIONS
MEDIATOR IN THE
GREECE/MACEDONIA NAME
DISPUTE**

counterpart's invitation for a visit last week saying such a trip would be possible only after the name dispute between the two countries was resolved.

Meanwhile on the financial front **Greek** Parliament began discussions late last week on the country's 2010 budget, aimed at finding a way out of the current financial crisis.

While internationally, World stock markets rose amid mounting optimism about the speed of the U.S. economic recovery. In **Europe**, the FTSE 100 index of leading **British** shares was up 0.9 percent, **Germany's** DAX rose 0.4 percent and the CAC-40 in **France** was 0.7 percent higher. Earlier, all major **Asian** markets rose strongly in the wake of advance on Wall Street.

SOUTH-EAST EUROPE



**SERBIAN PRESIDENT BORIS TADIC (L)
SHAKES HANDS WITH SWEDISH PRIME
MINISTER FREDRIK REINFELDT, EU
PRESIDENCY HOLDER**

President Boris Tadic submitted **Serbia's** EU membership application on Dec. 22nd to authorities in **Sweden**, the current holder of the rotating EU presidency. Meanwhile in **Macedonia** Ali Ahmeti, the only candidate for the post, was re-elected last week as leader of the Democratic Union for Integration (DUI) a governing (as of 2008) political party in **Republic of Macedonia**. Ahmeti expressed hope that during Spain's EU presidency, which starts on January 1st, the long-standing name dispute between **Macedonia** and **Greece** will be resolved and Macedonia "will finally become a



**Stanislaw Galic & Dragomir
Milosevic, convicted Bosnian
Serbs**

member of NATO and will start talks on full-fledged EU membership."

The Court of **BiH** convicted two Bosnian Serbs last week for war crimes committed against Bosnian civilians in the Kalinovik area during the 1992-1995 conflict. Also the Court has charged a group of Bosnian Muslims with terrorism and illegal weapons trafficking. According to the indictment, radical Muslim Rijad Rustempasic organized the group to carry out attacks aimed at destabilizing the country. Meanwhile the European Court of Human Rights ruled last week that the constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), created as an annex to the Dayton Peace Agreements, discriminates against minorities.

Croatia's presidential elections are to go to a second round run-off on January 10th as neither of the two leading candidates - opposition Social Democrat contender Ivo Josipovic nor the long-time mayor of Zagreb, Milan Bandic - won more than 50 percent of the votes in last week's poll.

Romanian incumbent President Traian Basescu of the Liberal Democratic Party (PDL) has been sworn in to a second term in office (December 21st). Meanwhile



**Romanian
incumbent
President
Traian
Basescu**

Continued...



Albanian Opposition Socialist Party (SP) leader Edi Rama filed a lawsuit last week against Prime Minister Sali Berisha, accusing him of libel. Rama says Berisha has "repeatedly and publicly offended" him.

Saudi Arabia has established diplomatic relations with **Kosovo** with Saudi Ambassador to Albania Abdullah Abdulaziz Alabdulkarim handling duties for Kosovo as well. He said his country has great respect for Kosovo and will continue providing economic support. Meanwhile in **Bulgaria** an estimated 3,000 tobacco farmers blocked one of the country's main highways last week (December 21st) to protest subsidy cuts planned for 2010.

US/CANADA

A top **U.S.** military officer Adm. Mike Mullen has said he does not assume Iran's brief seizure of an Iraqi oil well is part of an orchestrated plan in Tehran to threaten its neighbors. Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has also said that any military strike on Iran, whether by Israel or the United States, should be a last resort.

In the **US** Senate Democrats passed a landmark health care bill in a climactic Christmas Eve vote that could define President Barack Obama's legacy and usher in near-universal medical coverage for the first time in the country's history. Meanwhile President Barack



Obama last week ordered the federal government to rethink how it protects the nation's secrets, in a move that was expected to declassify more than 400 million pages of Cold War-era documents and curb the number of government records hidden from the public.

On the 'War on Terror' front President Barack Obama's commitment to close the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by next month may be delayed until 2011 because it will take months for the government to buy an

Illinois prison and upgrade it to hold suspected terrorists. Meanwhile the State Department's internal watchdog has criticized the agency's nearly \$2 billion anti-drug effort in **Afghanistan** for poor oversight and lack of a long-term strategy.

In a sharp change of position, the head of **Canada's** main opposition party has said in an interview that he was not



keen on trying to trigger an election next year. The comments by Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff mean it is likely the minority Conservative government -- which needs the support of opposition legislators to stay in power -- will be able to push through its budget early next year.

