

## RUSSIA

### Sizing Up Medvedev, The Next Russian President

By C.J. Chivers

Dmitri Medvedev, the man chosen to be the next Russian president, sat surrounded by soldiers...

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

### Russia Has Run Rings Round The West. A United Europe Must Stand Up To It

By Timothy Garton Ash

This presidential election is such a cliff-hanger. Will it be the rising star Dmitry "Obamovich" Medvedev? Or the veteran Gennady "McCainovich" Zyuganov? Aren't we on the edge of our seats, nervously checking the latest opinion polls ahead of Sunday's vote? Well, no...

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/>

## EUROPE

### Nabucco Gas Project Facing a Cascade of Defections

By Vladimir Socor

Romania seems to be the one remaining loyal participant in the Nabucco pipeline project, which is planned to carry Caspian gas via Turkey and the Balkans to Central Europe....

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

### U.S.-Czech Agreement Is a Model for Visa Reform

By James Jay Carafano

Ivan Langer, Interior Minister for the Czech Republic, and Michael Chertoff, Secretary for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), today signed a memorandum of understanding paving the way for Czech participation in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP)...

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

### Poland's Bold New Foreign Policy

By Charles Grant

For the rest of Europe, the worst thing about Poland's Law and Justice government, led by Jaroslaw Kaczynski, was its foreign policy. His approach towards Russia, Germany and (sometimes) the EU— supported by his twin brother, President Lech Kaczynski—was confrontational. The new Civic Platform government is working hard to repair the damage...

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

### Prestáva Slovensko vyžarovať „soft power“?

Martin Bútora

V slovenskej zahraničnopolitickej komunite sa v nedávnych mesiacoch diskutovalo o dlhodobejšej stratégii slovenskej zahraničnej politiky, ktorá by reflektovala novú pozíciu Slovenska na medzinárodnej scéne a hlavné globalizačné výzvy...

<http://www.ivo.sk/>

## CUBA

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### **How Fidel Ruined Cuba's Economy**

*By Joachim Bamrud*

Cuba's GDP is now five percent of what it was before Fidel Castro assumed power...

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

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### **Cuba after Fidel**

*By Duncan Currie*

The road to full-blown democracy will likely be slow, fitful, and deeply frustrating to Cubans on both sides of the Florida Strait...

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