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INTERNATIONAL

M16 Agent Loses Agent List

While on an assignment in **South America**, a British MI6 agent left her handbag on a bus; the bag contained a computer memory stick holding a list of undercover agents' names and details, covering more than five years of intelligence work. Dozens of agents and informants were relocated due to fears that the information would fall into the hands of drug cartels. The agent's employer confirmed the data loss, but said that it had occurred while the agency was still establishing data-handling policies.

Pakistan Offensive Against Taliban

After coming under US pressure to deal with advancing extremists, **Pakistan** has launched a new offensive against Taliban militants. The operation was initiated in a district covered by Pakistan's recent Shariah law deal, after militants killed a Pakistani soldier in an ambush. The interior ministry chief stated that the nation's peace deal with the Taliban, which included Shariah law for some areas of Pakistan, is useless, since it has not accomplished peace. Pakistan has confirmed that ten insurgents and one security force personnel have been killed in the new anti-Taliban operations.

Mafia Thrives in Economic Decline

Italian prosecutors and policy have said in recent interviews that the Italian mafia is growing exponentially as a result of the global financial downturn. The Mafia, traditionally known for its ability to take advantage of the financially vulnerable, is taking control of gas stations, supermarket franchises, and real estate. Furthermore, the criminal organization is making billions from extortion, drug trafficking, and fake designer clothing made specifically for the Mafia. An anti-mafia prosecutor said that for the Mafia, the global economic downturn "is only an advantage."

Iraq Angry Over US Raid

The prime minister of **Iraq** has denounced a US raid in Iraq as a breach of the security pact between the US and Iraq, which sets a timeline for US withdrawal. The raid resulted in the death of one woman and the arrest of six other persons; all six were subsequently released. The Iraqi prime minister has called for the US to turn over those responsible for the attack for possible trial in Iraqi courts. However, the US military insists that it notified Iraqi authorities of the raid in advance, in accordance with rules governing US battlefield conduct.

DOMESTIC

CIA Bilingual Levels Slow but Rising

Despite the calls by the **CIA** and the 9/11 Commission for bilingual intelligence community employees, data from the CIA indicates that only 13 percent of workers in the agency speak a second language. When data from the agency's National Clandestine Service is included, that percentage increases to 28 percent. However, the Agency's data does also indicate that the number of Agency workers able to speak a foreign language had increased by 70 percent over the past five years.

DHS Apologizes for Report

Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano met with the American Legion to apologize for the recent DHS report which identified "right-wing extremism" as a threat to the United States. Napolitano stated that a **DHS** analyst had prematurely sent out the report before it was approved for distribution; her statement said that her Department had "fixed the internal process" which allowed the document's premature release. Republican lawmakers have responded to the report by calling for the Homeland Security Secretary to step down.

Democrat Backs Pro-Israel Spies

Representative Jane Harman, the former senior Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, was allegedly recorded promising a suspected **Israeli** agent that she would pressure the government to reduce espionage charges against two other suspected agents. The men were charged in 2005 with conspiring communicating defense information to unauthorized persons. Harman has denied trying to influence the spying investigation, and asked the Justice Department to release all transcripts of her conversations involving the two pro-Israel lobbyists.

CIA Stands by Interrogation Memo

On the 21st of April, US officials said that they stand by a May 2005 memo which credited much of the intelligence on Al Qaeda obtained after 9/11 to controversial interrogation techniques used by the **CIA** on terrorism suspects. For example, Abu Zubaydah, Al Qaeda's operations chief, provided information leading to the capture of the architect of the 9/11 attack, as well as other terrorist operations stretching from Asia to Los Angeles. The current DNI has argued that it is impossible to know how much of the information obtained through interrogations could have been obtained in some other way.

Congress Calls for More Inquiry

Committee leaders in both the House and Senate have indicated that they wish to continue with public inquiries into interrogation techniques approved by the Bush Administration. The **Senate Intelligence Committee** has already begun a classified investigation into interrogation and detention methods; however, Representative Jan Schakowsky is pushing for an open inquiry by the House Intelligence Committee. ■

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Intelligence, Politics & Social Technology | Congress

How social networks and mobile devices are creating a cybersecurity stir in Washington.

JUST LANDED IN Baghdad. I believe it may be the first time I've had bb [Blackberry] service in Iraq... Moved into green zone by helicopter Iraqi flag now over palace. Headed to new US embassy. Appears calmer less chaotic than previous here." The intersection of intelligence and politics often appears in the form of foreign policy, dicey diplomacy, and Presidential appointments. However, the preceding quotation from a globe-trotting congressman indicates a more practical juncture, frequently found in the suit pockets of government power-brokers. Social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter, and others--along with the technological devices that make such sites possible, like Blackberries and iPhones--are no longer the toys of society's younger generation. They now compose an integral part of the baby-boomers running Washington. This article showcases two examples of this phenomenon, examining its advantages, disadvantages, and potential security concerns.