LATIN AMERICA

An **Ecuadorian** private television station critical of President Rafael Correa came back on air last week after a three-day suspension that fueled concern among government critics over press freedom in the Andean country. Its license was initially revoked over accusations that it incited violence during protests in October.

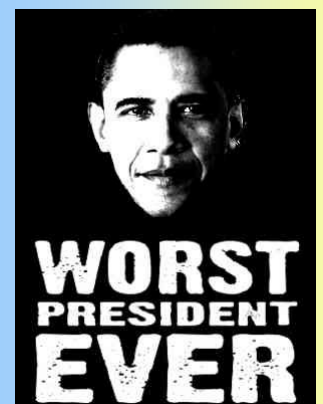
Meanwhile **Venezuela's** President Hugo Chavez has threatened to expel Japanese carmaker Toyota unless it produces an all-terrain model of 4x4



vehicles used for public transport in poor and rural areas. Last week Chavez also accused the United States of violating **Venezuela's** airspace with an unmanned spy plane and ordered his military to be on alert and shoot down any such aircraft. The Pentagon has declined to comment on Chavez's accusations while the Colombian Defense Minister Gabriel Silva and armed forces commander Freddy Padilla have said that a **Colombian** aircraft couldn't fly the kind of espionage mission described by Chavez.

The US Ambassador to **Honduras** Hugo Llorens has visited deposed President Manuel Zelaya as part of a bid to find a solution to the political crisis gripping the impoverished Central American nation.

Meanwhile **Cuba's** foreign minister called President Barack Obama an "imperial and arrogant" liar for his conduct at the U.N. climate conference, a reflection of the communist island's increasingly fiery verbal attacks on the U.S. government. §



EURO-AMERICAS

Microscopic Analysis: 'The Copenhagen Climate Summit- A Success or a Debacle?'

On the 19th of Dec. 2009, delegates from 192 countries passed a motion at the United Nations Copenhagen Climate Conference bringing the Summit back from the brink of collapse.

United Nations Climate Change Conference Dec 7th - 18th 2009

On the 19th of Dec. 2009, delegates from 192 countries passed a motion at the United Nations Copenhagen Climate Conference bringing the Summit back from the brink of collapse. The motion simply notes a loose deal aimed at limiting temperature rises to less than 2C, without any specific binding emissions targets. Delegates agreed to 'recognize' the US-brokered deal, which was arranged between five key nations including China, India and Brazil but failed to secure unanimous support. The *Copenhagen summit* could not conclude negotiations under the *Bali Action Plan (BAP)* and the *Kyoto Protocol*, the treaty that is currently in operation to deal with climate change issues. It is now proposed to be completed by the end of 2010.

Initially a row between **China** and the **US**, the world's two largest emitters, effectively paralyzed the summit. The fundamental dispute between the two was over the monitoring of states' progress on curbing their emissions.

While the US pressed for strong independent verification and monitoring of each country's progress China opposed the notion as



BARACK OBAMA AND WEN JIABAO

infringement of its national sovereignty.

After eight draft texts Barack Obama and Wen Jiabao, the Chinese premier, were the principal participants to broker the political agreement. The proposed deal quotes 'recognition' of the scientific case for limiting emissions to 2C annually, a less ambitious target than the



SINGH, BROWN, DA SILVA & ZUMA

previous 1.5C limit, which was a disappointment for African and other vulnerable countries including low-lying and island nations, fearful of being engulfed by rising sea levels.

Meanwhile the earlier 2050 goal of reducing global CO₂ emissions by 80% was also dropped. Scientists say even a 2C limit will require cutting greenhouse gases by at least 50 % by 2050. However a legally-binding target for developed countries was removed in favor of allowing rich countries to set their own targets, with which they will come forward by February. Developing countries have, for the first time, been asked to "take action" to cut emissions.

The **US-BASIC** deal was brokered following meetings between the **US** President Barack Obama, the **Indian**



Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, **Chinese** Premier Wen Jiabao, **Brazilian** President Lula Da Silva and **South African** President Jacob Zuma, aiming to provide \$30bn a year for poor countries to adapt to [climate change](#) from next year to 2012, and \$100bn a year by 2020. The agreement also set up a forestry deal aiming to significantly reduce deforestation in return for cash.

