

FOCUS ON NATO

Mortgaging Ukraine's Future Security To Past Stereotypes About Nato?

By *Vladimir Socor*

Russian President-elect Dmitry Medvedev is citing low popular support for NATO membership in Ukraine as his argument against NATO approval of a Ukrainian Membership Action Plan (MAP) at NATO's April 2-4 summit (Interfax, Financial Times, March 26)...

<http://www.jamestown.org/>

NATO Membership Action Plans: "Not If But When"?

By *Vladimir Socor*

Ahead of NATO's April 2-4 Bucharest Summit, the alliance is preoccupied with maintaining the principles on which it interacts with aspirant countries. The core principles may be summed up as: the open door, membership action plans on the road to that open door, merit-based assessment of aspirant countries, and no external inputs into Allied decisions on membership or membership prospects...

<http://www.jamestown.org/>

Russia's Threats to Ukraine, Georgia Are Challenges to U.S., NATO

By *Vladimir Socor*

Representatives of the Russian government and the Kremlin are multiplying their threats to Ukraine (as well as to Georgia) ahead of next week's NATO summit, where Membership Action Plans (MAPs) for the two countries will be considered. Moscow real-

izes more clearly than some NATO governments that this issue is a defining one for the Alliance...

<http://www.jamestown.org/>

NATO's Middling Agenda

By *Jim Hoagland*

A divided NATO will not extend a blueprint for eventual membership to Ukraine and Georgia at the alliance's summit in Bucharest next week. Instead, that gathering will focus on increasing European troop totals in Afghanistan and discussing a bold proposal by President Bush to link U.S., NATO and Russian missile defense systems within a single cooperative network...

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

The Bucharest Summit: Time to Revitalize the NATO Alliance

By *Sally McNamara*

Since the fall of the Soviet Empire, the rationale behind NATO's existence has been questioned. However, not only is NATO necessary for the West's protection, but its broader raison d'être has never been more meaningful. The common values that unite NATO members—freedom, liberty, human rights, and the rule of law—remain under threat from both state and non-state actors.

<http://www.heritage.org/>

Crossroads for NATO – How the Atlantic Alliance Should Work in the 21st Century

By *David Cameron*

<http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/>

US

McCain Outlines Foreign Policy

By Michael D. Shear

LOS ANGELES, March 26—Sen. John McCain on Wednesday promised a collaborative foreign policy that would seek the input of allies abroad and would contrast sharply with the go-it-alone approach of the Bush administration...

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

Visas Needed

By keeping out needed high-tech workers, U.S. immigration policy pushes U.S. jobs abroad. APRIL'S JUST AROUND the corner, and that means it's H-1B preparation time once again. H-1Bs, which are visas for skilled foreign workers, are capped at 65,000, with another 20,000 given to foreign alumni of U.S. postgraduate programs...

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

Iraq: The Way Ahead

By Frederick W. Kagan

The United States now has the opportunity to achieve its fundamental objectives in Iraq through the establishment of a peaceful, stable, secular, democratic state and a reliable ally in the struggle against both Sunni and Shiite terrorism. Such an accomplishment would allow the United States to begin to reorient its position in the Middle East from one that relies on antidemocratic states like Egypt and Saudi Arabia to one based on a strong democratic partner whose citizens have explicitly rejected al Qaeda and terror-

ism in general...

<http://www.aei.org/>

RUSSIA

Medvedev's Chance To Lead?

By Masha Lipman

The next Russian administration, with Dmitry Medvedev as president and Vladimir Putin remaining at the helm as prime minister, may evolve into something different from Putin's current rule. But the expectations of liberalization that Medvedev's rhetoric and non-KGB background might have raised in some circles are wishful thinking...

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

CHINA

"Harmonious" In China

By John Delury

Due to the rapid progress of modern science and technology, humanity is entering a new age. In this new era, all people seek peace and development. The development of science and technology offers a future with limitless promise to mankind, but at the same time confronts humanity with new problems...

<http://www.hoover.org/>

Iran, Terrorism, and Weapons of Mass Destruction

By Daniel L. Byman

Since the Islamic Revolution in 1979, Iran has

been one of the world's most active sponsors of terrorism. Tehran has armed, trained, financed, inspired, organized, and otherwise supported dozens of violent groups over the years. Iran has backed not only groups in its Persian Gulf neighborhood, but also terrorists and radicals in Lebanon, the Palestinian territories, Bosnia, the Philippines, and elsewhere. This support remains strong even today: the U.S. government regularly contends that Iran is tied to an array of radical groups in Iraq...

<http://www.brookings.edu/>