VIII: What Policies and Institutional Reforms Are Needed?

Conflict & Resolution
Crow and Pendergast, “Stop Your Gadget Greed From Fueling Tragedy in Congo”
1. What are conflict minerals and why do Crow and Pendergast say that we as consumers inadvertently fuel the war in the Congo?

2. According to Crow and Pendergast, what can American consumers, industry leaders, and Congress do to bring an end to the war in the Congo (1 example for each group)?

Lambert, “Chocolate Now Fuels War in West Africa”
1. During the past decade, what commodities have West African governments & rebel groups used to finance civil wars?

2. What does the Global Witness report call for to eliminate the possibility of conflict chocolate?

Kurzman and Engelhart, “Farewell to World Peace”
1. When Russian troops attacked Georgia, what did this mark?

2. Why has there been a decline in interstate conflicts in recent years—what are reasons why governments face strong incentives to choose mediation over warfare?

Moore, “Sierra Leoneans Look for Peace Through Full Truth About War Crimes”
1. What is Fambul Tok, what are former rebels doing at the village meetings, and what is the old way that Fambul Tok is using?

2. Until South Africa pioneered TRCs (truth and reconciliation commissions) in 1995, how was the past made public and what is a criticism of this approach?

3. In impoverished villages of Sierra Leone, what is the reason that people most often say that they forgive?
Pflinz, “Kenya Referendum: How Groups Came Together to Prevent Violence”
1. In the run-up to the Kenya referendum, what did “hundreds of organizations…” do to insure that the vote would be peaceful and according to Rev. Rirei, what did they try to show?

Maathai, “African Leaders are Finally Coming Together to Solve Africa’s Problems”
1. According to Wangari Maathai, the African Union is posed for a breakthrough. What did the AUPD special report, released in October, provide?

2. What did the panel understand, regarding what was critical to achieving sustainable peace and authentic justice?

Structural Adjustment & Economic Reform
Bures, “Robinhood in Reverse”
1. On what assumption was the IMF founded and why/how did this assumption change in the 1980s?

2. What is the “Washington Consensus” (3 principles) and how well have these IMF/World Bank policies worked?

3. What are 2 changes in IMF/WB policies that Stiglitz advocates and what does he say development & economics are about?

Llana, “Latin American Voters Go Left, but Not that Far Left”
1. What does the recent election of leftists in several Latin America countries indicate--what is there no doubt that voters in most countries have firmly rejected?

2. What unites the countries in Latin America which have recently elected leftist presidents?

Francis, “Financial Crisis the Latest Blow to Free-Market ‘Dogma’”
1. According to various progressive/liberal economists, the financial crisis and the trembling US economy have dealt a severe blow to conservative economic ideology. What are 3 conservative ideas/theses/claims that these economists argue have been discredited by recent events/data?

Llama, “Peru’s Garcia Unpopular Despite Boom”
1. Despite Peru’s low inflation rate, sustained growth, and high level of foreign investment, why is President Garcia one of the most unpopular presidents in the region (see criticism of Erfrain Gonzales)?
2. According to Jorge Izquierdo, what does the government of Peru expect will solve all of these problems (e.g., real reforms—including injustice, health, education and security) and why does Izquierdo disagree?

Long & Llama, “Costa Rica Election: Why the Left is Lagging”
1. Across Latin America, what have voters exhibited a desire to do and what are Carlos Guevara-Mann’s criticisms of Latin America’s traditional parties?

Shahriari & Llama, “Why Bolivia Reelected Eva Morales”
1. Why was Eva Morales’ margin of victory (in Bolivia’s presidential election) no surprise—to whom has he long appealed?

2. What are 3 examples of what President Morales plans to do, or has recently done which illustrate his left-leaning policies?

Downie, “Brazil Bucks Global Economic Downturn”
1. Why (4 reasons) is Carl’s Jr. planning to expand into the Brazilian market (i.e., why is Brazil emerging as an investment magnet?

2. According to economists, what factors (4 items) are behind Brazil’s steady growth/spending spree?

Baldua, “Opening Shop in India? Bring Scissors to Cut Red Tape”
1. According to a survey of India-based business owners (conducted by the World Bank), what are 3 major or severe obstacles to growth and what does a new World Bank report make clear, regarding what India must do to improve its investment climate?

Ford, “China’s Land Reform Aims to Revolutionize 750 Million Lives”
1. What was the radical change (in land policy) that China’s President Diem Xiaoping introduced 30 years ago?