The pact lacking unanimity was primarily opposed by **Cuba, Sudan, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Venezuela, Tuvalu and Costa Rica**. However **Japan, Norway, African** nations and the **European Union** nations came out in support of the proposal. Earlier this week however the European Union sought to shift much of the blame for the outcome of the summit on the US and China, the world's two largest emitters of carbon dioxide.

Sweden, the current EU presidency holder, described the Copenhagen agreement as a disaster for the environment, while German Chancellor Angela Merkel was slightly more optimistic, commenting that the accord was something that "now needed to be built upon". UN Secretary Genral Ban Ki-moon also noted that the pact was an important beginning with '*an immediate operational effect*'.

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In the aftermath of the conference developed and developing nations have traded blows over who was to blame for the weak deal. On a pessimistic world front one analyst notes that Britain accused China of hijacking the proceedings, while Brazil attacked the perceived lack of commitment shown by Washington. In turn, India harangued Australia for being an "ayatollah of the single track," and small island nations like Tuvalu accused rich nations of blatant disregard for their plight.

Critics warn the 'Copenhagen Accord' is full of holes and lacks a timetable. Meanwhile environment



agencies have branded the deal 'toothless and a failure'. The pact has no reference to a legally binding agreement which also lacks any detailed framework on controversial carbon markets. Emerging nations are now to monitor their own efforts on climate change and report to the UN every two years.

The **proponents** of the deal argue that it would at least get the money flowing with the \$10bn (£6bn) a year "fast start" funding for the poorest and most vulnerable countries to protect themselves from the impact of drought and floods caused by global warming over the next three years. By 2020 the world is to "mobilize" \$100bn a year through a "Copenhagen Green Climate Fund", which will also help poorer countries halt deforestation and switch to greener technology. The accord has also kept the *Kyoto Protocol*



sacrosanct as future negotiations will be based on its basic principles. It binds the developed countries to take deeper cuts in carbon emissions and provide financial and technical support to the developing countries to enable them to reduce their carbon emissions.

A meeting of all UN members' climate change negotiators is planned to be held in Bonn in June, and their Annual Conference is due in Mexico in December. The TIME Magazine notes that, "if Copenhagen was tough, Mexico City (COP16 in December 2010) will be a lot more so, because there, countries will be tasked with filling in details sketched in the Copenhagen Accord" – but, as the toughness of the negotiations only demonstrate that climate policy has moved beyond hot air into economic reality – "It's going to get harder, and that's a good thing". §



Discussion Questions:

§- Do you think the Copenhagen summit fell short of its potential?