Pete Hoekstra's Infamous Tweet

Congressman Pete Hoekstra (R-Michigan) is famous for his now-notorious "tweet" from the heart of Baghdad, copied above. Granted, Hoekstra did not "tweet" away a vital national security secret, nor did he give away his exact street locations, but he did announce to the world his own arrival in the middle of a warzone with a number of his colleagues from Congress. Such a gaffe from any Congressman would be disturbing by itself, but the amusing--though serious--irony from the Hoekstra situation comes from the Congressman's position as the ranking Republican on the House Intelligence Committee. No harm came of the incident, but this series of events revealed a serious lack of discernment on the part of Hoekstra--one potentially open to exploitation by enemies of the United States.

Official Pentagon policy on such matters as Congressional delegations forbids the disclosure of trip information until the destination has been reached. The Hoekstra incident highlighted some technological lag in these polices; the introduction of micro-blog technologies like Twitter presents a new

security challenge, causing the Defense Department to review its policies for more specific communication.

Obama and Executive Cybersecurity

Hoekstra is not the only powerful politician taking flak for his Blackberry usage. President Barak Obama, famous for his ever-present usage of the device while on the campaign trail, won a fight to keep his personal Blackberry soon after taking office, a Presidential first. Former President George W. Bush refused to send a single message by way of cyberspace throughout his time in office. Obama insisted, however, and his security staff allowed him to maintain contact with select friends and family on the condition that the device's hacking protection be enhanced. But "even the most secure network isn't perfect and even the most complex security algorithms can potentially be hacked," says Bruce Schneier, a U.S. security technologist. "[There are] no shortage of potential groups--from criminals to the spy agencies of other nations--[who] might try to access a device used by the President of the United States."

If mobile communications have become so integral to the halls of power, an ongoing inspection of their proper use and their information protection rises to critical priority. Understandably, Congressmen like Hoekstra wish to use new mediums like Twitter to maintain a level of "personal" contact with

their constituents. After all, receiving tweets from one's Congressman at least reminds one of more than just a face on the television or an infrequent guest at a district town hall meeting. But if "personal contact" is to be balanced--as indeed it must--shouldn't Congressmen like Hoekstra refrain from tweeting away the everyday details of their jobs on Capitol Hill? Even hourly updates potentially lower respect of the office by decreasing decorum; but if politicians do insist on employing this technology as a means to keep in touch with the "folks back home," such a goal is better achieved by limiting tweets to non-business matters.

The President can reasonably wish to stay in contact with friends and family, but the President's Blackberry can hardly be his sole means of communication. By virtue of his position alone, the President can maintain such correspondence. Even excepting the national security issue, thousands of non-terrorist hackers would salivate over the opportunity to acquire the President's personal emails.

If politicians insist on using these mediums of communication, discretion in content and realization of the potential security dangers is paramount. America cannot afford to suffer because of the careless imprudence of a national leader who was lulled into thinking that technology was impervious. ■

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President Obama wants to keep his Blackberry, creating a cybersecurity nightmare | FOX

Analysis | Radical Iran and Obama's Diplomacy

How Iran's "clenched fist" could level America.

SINCE THE REVOLUTION of 1979, Iran has taunted America as the Great Satan and called for its destruction. They have supported Hamas and Hezbollah. They have provided insurgent fighters in Iraq and seek to rid the area of American forces. Yet on March 20, 2009, President Barack Obama made Iran a direct offer of engagement and cooperation. He said, "The United States wants the Islamic Republic of Iran to take its rightful place in the community of nations. You have that right." As reported in a previous article, diplomacy is the President's chosen tool of engagement. He urged Iran to work with America to create a world of greater security and peace. "We will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist." He offered Iran an olive branch of unity and partnership.

On March 21, Ayatollah Ali Khomeini responded to this olive branch with a demand for change. "The slogan of change but not change is seen in practice," the Supreme Leader told thousands who were gathered in the holy city of Mashhad. "We haven't seen any change." Khomeini accused President Obama of insulting Iran from his first day in office. He equated the President's rhetoric with that of his predecessor President Bush and demanded to know why sanctions against Iran have not been lifted.

Khomeini: Obama's Chief Hurdle

President Obama's offer has a distinct hint of underhanded diplomacy. Although the speech was addressed to both the government and the people of Iran, the President was aiming directly at the Iranian populace. On June 12, Iranians will elect a new president. They will vote between current President Mahmud Ahmadinejad and former Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi. Mousavi poses a serious threat to Ahmadinejad, representing both reformists and pragmatic conservatives. If elected, Mousavi would change the focus of the presidency from international issues to the growing Iranian economic crisis. President Obama's appeal for peaceful actions could very well be fulfilled through Mousavi, if it weren't for one problem: Khomeini.

