

US

Still Wrong in Afghanistan

By Richard Holbrooke

“I’m a spray man myself,” President Bush told government leaders and American counter-narcotics officials during his 2006 trip to Afghanistan. He said it again when President Hamid Karzai visited Camp David in August. Bush meant, of course, that he favors aerial eradication of poppy fields in Afghanistan, which supplies over 90 percent of the world’s heroin. His remarks (which, despite their flippant nature, were definitely not meant as a joke) are part of the story behind the spectacularly unsuccessful U.S. counter-narcotics program in Afghanistan...
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

EUROPE

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/>

RUSSIA

Medvedev, Military Promote Different Outlooks for Russia

By Pavel Felgenhauer

On Saturday, January 19, the first deputy defense minister and chief of the General Staff, four-star general Yuri Baluyevsky, announced that Russia must build an armed force that will be ready to meet the challenges of the modern world...
<http://www.jamestown.org/>

Putin’s Successor Lays Out Ambitious Plans, but Can He Deliver?

By Jonas Bernstein

Medvedev said Russia already has a civil society and that the state will follow a “firm course” of developing “a free society” in which freedom and justice must become the main principles...
<http://www.jamestown.org/>

'Missing no Blows' in Moscow

By Masha Lipman

The stepped-up harassment of the British Council in recent days signals a new low in Russia’s post-Cold-War relations with the West and a further slide toward Soviet-style isolationism...
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

Mirror-Imaging the Mullahs Our Islamic Interlocutors

By Reuel Marc Gerecht

For a devout Muslim, “happiness” derives exclusively from the believer’s faithfulness to God’s commandments and hence his odds of going up, not down, in the afterlife. The idea of “fun” is something difficult for him to digest fully...

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

Human Rights: After Reforms, Do Offenders Still Get a Free Pass?

By Joshua Muravchik

Most governments (even democratic governments) are unwilling to so much as speak up for human rights if the price is to invite diplomatic friction with abusive regimes...

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