

- *A selection of op-eds and editorials from the U.S. and around the world.*

## Medvedev's Triumph

March 4, 2008

Russia and the election of its new president Dmitri Medvedev dominate the thoughts of opinion writers Tuesday morning. Columnist Gideon Rachman writes in the *Financial Times* that Medvedev will not go back to the Cold War. Russian interests are too deeply entangled with the west to make a straightforward policy of confrontation feasible, he says. In an editorial, the *New York Times* says the United States cannot pretend that Vladimir Putin and his allies operate from democratic intentions. They must push for more open elections and political and journalistic freedoms, it says. The leader of The Other Russia coalition, Garry Kasparov, writing in the *Wall Street Journal*, says that Dmitri Medvedev's overwhelming election victory on Sunday does not mean the democratic opposition will remain silent. Dmitri Trenin of the Carnegie Endowment, also in the *Wall Street Journal*, says the vote has several meanings, and that above all, this election seals the rule of a two-term limit on the head of state. The *Hindu* says in an editorial that there can be absolutely no doubt that Medvedev's triumph is an overwhelming endorsement of the policies Russia has pursued under Mr. Putin and a mandate to carry these policies forward. Mary Dejevsky of the *Independent* in London writes that the next president will have his work cut out if he wants to complete the defeat of the Bolshevik revolution.

Also in today's papers:

### ***Belfast Telegraph***

- In Northern Ireland's largest newspaper, British Army Afghanistan veteran Leo Docherty criticizes the way Prince Harry's deployment to the war against the Taliban is being used by the government.

### ***Daily Telegraph***

- In an editorial on the agreement reached last week in Kenya, the paper says that the most urgent task for the duumvirate who will share power will be to tackle the vast disparities in wealth by curbing the illegal allocation of public land.

### ***Financial Times***

- In an editorial on warnings of thousands of job losses in London's financial district this year, the *FT* believes that actually this financial cycle looks more painful to the shareholders of banks than to their employees.

- Geoff Dyer, the *FT's* Shanghai correspondent, writes that Brazil might have lessons for China's booming economy. As Latin Americans can attest, rapid growth can still leave behind deep social scars.
- Jagdish Bhagwati, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, writing about the Democratic Party's presidential hopefuls says the only question is: of the two, which is likely to be friendlier as president to the cause of multilateral free trade? Careful scrutiny suggests that the odds are in favor of Mr. Obama, he concludes.

### ***Guardian***

- Aluf Benn, the diplomatic editor of the Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz*, considers the "unbearable dilemma" facing the Israeli government: should it invade Gaza, to halt the Palestinian rocket fire and oust the Hamas government, or try to negotiate a stable cease-fire with Hamas, he asks.
- In an editorial on Tuesday's Democratic primaries in Ohio and Texas, the *Guardian* writes that if she is a double loser today, Hillary Clinton should remain in the contest but suspend her campaign.

### ***Jerusalem Post***

- In an editorial on Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's "historic visit" to Iraq, the *Post* says that the irony is that Iran and Iraq, though seemingly in completely different camps, are using each other to break out of forms of international isolation.

### ***Jordan Times***

- In an editorial on Ahmadinejad's visit to Iraq, the paper says that what the Iranian leader aimed to accomplish in Baghdad is not clearly known, but that the visit was a snub the U.S., whose soldiers, unlike Ahmadinejad, are not received with roses.
- Daoud Kuttab of Princeton University welcomes the visit of King Abdullah to the United States. He writes that if America ever hopes to win hearts and minds in the Arab and Islamic worlds, a serious and balanced approach to the region's conflicts is needed, and that no one can give us such a balanced approach better than King Abdullah.

### ***New York Times***

- In an editorial on illegal immigration, the *Times* describes the United States as a nation so confused and conflicted by its immigration problems that it has decided to wall itself off and wait for things to fix themselves.

- In a further editorial, the paper describes as lamentable a decision of the Bush administration to deny California permission to develop its own stricter rules to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles.
- Columnist Bob Herbert, in an op-ed about the cost of the war in Iraq, says there has been very little in the way of public conversation, even in the presidential campaigns, about the consequences of these costs, which are like a cancer inside the American economy. CFR.org recently featured a Backgrounder on this question.

### ***Times of London***

- In a commentary Martin Fletcher says there are encouraging signs of progress in Iraq. Even ardent opponents of the U.S. invasion - himself included - could not deny that daily life for most Iraqis is now better, or at least markedly less awful, than it was in the wake of the toppling of Saddam Hussein.
- In an editorial on the visit by the Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice to the Middle East, the *Times* believes there could hardly be a worse moment for her to drive forward peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

### ***Wall Street Journal***

- In an editorial on Barack Obama's trade policy, the *Journal* says a rejection of the pending Colombian free trade deal, a rewrite of NAFTA, and a literal embrace of Obama's campaign rhetoric would send a disastrous signal over U.S. borders, north and south.
- In a further editorial, on the deployment by the president of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez, of tanks to the border with Colombia, the *Journal* says Mr. Chavez's war bluster is especially phony because he is already waging his own guerrilla campaign against Colombia through his support for the FARC.
- Zalmay Khalilzad, the United States ambassador to the United Nations, writing about Iran's nuclear programs, says that Tehran's violations of Security Council resolutions not only continue, but are deepening.
- Nansen G. Saleri of Quantum Reservoir Impact, writes that contrary to popular belief, the world is nowhere close to reaching a peak in global oil supplies.
- Joshua T. White of the Council on Faith and International Affairs, says that the ouster of pro-Taliban Islamist parties in Pakistan's Northwest

Frontier Province has sparked optimism that secular nationalism is replacing religious fanaticism in a troubled corner of the world.

***Washington Post***

- Senator Joe Lieberman writes that the NATO summit in April provides an opportunity for the administration to bolster another critical ally that can provide the troops needed to prevail against the Taliban: the armed forces of Afghanistan.
  
- In an editorial, the *Post* says that the upsurge in fighting between Israel and Hamas over the weekend, and the resulting suspension of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, demonstrates again a crucial flaw in the Bush administration's Middle East strategy.

***Washington Times***

- In an editorial, the *Times* pours scorn on claims by Hugo Chavez that Colombia violated Ecuador's sovereignty in a raid that killed a FARC leader, Raul Reyes. This, says the paper, follows years of Mr. Chavez and his Ecuadorean allies helping the FARC as it terrorizes Colombia with [cross-border](#) raids and kidnappings.

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CDR Diana Sorrentino, USNR