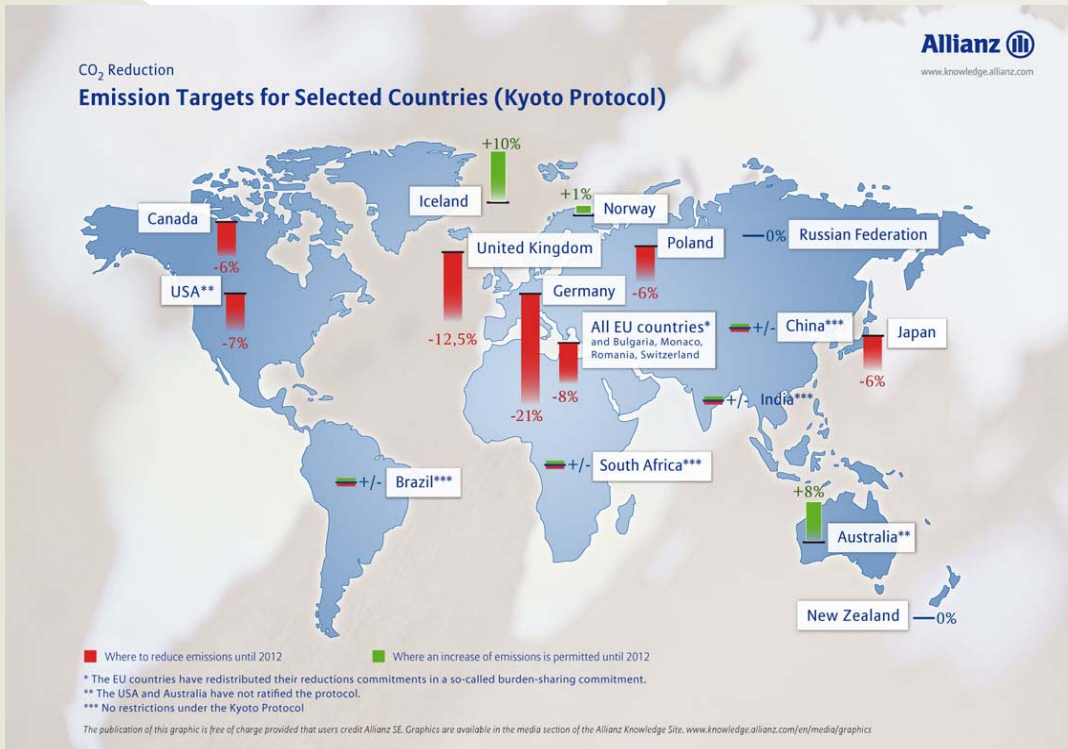
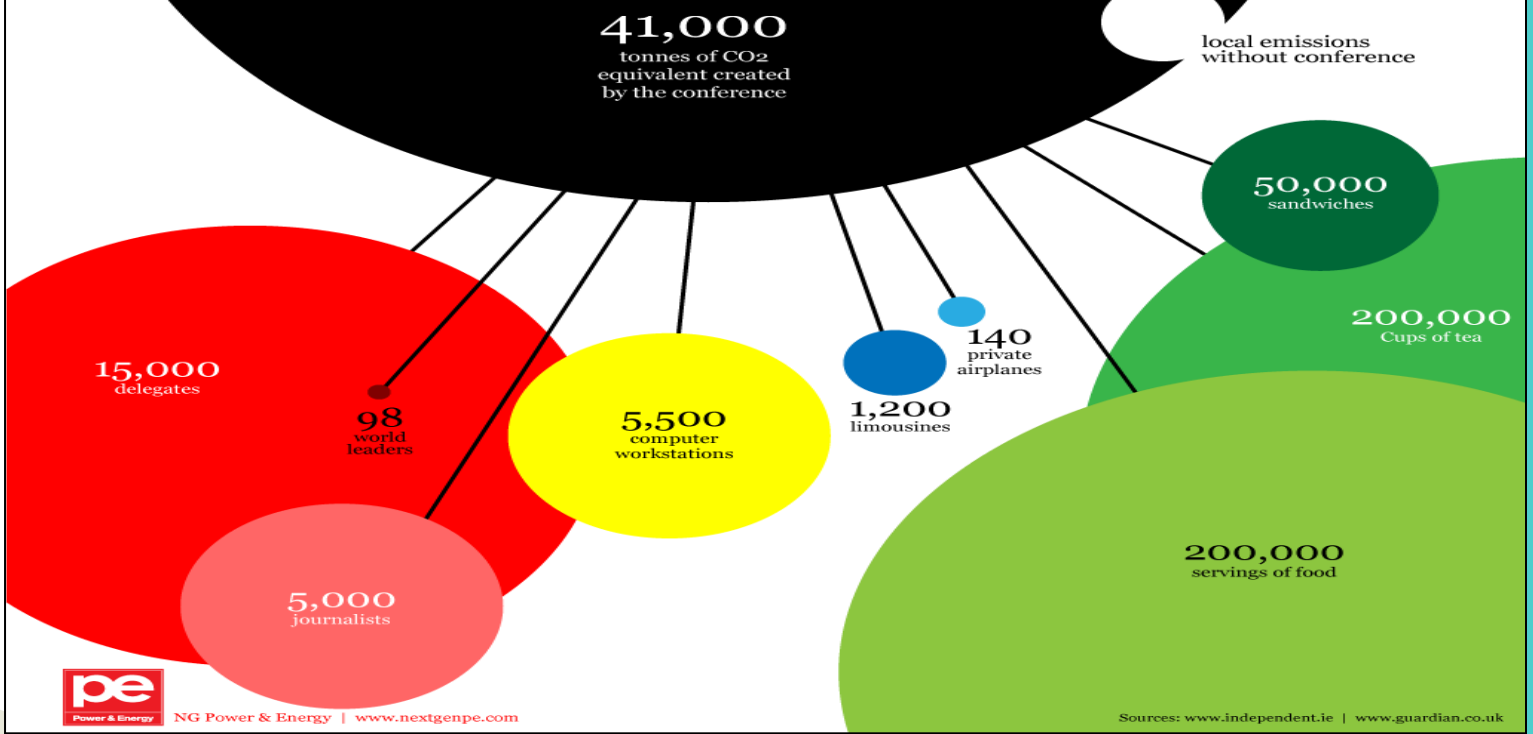
§- In your opinion does the global public opinion hold strength to push for more credible commitments in the coming year?



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Copenhagen conference carbon footprint



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BPM- Business & Politics
In the Muslim World