The real power in Iran lies with its

religious leaders. As Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic, Khomeini has no interest or incentive to de-radicalize his regime. The US has no interest in establishing a democratic government in Iran. Khomeini claims the United States' sanctions have actually helped Iran: "We have to thank the Americans in this sector. If sanctions had not been imposed, we would have not reached the point of progress and technology we are in now." Khomeini has little, if any, incentive to change his regime.

Yes, Iran appreciates concession to its demands and diplomatic recognition, but it appreciates its "God-given" directives more. Iran claims responsibility for paving the way of the 12th Imam.

The "Clenched Fist" of Iran

Khomeini has proven to be the "clenched fist" of Iran. He has expressed unequivocal support for terrorist movement such as Hezbollah and Hamas. His hatred for Israel has led to his criticism of Palestinian leaders for even the smallest compromise with the "Zionist regime." He has enumerated a long list of grievances with the United States, including the lack of support during the Iran-Iraq War and pro-

vocation of ethnic tensions within Iran. Michael J. Gerson, former assistant to President Bush for Policy and Strategic Planning, says rather than unclenching its fist, Iran is pounding it on the table. Khomeini is not a friend of the United States and it is unlikely he ever will be.

President Obama recognizes the gravity of the situation but may underestimate the resolve of Iran. As a theocracy, Iran's government is dominated by religion in both nature and intent. Yes, Iran appreciates concession to its demands and diplomatic recognition, but it appreciates its "God-given" directives even more. As the leading Shi'a country, Iran claims the responsibility of paving the way for the 12th Imam. The Qur'an and Hadith predict that the 12th Imam will not return until the world is in chaos. Iran's theocratic government sees the world as either part of that chaos or part of the Shi'a population. It will use what means it can to create that chaos and pave the way for its Imam. Allah has given them a divine mission, and no one shall stand in their way. President Obama must recognize the extent of Iran's desire to create this chaos. He must recognize that he is not dealing with a political party—he is dealing with a religion that runs deeper than elections and governments. ■

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Ayatollah Ali Khomeini wields the true power within Iran: religion itself | UPI

Cutting the Lifeline | Sudan

President Bashir expels 13 international aid organizations, as Darfur devolves from bad to worse.

THE ATROCITIES IN Darfur are nothing new. For six years fighting between the government and rebels has claimed the lives of some 300,000 people. But now the situation is devolving from bad to worse. The Sudanese Government expelled the 13 largest international aid organizations from Darfur on March 4th, according to *The Economist* ("Compounding the Crime," March 12). The expulsion was announced soon after the International Criminal Court indicted Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The most recent incident in the string of dramatic events surrounding Darfur was President Bashir's announcement Wednesday that Sudanese government would begin to nationalize all aid efforts in the country within the coming year. "The plan is that all international aid agencies will be phased out [of the country] and it will just be Sudanese agencies," explained Jessica Wilson, Media Relations Contact for the International Relief Committee (IRC).

Humanitarian aid organizations are nothing short of a lifeline for Sudan's 2.75 million refugees, providing food, water, shelter, and medical aid. Cutting that lifeline leaves millions of Sudanese war victims helpless. "If this decision stands, we can expect over a million people to be in immediate risk of losing their lives," said US Ambassador Susan Rice, as reported by the Associated Press. "The responsibility for that decision lies squarely with the government of Sudan."

Giving NGOs the Boot

To make the situation even worse those NGO's that were allowed to stay may soon leave as well. On March 12th, armed men entered an embassy in Darfur and abducted three aid workers with the medical aid organization Doctors Without Borders. The organization says it will soon pull nearly all its workers from the region. President Omar al-Bashir quickly denied any allegations of involvement, but based on his bloody track record,



Darfur has killed 300,000 ; expelling NGOs will add 1 million more to the toll | REUTERS

most are still pointing fingers. Likewise, the Sudanese government claims that the expulsion of the aid organizations is due their involvement in a conspiracy to supply the ICC with evidence against the president. But that too is highly dubious.

"If this decision stands, we can expect over a million people to be in immediate risk of losing their lives. Responsibility for that decision lies squarely with the government of Sudan."

Based on the Sudanese government's poor track record, Aid agencies worry that a nationalized relief program would make the situation far worse. Especially in light of the fact that most refugee camps are generally hostile toward the government, which could make administering effective aid difficult if not impossible. Further complicating the situation, China and Iran have fiercely denounced the ICC's indictment of President Omar al-Bashir. They say that it will incite more violence and targeting of aid workers and will upset the peace process in Darfur.

