

FOREIGN AFFAIRS



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Comments

- Culture Matters *Oscar Ariás* 2
Latin Americans must look in the mirror and confront the reality that many of our problems lie not in our stars but in ourselves. Only then will the region finally attain the development it has so long sought.
- Less Than Zero *Josef Joffe and James W. Davis* 7
All previous attempts at total nuclear disarmament have failed, as strategic logic and state interest have prevailed over wishful thinking. A similar fate awaits Global Zero, the newest disarmament movement, for similar reasons.
- Enforcing the Peace *Howard M. Sachar* 14
The Israelis and the Palestinians will never find peace if they are left to negotiate on their own. As has been the case throughout history, great-power leadership is the missing ingredient. Washington must lead the way in enforcing a final-status settlement.
- Sudan's Secession Crisis
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Depending on how locals and outsiders react to events in Sudan, the secession referendum scheduled for January could trigger either the country's partition or a new explosion of violence.

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- The Political Power of Social Media *Clay Shirky* 28
Discussion of the political impact of social media has focused on the power of mass protests to topple governments. In fact, social media's real potential lies in supporting civil society and the public sphere—which will produce change over years and decades, not weeks or months. The U.S. government should maintain Internet freedom as a general goal, not as a tool for achieving immediate policy aims in specific countries.

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After so many years of faulty U.S. policy toward Afghanistan, there are no quick, easy, or cost-free ways to escape the current quagmire. Although it has problems, a de facto partition of Afghanistan, in which Washington pursues nation building in the north and counterterrorism in the south, offers an acceptable fallback.
- Finish the Job** *Paul D. Miller* 51
Since 2001, Afghanistan's economy has grown at an impressive rate and major development indicators in the country have improved dramatically. Even security and the rule of law—long neglected—are now improving. Washington and its allies could still win in Afghanistan if they are given the time they need.
- The Dangers of a Nuclear Iran** *Eric S. Edelman,
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Iran's acquisition of a bomb would upend the Middle East. It is unclear how a nuclear-armed Iran would weigh the costs, benefits, and risks of brinkmanship and escalation and therefore unclear how easily Tehran could be deterred from attacking the United States' interests or partners in the Middle East.
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- A Third Way to Palestine** *Robert M. Danin* 94
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- Why Moscow Says No** *Andrei Shleifer and Daniel Treisman* 122
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- A Leaner and Meaner Defense**
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Pentagon budgets have soared over the past decade, partly because of the department's failure to prioritize missions properly. In the coming age of austerity, major cuts are imperative—and if done right, they will not harm U.S. interests.