2. Under China’s current system, how do residents gain access to land and what can they grow?

3. What will the land reform, which was recently announced by China’s Central Committee, allow small farmers to do?

Democracy & Empowerment
Balfauf, “For Post-Colonial Africa, Hope Deferred”
1. Why does Mr. Lyman argue that both rich countries of the West and African leaders are to blame for Africa’s problems?
2. According to Mr. Lyman, what should African nations and the US & the EU do to starve off economic & political catastrophe in Africa?

3. Today, Ghana has much to be proud of. According to World Bank statistics, what are 3 of Ghana's successes?

Editorial, “Zero Hour in Zimbabwe”
1. According to President Mugabe, what is responsible for Zimbabwe’s crisis (millions fleeing, high inflation, high unemployment, political violence)? According to the editorial, what is responsible for the crisis?

2. According to the editorial, who can/should move/pressure President Mugabe to implement a power-sharing deal or resign?

Baldauf, “Africa’s New $5 million Prize for Top Leader”
1. What is the Mo Ibrahim Prize, who was selected as its first laureate, and why was he awarded the prize?

2. The Ibrahim Foundation uses an index designed by a Harvard professor to measure African country’s progress in key areas (of good governance). What are 5 items included in these key areas?

Hughes, “Islam and Democracy Can—and Do—Coexist”
1. Skeptics argue that democracy and Islam are incompatible, but 3 huge countries are successfully integrating Islam and democracy. What are these 3 countries, whose Muslim population makes up 25-33% of the world’s Muslim populace?

Hinshaw, “Africans Reflects on Obama’s ‘Tough Love’ Message”
1. President Obama used his first African visit—to the democratic bastion of Ghana—to send a critical message to Africa’s leaders. What was President Obama “tough love” message?

2. According to David Shinn, former US Ambassador to Ethiopia. What was the main thing that President Obama wanted to do (during his trip to Africa)?

Baldauf, “Hillary Clinton, in Liberia, Targets Good Government”
1. What is Secretary of State Clinton’s visit to Liberia meant to illustrate and why does it have symbolism?

2. Regarding the new African Command (Africom), what does Liberia’s President say (we) must all acknowledge?
Editorial, “India’s Surprise is the World’s Hope”
1. Why is India’s surprise the world’s hope—who defied expectations and won enough seats in Parliament to rule for the next 5 years and what will this allow for?

2. According to the editorial, why (3 reasons) has China been winning the contest (over India) for foreign investment?

Llama, “Venezuela Vote Emboldens Chavez”
1. What are the 2 issues (failures of the government) on which the opposition to President Chavez centered its campaign?

2. Why may have some of Chavez’s supporters been concerned about an opposition victory? Who does this suggest are Chavez’s supporters?

Non-Governmental Organizations & People Power
Knickbocker, “New Kid in the Global Arena”
1. What are 2 reasons behind the rapid growth of NGOs?

2. What are 3 accomplishments (success in influencing international agencies/corporations) that are credited to NGOs?

Bruyn, “Civic Society Transcends Right-Left Gap”
1. What are the forces of civic society and what values does civic society carry?

2. According to USAID’s Assistant Administrator Franco, how does civic society participation strengthen democracies?

Itano, “In Africa, ‘Little Guys’ Bring Big Changes”
1. In Zambia & elsewhere in Africa, what are civil society groups doing?

2. According to Mr. Gyimah-Boadi & Mr. Sitole, what are 2 improvements that have strengthened civil society in Ghana & throughout Africa?

LaFranchi, “At Summit on Entrepreneurship Obama’s Approach to Moslem World on Display”
1. Who/what groups did President Obama invite to participate in the recent summit on entrepreneurship? Who wasn’t invited to participate?
2. Why do some regional experts (like Isobel Coleman) say that President Obama’s approach makes sense?

Walker & Tatje, “Corruption Drag on Democratic States”
1. What are Freedom House's 4 indicators of good governance?

2. According to Freedom House, what is critical to combating corruption (i.e., where is corruption often most rampant)?

Gunter, “Two Myths Hinder the Global Fight Against Corruption”
1. According to Prof. Gunter, what are 2 myths that we must debunk to fight corruption effectively?

2. According to Prof. Gunter, what does the experience of countries that have dramatically reduced corruption show?

LaFranchi, “Press Freedom Falls Around the World”
1. According to Freedom House’s annual report, when/in what years did press freedom reach new heights? What has

2. According to Freedom House, which country is the world’s largest poor performer concerning press freedom and where are some bright spots in South Asia (3 countries) that have registered improvements?