Yet, when has there ever been a coherent "peace plan"? China's argument is rather weak in light of the fact that no real plan exists in relation to cleaning up Darfur. It seems that aid work has been the most consistent ray of hope piercing through the fog of humanitarian atrocities in Darfur. But now that too will soon be gone. "We don't know what can be done but we have to try," said Kate Conratt, spokeswoman for Save the Children. "They're losing a lifeline and we're trying to avoid that as much as possible."

If there is to be any hope at all, countries around the world must throw their weight behind the ICC's indictment and push hard. The indictment has almost unanimous support amongst the Sudanese people, and broad-based support in the UN. Now is not the time for questions, hesitance or half-hearted support. Now is not the time to cut Darfur's last lifeline. ■

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Egypt | Easy Prey

Egypt's laws outlawing adoption open the door for exploitation.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS the third most profitable illegal market in the world, trailing only the arms trade and the drug trade. This highly lucrative business requires both customers and resources, and Egypt's strategic location designates it a convenient source, transit stop, and destination for human cargo. In the past, Egypt has attempted to confront the challenge of human trafficking by strengthening border security and developing high-tech desert tracking systems. Over the last several months, however, the Egyptian government has begun to crack down on foreign couples attempting to obtain unofficial adoptions of Egyptian children. Ironically, Egypt's adherence to the strict Islamic laws forbidding adoption places its orphan population at an increased risk of exploitation.

Egypt's campaign against human trafficking gained recent notoriety when the Egyptian government charged 11 people, including 3 couples from the United States, with human trafficking. In one instance, US citizens Louis Andros and Iris Botros entered Egypt for the purpose of adopting children, but were handed over to Egyptian authorities by the US embassy when they attempted to leave the country. After running genetics tests on the children, the US embassy had discovered that the couples had obtained false birth certificates and passports for the children, which listed them as the biological parents.

The Egyptian prosecution emphasized the fact that the children were "sold" from the orphanage. The couple did, in fact, donate 20,000 Egyptian pounds to the orphanage for a girl and 25,000 pounds for a boy—a combined amount equal to nearly 10,000 US dollars. The couple claimed these payments were related to clothing expenses or were simply left as donations. The defense lawyer said that the couple was unaware of the laws prohibiting adoption, but even so, the couples could face up to 15 years in prison. Egyptian Medhat Besada and his American wife Susan Haglof are facing similar charges. Their lawyer argued that the Egypt's anti-adoption law targets Christians by forcing them to submit to Shari'a Law and preventing the adoption of Christian children into Christian households.



Egypt's adoption policies do more harm than good for orphan children | WORDPRESS

While this motivation is possible, it is more likely that the government is concerned that Muslim babies would be raised by Christian families were adoption to be made legal. Egyptian law relating to child custody doesn't explicitly discriminate against the country's religious minority; the Is-

The Egyptian government is concerned that Muslim babies would be raised by Christian families were adoption to be made legal.

lamic court's enforcement of these laws, however, is undoubtedly meant to protect Muslim children from foreign influences. The third couple being charged with human trafficking has left the country and is suspected of making it back to the US. Egyptian expert in human trafficking Nihal Fahmy says that the practice of bribing orphanage workers and forging birth certificate is relatively simple in Egypt and could easily go undetected.

A Qur'an-Imposed Adoption Prohibition

Adoption was a common practice in pre-Islamic Arab territories and was considered a simple means of passing one's inheritance to a chosen heir. Muslims

preparing a new base in the Abkhazia prohibition against adoption stems from the Qur'an, in which Mohammad explicitly forbids orphaned children from accepting their guardians' family name. According to the Qur'an, Mohammad desired to marry Zainab, the wife of his adopted son. By forcing his son to divorce the girl and then subsequently taking her in marriage for himself, Mohammad claimed to nullify the heretical implications of adoption, which would naturally prohibit such a union. The implications of this prohibition affected three specific areas: (1) lineage, (2) inheritance and (3) marriage arrangements.

While guardianship is legal in modern Islamic societies, these societies specifically prohibit adoption in accordance with Islamic law. The significant differences between guardianship and adoption are that within a legal guardianship, the father's name and property cannot be transferred and the relationship has no effect on marriage arrangements. Even so, permanent legal guardianship is not considered socially acceptable in Egypt and, as a result, is very rarely practiced.

An Impossible System for Foreigners

The only potential loophole in the law is a technical possibility that a foreign couple ►►

Irony of the Dammed | Turkey

How water shortages continue to divide a nation along ethnic and economic lines.

BETWEEN MARCH 16 and March 20th, Turkey served as the backdrop for the inaugural World Water Forum. The incongruity between this conference and the status quo in Turkey was not lost on forum attendees. The forum itself illustrated the quixotic approach Turkey has taken toward natural resource allocation. The VIPs were allowed bathrooms with running water, while conference participants were kept from flushing.

