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# FOREIGN AFFAIRS



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## African Disunion

Fear and Loathing in Nairobi *John Githongo* 2

Kenya was once Africa's poster child for stability and growth. In late 2007, however, it descended into ethnic violence that empowered armed youths and delegitimized the state. The current coalition government has not solved the underlying problems of corruption and inequality, and ethnic resentments are likely to remain until Kenyans elect a clean and inclusive government.

Mugabe Über Alles *Robert I. Rotberg* 10

Zimbabwe has been ruled by a unity government since 2008, but President Robert Mugabe and his party continue to usurp power and pillage the country's wealth. The United States must encourage Zimbabwe's neighbors to push for democratic reforms and demonstrate Washington's own commitment to resolving the crisis.

## Essays

Prisoners of the Caucasus *Charles King and Rajan Menon* 20

For centuries, the Russian state has attempted to impose order on the mountainous lands of the North Caucasus. Today, a pernicious mix of heavy-handed rule, corrupt governance, high unemployment, and militant Islam has reignited the region, threatening to tip not just the old war zone of Chechnya but also its neighboring republics into open civil war.

The New Cocaine Cowboys *Robert C. Bonner* 35

Mexico is currently suffering from the same sort of drug-related violence that plagued Colombia during the 1980s. Colombia's Cali and Medellín drug cartels were once the most powerful criminal groups on earth; now, they do not exist. Mexico and the United States can learn a great deal from Colombia's example, including that they must build law enforcement capacity and not rely solely on military force.



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Since the overthrow of the Taliban in 2001, the West has tried to build a strong centralized government in Afghanistan. But such an approach fits poorly with Afghanistan's history and political culture. A range of alternative models are possible, of which the two most realistic and acceptable in terms of U.S. security interests are decentralized democracy and a system of internal mixed sovereignty.
- Castrocare in Crisis** *Laurie Garrett* 61  
Cubans are wildly optimistic about the transformations that will occur once the United States lifts its long-standing embargo on Cuba. Overlooked in these discussions, however, is how Cuba's health-care industry may be harmed by any serious easing of trade and travel restrictions between the two countries.
- No Good Deed Goes Unpunished** *Princeton N. Lyman and Stephen B. Wittels* 74  
The United States and other donors have committed to providing antiretroviral treatment to all those infected with HIV. As the cost of this ambitious undertaking grows, its challenges will grow, too. It already is limiting U.S. leverage over recipient countries and sparking debates within the development community.
- Stopping Proliferation Before It Starts** *Gregory L. Schulte* 85  
Efforts to stem the spread of nuclear weapons typically focus on North Korea and Iran. But it is probably too late to convince these countries to dismantle their nuclear programs. Rather than fixating on the proliferation they are unable to prevent, concerned countries should pay more attention to preventing proliferation to states that have not yet decided to build nuclear weapons.
- Coping With China's Financial Power** *Ken Miller* 96  
China is now experimenting with how best to use its unprecedented financial might in its foreign relations. With a view to bolstering its economy, it is hoarding foreign currency reserves and sending money abroad, as direct investment, aid, and loans. Those wary of trade imbalances are fretting, but China's financial foreign policy has so far been better for other countries than for China itself.
- Obama and the Americas** *Abraham F. Lowenthal* 110  
Soon after becoming U.S. president, Barack Obama announced a new policy for Latin America and the Caribbean that would eschew the grand gestures of previous administrations and focus on a few concrete issues of importance to the people of the region. But Washington has not delivered. It still can, although only if it vigorously pursues a clearly defined, proactive, and integrated strategy.
- Ukrainian Blues** *Alexander J. Motyl* 125  
On becoming president of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovich immediately took actions that undermined democracy, ignored the country's badly broken economy, and aligned Ukraine too closely with Russia for the comfort of much of the electorate. If he keeps on his current course, he could very well provoke a second Orange Revolution.

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## Reviews & Responses

### Veiled Truths *Marc Lynch* 138

In *The Flight of the Intellectuals*, Paul Berman argues that it is not violent Islamists who pose the greatest danger to liberal societies in the West but rather their so-called moderate cousins, such as Tariq Ramadan. However, such a reading of contemporary Islamism misses the many nuances of the movement and the internal battles being fought between reformers and hard-line Salafists.

### Honolulu, Harvard, and Hyde Park *Walter Russell Mead* 148

David Remnick's *The Bridge*, an intelligent and searching biography of Barack Obama, delivers fresh insights about the president's personal and political odyssey—particularly when it comes to understanding the degree to which Obama is a product of New England's commitment to social and global reform.

### Empire Without End *Charles S. Maier* 153

Three recent books represent the latest endeavors to study empires scientifically. Jane Burbank and Frederick Cooper's extensive volume and Timothy Parsons' selective survey are systematic treatments of empires; Richard Immerman's history is a focused critique of America's imperial career. None is an apologia for the United States.

### The Containment Conundrum *Barry R. Posen, Barry Rubin, and James M. Lindsay and Ray Takeyh* 160

If Iran obtains nuclear weapons, could the United States and its allies successfully contain it? Or would a newly emboldened Iran transfer more weapons to its militant and terrorist clients, inspire Islamist movements, and intimidate its neighbors? James Lindsay and Ray Takeyh respond to their critics.

### Après Louis, Hamid *Arjun Chowdhury and Ronald R. Krebs, James A. Nathan, and Sheri Berman* 169

Can Louis XIV's consolidation of power in seventeenth-century France guide the way for state builders in Afghanistan today? No, argue Arjun Chowdhury and Ronald Krebs, because the cases are too different. And, writes James Nathan, the Sun King's approach was too costly to be emulated. Sheri Berman disagrees.

### Letters to the Editor 175

Including Mario Loyola on international law, Imran Gardezi on Pakistan's nuclear weapons, and Joseph Nye on imperial collapse.

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THE EDITORS