
THE FLETCHER FORUM of WORLD AFFAIRS

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Crises loom in Africa and Southwest Asia as this edition of *The Forum* goes to press. Of the various issues before us in these two regions, *The Forum* highlights the economic and governance problems of Zimbabwe and the rising tension between the international community and Iran. The machinery of decision-making is in motion to manage these crises. Policymakers need clarity if the right choices are to be made.

Regarding Africa, an important policy innovation occurred in 2007 when President Bush announced the formation of Africa Command. This new military command will strengthen U.S. security cooperation with states in the region. As Sudan, Somalia and the war on terror dominate U.S. strategic planning in Africa, Zimbabwe continues its descent into trouble. **TODD MOSS** of the Center for Global Development and **ROBERT I. ROTBERG** of Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government offer a picture of what is at stake in Zimbabwe and show what can be done in the short-through long-term to help the transition to the post-Mugabe period.

The Forum would like to take the opportunity to welcome a new addition to The Fletcher School faculty, Dr. **VALI NASR**, who will begin to teach at Fletcher in the fall of 2007. Through an interview with Dr. Nasr *The Forum* continues to focus on Iran and Southwest Asia. We thank Dr. Nasr for the chance to interview him. We wager that he will receive many more challenging and probing questions in the years ahead. We wish Dr. Nasr and his students the very best of luck.

"We cannot change the world if we do not understand it properly," says **JAMIE SHEA**, Director of Policy Planning in the office of the secretary general for NATO. Organizations must constantly evolve if they are to successfully respond to emerging issues. They must develop new analytical capabilities, hire new specialists, and learn new languages. In some cases, organizations may need to formulate a new strategic concept to drive them into the future. This is the story of NATO in the 21st century. For a first-hand look at this process, *The Forum* points our readers to Mr. Shea's excellent and instructive article.

From articles on Iran and Lebanon, to human rights monitoring in Sri Lanka, to energy policy and international environmental regulation, the mission of this journal is to provide innovative analysis to help our readers understand the world. Although it is often difficult to measure our success, we are pleased to note a substantial increase in our governmental and organizational subscriptions over the last two years. We thank all of our readers for your continued support of the journal. We will continue to strive to meet your expectations.

The articles that we have chosen for this edition cover regions and connections both familiar and new. We hope that you enjoy the selection and we hope that the articles are helpful to you. As always, we welcome your thoughts and questions. You can reach us at forum@tufts.edu.

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