Water itself has been the focal point of contention within Turkey over the past decade, exacerbating ethnic and class conflict, while pitting the forces of economic progress against the forces of cultural stasis. The GAP is nothing short of a rape of the Turkish ecosystem, circumstantial ethnic genocide, and a facilitator of regional conflict.

Harnessing the Tigris and Euphrates rivers for energy and commerce became a divisive issue the moment modern Turkey came into existence. Damming the rivers was first dreamt by Kemal Ataturk

and has been made a reality under current Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The Southeastern Anatolia Project (GAP) consists of twenty-two dams and nineteen power plants along the aforementioned rivers, at a cost of 32 billion dollars. Numerous dams are now complete, though Turkey is desperately seeking private investment to complete the proj-

ect. In 2001, the project was suspended after the British construction firm Balfour Beatty left the project due to the “commercial, environmental and social issues inherent in the project.” As few logistical details have changed, the Turkish government is unable to find financiers after the Swiss and Germans pulled their capital from the project. Much of ▶▶



Dry lakes in Turkey affect all but the politicians and bureaucrats | UPI

▶▶ *Continued from previous page*

might be allowed to gain legal custody of a child, obtain immigration papers, and then officially adopt the child in a foreign state. Legal custody is a prerequisite for any form of international adoption. Without obtaining legal custody in Egypt first, the potential parents would be guilty of kidnapping. The hassle of obtaining legal custody of an Egyptian child, however, makes the process realistically unfeasible.

Besides the numerous documents required to verify an orphan’s history and status, Egyptian law requires an Egyptian court order granting foreign couples custody of an orphan, an approval that is almost never given. The couple must then obtain the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ permission to immigrate with the child. Experts agree that working through the system is virtually impossible unless one or more of the parents is an Egyptian citizen. Even then, Egyptian human resource websites recommend that families interested in adopting should volunteer in

the orphanage first in order to build connections before attempting to gain custody. Of nearly 8,000 orphans living in Egypt, the US State Department reported that only one immigrant visa (an IR-4) was issued from the United States to an Egyptian child in 2008 as compared to the 3,909 immigrant visas issued to children from China.

Prostitution and Organ Harvesting

The dangers facing these orphans are not imaginary. The ease with which orphanage officials are bribed and documents are forged highlights the threat of child trafficking. Children are kidnapped from orphanages, or sold for forced labor, sexual exploitation, or killed and harvested for their organs. In 1999, a welfare organization based Minufiya was investigated for murdering orphans and selling their organs to hospitals for transplants. Suspicions were aroused after 25 of the 32 children at the orphanage died within the space of three months and subsequent investigations

uncovered dozens of financial irregularities. Egypt’s general prosecutor claimed that the children’s organs had been placed on the market and were being sold for \$30,000 a piece to wealthy patients who needed transplants. The child-organ market is not a local phenomenon. One investigation reported that 800 children were kidnapped in Honduras during a twelve month period for organ harvesting.

By removing alternatives for placing orphaned children in caring family situations, whether domestic or foreign, Egypt’s proscription against adoption makes orphans more vulnerable to illegal transactions. Whether these illegal transactions take the form of an ill-advised mother buying her first child or a hardened child trafficker, those willing to hazard them are less likely to be able to provide a safe environment for the children. ■

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Turkey | Continued...

▶ Turkey, continued from previous page

the international ire is being directed against a proposed dam on the Tigris which would displace eighty villages in the predominantly Kurdish territory. The Kurdish cultural center of Hasankeyf would be razed by the effects of the dam. This site has been the battleground for Kurdish separatist forces, and most of the 78,000 people supplanted by the Tigris are ethnic Kurds. Some see this “economic necessity” as but a mechanism for Istanbul to subjugate Kurdistan. The inadequate resettlement plans for the impoverished Kurds lend credence to this assertion.

While some farms in the region have benefited, the dams are a means of re-routing water away from larger Anatolia to the water-starved coastal cities like Istanbul. The mode of providing water to the parched Turkish cities has been criticized for favoring the hegemonic West at the expense of the East. Religious aspects to this dispute also exist, as the consumerist middle class of the coast battles the religious and conservative middle class of larger Anatolia. Prosperity for the commercial centers is being favored at the expense of regional services.

“Turkey is Drying Up”

The water shortage being experienced in Turkey is severe. At one point in the middle of the controversy two years ago, the water supply in the capital of Ankara was at a meager 3.5% of capacity. As Al Jazeera commented last week, “Turkey is drying up.” This reality is clashing with the popular perspective that access to potable water is a human right. While one hundred and twenty countries attending the Water Forum have signaled that water is a need rather than a right, the Turkish government has failed to even facilitate water provisions. In Istanbul, the tap water is not even drinkable.

