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EUROPE

The Balkans: A New Crisis?

With tensions over Kosovo increasing, the leader of Britain's Conservative Party and Brookings experts discussed the implications at a recent forum. David Cameron argued that "there is a crisis developing in the Balkans, and we must act now to prevent it in the interests of national security, not just in that region but around the world."

http://www.brookings.edu/

The Best Answer For Kosovo Is Eu Membership – And For Serbia Too

By Timothy Garton Ash

If Russia won't play ball, a coordinated declaration of independence for the disputed territory is the next best thing...

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

This Treaty Is A Mess, But It Will Free Europe To Do More Important Things

By Timothy Garton Ash

When the leaders of the European Union (except for the curmudgeonly latecomer Gordon Brown) gather this morning at Lisbon's Jerónimos monastery, to sign what was once intended to be a European constitution, they will be congregating in a glorious building in Portugal's distinctive Manueline style, they will be welcomed by a prime minister called Socrates, and they will be endorsing a dog's dinner...

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

US

Hawkish team that belies liberal image

By Andrew Ward

Rudy Giuliani was having breakfast at the Peninsula Hotel in Manhattan when he heard an aircraft had hit the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001...

http://www.ft.com/

Why the Worst Is Probably Over in Iraq

By Reuel Marc Gerecht

The success of General David Petraeus's counterinsurgency surge has convulsed American commentary on Iraq as much as it has reduced violence in the country. What had seemed gospel in some quarters—Iraq's "civil war" is unstoppable and American armed forces cannot do anything to diminish the fratricidal conflict—looks less certain today. http://www.aei.org/

U.S. Blows It Again on Cuba

By William Ratliff, Oscar Espinosa Chepe

Not long ago, for the 16th year in a row, the U.N. General Assembly overwhelmingly condemned the U.S. embargo on Cuba... http://independent.org/

RUSSIA

Sidekick-in-Chief

by David Satter

Russian President Vladimir Putin put an end



to endless speculation Monday and tapped Dmitry Medvedev, a first deputy prime minister, to succeed him...

http://www.hoover.org/

Medvedev – A Faceless Future Russian President

By Pavel Felgenhauer

http://www.jamestown.org/

Putin picks pliant president...
Russian President Vladimir Putin has finally designated First Deputy Prime Minister
Dmitry Medvedev as his preferred successor.
Almost immediately, Medvedev announced that he will ask Putin to be his prime minister "in th.e interests of the continuity of Putin's internal and foreign policies" (RIA-Novosti, December 12th)...

The Heart of Conservatism

By Michael Gerson

How William Wilberforce and Lord Shaftesbury started a new kind of conservative movement.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/

Virtual Museum of Communism Planned

In a tribute to the roughly 100 million people believed to have died under closed communist regimes, a U.S. foundation is building a "virtual museum" of their suffering on the World Wide Web—a monument in itself to openness and transparency...

http://www.rfa.org/