Different environmental concerns are also battling against each other. The government claims that the Ilisu Dam alone stops three million tons of carbon dioxide from being released from conventional energy sources. This is a case study of the

inherent conflict among different environmental priorities. While harnessing nature may be efficient, it also causes violent changes to ecosystems. Some environmental groups are worried that entire species may be eradicated by Turkey’s comprehensive energy plan.

Water will become a tool of oppression, rather than a savior. In Istanbul, the dignitaries are removed from the water shortage. If nothing else, maybe the smell will cause them to consider alternative solutions.

In response to such externalities, European creditors suspended investment in the GAP several years ago. Turkey has not moved to amend its plan to make it more amenable to foreign investment. As an investment agent with the GAP has concluded, “In the end the system will be built. The question is when. It can’t proceed without solving the credit problem.” Unless Turkey addresses the 150 violations of environmental, economic, and ethical problems this project broaches, there is little chance for investment from

the West. However, the Water Forum presents an opportunity for Turkey to garner financial investments from less circumspect investors.

A Community Solution over Statism

The solution to a parched Asia Minor rests in community rather than statist solutions. Community solutions require democratic input. This mode of decision-making mitigates the danger posed by regional strife. It also ensures that environmental repercussions are felt by those who are responsible for the decisions.

While a public solution, as many protestors at the forum have been advocating, may be ideal, it fails to consider the state of civil society in Turkey. Donors and investors are required for the GAP to be finished. Even if the project is completed, regional tensions and ethnic separatism will limit its efficacy. Water will become a tool of oppression, rather than of deliverance. In Istanbul, the dignitaries are removed from the effects of the water shortage. If nothing else, maybe the smell will cause them to consider alternative solutions. ■

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The stalled SE Anatolia Project - 22 dams and 19 power plants for \$32 billion | AP

Germany's Columbine: The Rest of the Story | Germany

Why family politics—not video games – are at the heart of German school shootings

MARCH 11, 2009 began as a normal day for high school students in Winnenden, Germany. It became a very tragic day when math class was cut short by seventeen-year-old Tim Kretschmer, who opened fire in the school, killing fifteen people before finally taking his own life. Schoolchildren all across Germany are attending services, covering roadways with flowers and memorials, and fearing their normal school routines. For a country that boasts an exorbitant number of gun control laws, Germany has experienced quite a few tragic school shootings in the past few years. As policymakers throw up their hands in despair, some are recognizing that the problem may lie deeper than gun control or video games: it starts with the German family. Violent media is not sufficient to produce mass murder committed by mere children, but absent parents may very well be.

Violent media is not sufficient to produce mass murder committed by mere children, but absent parents may very well be.

Tragic Statistics

Since 2002, Germany has experienced an abnormally horrific number of school shootings. Even one incident, like the infamous 1999 Columbine High shooting in the United States, leaves an unforgettable scar on a nation's memory. Germany has experienced several in recent years, and the victim count is utterly tragic. In the city of Erfurt in 2002, Robert Steinhäuser, 19, opened fire on his classmates, killing sixteen including himself. In July 2003 a 16-year-old student in Coburg shot his teacher and held a fellow student hostage. In 2006, there was yet another incident in Emsdetten. And several weeks ago, Tim Kretschmer used his father's legally registered gun to kill thirteen classmates, two workers at a psychiatric clinic, and finally himself. German politicians are at a loss regarding a solution. After each school shooting, the government has responded by passing more gun control laws and regulations, but none appear to work.



Mourning the aftermath of Tim Kretschmer's fifteen-victim rampage | DERS

Absent Parents

Is violent media truly the root problem facing Germany's youth, or is violent media replacing parental involvement? Kretschmer's family released an apology letter to the families affected by their son's rampage, which stated the following: "We keep asking ourselves over and over again how this could happen? Why didn't we notice his despair and hatred?" The letter goes on, and carries one particular theme: we didn't know. We could not have imagined. Kretschmer's family did not anticipate his terrorist behavior, because they were simply not aware of their son's life habits and inner turmoil. Kretschmer was receiving depression treatment at the psychiatric clinic where he ended his shooting spree, but his parents were completely unaware of it. While violent games may have contributed to a depressed teenager, they cannot take all the blame for surges in school shootings. Parents who rely on video games to act as babysitters while they attend to jobs outside the home must take the primary blame.

Breakdown of the German Family

The cohesiveness of Germany's family is extremely weak, as evidenced by several factors. Children and teenagers are often left alone to internet chat rooms and video games while their parents work. Although the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs

attempts to offer help to the average German family, their reforms are weak, seldom passed, and few-and-far-between. In 2004, the birth rate was 1.33 children per women. Demographers estimate that the country needs a rate of approximately 2.1 births per women to keep the population from utterly shrinking away.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has worked with the Family Minister, Ursula von der Leyen, to pass "family friendly" policies that encourage more births, but they have a long way to go. As the statistics currently stand, Germany is undergoing a population decline, and something must change. That "something" is less government focus on regulations like gun control and bans on violent video games, and more effort from German parents to pull together as a family institution and be aware of their teenagers' lives.

These young killers have one thing in common: they come from the very heart of the German society. It is a fact that makes the abyss into which Germany is currently peering that much more sinister. But it is exactly for that reason that, when looking for consequences to be drawn from the monstrous deed, we should not just look to new laws, prohibitions or limitations. We should look to ourselves -- all of us. ■

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Somalia | The Hopeless Hellhole

Somalia's new president, Sharif Ahmed, inherits a completely failed state.

IMAGINE WHAT A country would look like after not having a government for almost twenty years. Utter anarchy is the best way to describe it—famine, unabated destruction, rampant crime, extortion, unbridled corruption, genocide, mass murder, assassinations, and endless civil strife, if the word civil can even be used. Sadly, this country actually exists. It is the East African nation of Somalia. Having struggled without an effective government for almost eighteen years, many scholars, politicians, and journalists call Somalia the world's most failed state. The real question though, is

“If this decision stands, we can expect over a million people to be in immediate risk of losing their lives. Responsibility for that decision lies squarely with the government of Sudan.”

whether or not Somalia has fallen too far to be rescued. World leaders are excited about Somalia's recently elected president, Sharif Ahmed. As a moderate Muslim and political optimist, Ahmed seems to be the man for the job. However, the job may prove to be too much for him, or anyone else for that matter.

A Historical Tragedy In Progress

Somalia's plunge into social despair began in 1991 when its militaristic dictator, Siad Barre, was deposed as the Cold War came to a close. Competing warlords from Somalia's four major clans vied for the top position in the power vacuum. The only stable institution that has existed since then was the Shariah-based Islamic court system. Even that did not last. An American-supported Ethiopian invasion removed the Islamic facet from Somali administration. Now, the moderate Ahmed, who obtained his political wings in that court system, is the Western-backed champion of reform. Ironically, Ahmed's strongest opponents also come from that same court system. When the courts were



President Ahmed (waving) succeeds a despot who ran Somalia into the ground | REUTERS

deposed, architects denied any allegations of involvement; but overthrown by invaders, the radical Islamists that formed the judicial law enforcement group reconstituted themselves into the *al-Shabab* organization. Though they no longer have a legal backing, these Muslim reformers believe they have the support of God to bring religious conformity to their society, by any means necessary. Dressed in black, these Jihadists are well funded and well trained. Their suicide attacks target places of “social misconduct,” such as bars, drink stands, or shacks with TV's or radios. They repress Somali women, and have been known to stone girls who accuse Somali men of rape. Funds and weapons are in abundant supply for them, thanks to overseas sponsors ranging from wealthy Somali exiles to foreign terrorists.

Nepotism and No National Budget

The most firmly rooted and destructive group in Somalia is its small club of feudal warlords. The civil wars between the four major clans have left thousands of Somalis dead in the city streets. These rivalries are so deep that the idea of Somalia is little more than lines on a map. The recent “transitional government” that Ahmed is replacing was

run by the most powerful of these warlords, Abdullahi Yusuf. Yusuf cared little for justice and stability, ignoring the evils of piracy and Jihadism while using his power to reward his supporters. Foreign leaders requested his resignation, which was readily given, as he returned to the North of the country with hundreds of gunmen to refocus on the profitable affairs of his social station. His government only managed to maintain anything resembling order within the few square blocks surrounding the capital in Mogadishu. Thanks to Yusuf's ragged administration, *Shabab* managed to overrun the parliamentary buildings in Baidoa and force members into exile. Somalia's parliament now operates out of a hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with funds from foreign donors. Somalia does not even have a national budget, which is why a desperately needed 3,000 law enforcement trained by the UN have not been paid in over a year.

A Dependence on Foreign Aid

It would seem that Ahmed's only chance for bringing stability to Somalia lies in dependence on foreign aid. Yet, even that is riddled with problems. An estimated 3.2 million Somalis would starve to death ►►

I'm Muslim... So What? | Ethics

An ethical view of the pragmatic case for racial profiling.

ETHICISTS DEBATED racial profiling even before the tragic events of 9/11. But in recent years, racial profiling has received significant press coverage. From the outset, racial profiling appears unethical and anti-American. The argument of this article does not justify all applications of racial profiling but instead argues that it has a proper use.

Those who argue against racial profiling highlight the ill-treatment of German Americans in World War I and the denial of rights granted to German and Japanese

How then does racial profiling work in intelligence? On an ethical level, racial profiling does not label everyone as a "good" or "bad" but rather places parameters on a search.

Americans during World War II. Governments make mistakes, and these mistakes appear at least as violations of basic American rights and at worst as blatant abuses of government power, controlled only by fear. Fear does drive much of a government's actions during a war, especially during the aftermath of a terrible attack on American citizens. Is this fear justified?

Those who argue in favor of racial profiling cite some specific ways in which racial profiling counters acts of terror or sabotage. In a modern context, most of the radical terrorists targeting American have a

Muslim background and therefore tend to be Arab (though this ethnicity could be narrowed even more into Iraqi, Afghani, or Saudi). The most common predicament involves German converts, urged to commit acts of terror in Germany, violating the basic assumption of racial profiling. How then does racial profiling work in intelligence? The German converts of the Islamic Jihad Union (also called the Islamic Jihad Group) are still a rare exception to the general rule about Muslim jihadists. On the whole, the vast majority of jihadists are Muslim. Intelligence from human sources and foreign signals can provide some warning, allowing law en-

forcement officers to know what nationalities to look for. This warning aids authorities in anticipating an attack, but does not establish who will commit the act. In this case, racial profiling happens to aid in accuracy, which provides some justification on a purely pragmatic level.

Narrowing Down Needles in the Haystack

On an ethical level, racial profiling does not label everyone as a "good" or "bad" but rather places parameters on a search. In investigations aiming at a needle in a haystack--or as a closer analogy, a can in a landfill--using a metal detector presents no ethical ▶▶



The case for racial profiling may exceed its current limited criminal justice uses | CNN

▶▶ Continued from previous page

without supplies provided by the UN. Because of piracy, though, UN transports from Mombasa, Kenya now require official naval escorts. Once the food reaches the country, its distribution depends largely on the whims of the warlords, turning starvation into a vehicle of political manipulation. UN officials recognize the need for a peacekeeping force, but there is little hope to see blue helmets in Mogadishu anytime in the near future. Detailed, well-laid plans for a force in Darfur have not received the necessary troops, and there is no such plan for

dealing with the Somalia crisis.

Currently, Ahmed has only the support of his exiled, penniless parliament and roughly 3,000 Burundian, Kenyan, and Ethiopian peacekeepers under the auspices of the African Union. Though the AU is fully supportive of Ahmed and applauded his election, little physical aid comes from that sector. The peacekeepers already in Somalia are vastly undertrained, undersupplied, and underfunded. Western nations must provide financial and political support, but will understand-

ably be hesitant to provide military muscle. Ahmed is going to have to find that within international organizations or his own country, any hint of a friendship with the *Shabab* will lose him the support of the West. Ahmed is going to need his lauded optimism and dedication in his new role. He may be in the most hopeless position of any modern political leader. ■

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►► *Racial Profiling, from page 11*

problem. Parameters of a search are critical to finding the right answer. In the pursuit of one person, many other people will be investigated, but the pursuit remains: protecting the innocent—even those investigated. No doubt at least some tension has resulted from my supposition: how can one assume that there is no denial of innocence when a person is investigated purely because of their race? In essence, racial profiling does not condemn the race of an individual but rather only serves as a guideline for investigation procedures.

If race and other physical features (which are not available if the information for conviction is an anonymous phone call) are not used, how many millions of people might be wearing a gray shirt and blue jeans on any given day? With this description, millions of people may fit the description. How many of these people could be driving a white minivan? How many of these people are likely to be Asian-Caucasian? Not many. This narrowing of the search comes from racial profiling. Any other use of racial profiling misses

the point: to eliminate extraneous suspects.

Though this *is* the purpose of racial profiling, does that excuse the unjust actions which denied rights to German Americans and Japanese Americans in the early and mid 1900s? Clearly not. How, then, does a tool of the government continue to be used if it has caused such injustice in the past? As a tool of the government, it must be held to a standard of accountability; and in the realm of law enforcement, that accountability comes with the desire to narrow a list of suspects with other, more precise criteria present. In the realm of intelligence gathering, race should not be used as a blanket criteria, but must also be assisted by more precise criteria. Ultimately, the application of racial profiling must be carefully monitored and balanced by other equally or more effective means of suspect identification. ■

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CT Calendar | Today In History

- 1975 | The Biological Weapons Convention enters into force.
- 1978 | Egypt and Israel ratify the Camp David Accords.
- 1980 | Colombia: M-19 seizes Dominican Embassy, holds 20 ambassadors and 65 other hostages; last hostage released on April 21.
- 1997 | US: Thirty-nine bodies found in the Heaven's Gate cult suicides.
- 1998 | Algeria: Oued Bouaicha massacre; 52 people killed with axes and knives, 32 of them babies under the age of 2.
- 2002 | Israel: Passover Massacre: A Palestinian suicide bomber kills 29 people partaking of the Passover meal in Netanya.
- 2007 | Afghanistan: Suicide attack on Bagram Air Base during visit by Vice President Cheney, killing 23 and injuring 20.

NCTC 2009 COUNTERTERRORISM CALENDAR

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