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“Smart” power and “soft” power have become buzzwords to describe how a state can exert influence short of using force. *The Fletcher Forum* interviewed Leslie Gelb, president emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations, to discuss the nature of power and its importance to U.S. grand strategy in the twenty-first century. Gelb points out that while the essential meaning of power has not changed, power today is measured far more by the size of a nation’s economy than the size of its military force.

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In June 2009, U.S. President Barack Obama delivered an address in Cairo, Egypt, calling for a “new beginning” between the United States and the Muslim world. Approaching the first anniversary of the speech, *The Fletcher Forum* sat down with Columbia University Professor Hassan Abbas to discuss if, and how, relations between the United States and the Muslim world have changed during the Obama Presidency.

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Brian Finlay, senior associate at the Henry L. Stimson Center, argues that although new biotechnologies have yielded tremendous benefits for humanity, they remain a major potential threat to global security. Increasingly, the fundamental challenge of the biotech revolution is to ensure that technologies with a legitimate use in the civilian economy are neither inhibited by overly invasive legal restrictions, nor diverted for nefarious use as bioweapons.

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The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs aims to provide a broad, interdisciplinary platform for analysis of legal, political, economic, environmental, and diplomatic issues in international affairs. The editorial board of *The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs* believes that the publication’s audience values and expects the inclusion of conflicting viewpoints; the board does not expect readers to concur with all of the views expressed by *Forum* authors. This inherent diversity supports the very definition of a “forum,” i.e., a public meeting place for open discussion.

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THE FLETCHER FORUM of WORLD AFFAIRS

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Determining the line-up for each edition of *The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs* is both a challenging and exciting task. The editorial team strives to find the ideal balance between current topics, new perspectives to long-standing conflicts, and issues that tend to be put on the back burner. The Summer 2010 edition is no different, and we hope you enjoy our selection of interviews, features, perspectives, and book reviews.

It is no surprise that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan continue to be the source of much debate and reflection. In response to the perceived dysfunction of U.S. civil-military coordination in Iraq, **STUART BOWEN** proposes the creation of an office for contingency operations. Meanwhile, **STEVE BREYMAN** and **ANEEL SALMAN** stress the importance of stability in Pakistan to U.S. efforts in Afghanistan and evaluate Pakistani counterinsurgency operations over the past six years.

The greater Middle East, too, continues to be a significant topic of discussion. In this edition of *The Fletcher Forum*, we hope to offer you a fresh perspective on developments in the region. Highlighting the renewed U.S. focus on Yemen, **WILLIAM RUGH** recommends that rather than pursuing unilateral military action, the United States should engage in multi-lateral diplomatic efforts with the Gulf states to unite the region against al-Qaeda. **NATHAN BROWN** examines the Hamas and Fatah trajectories since 2007, demonstrating their growing divide as well as highlighting their operational similarities. **MOHAMMAD AUWAL** offers an in-depth look at the exploitation of migrant workers in the Gulf and advocates for “moral diplomacy” to create greater awareness and reform.

Conversations with prominent policymakers and scholars have always been a key feature of each edition of *The Fletcher Forum*. This spring, we were fortunate to speak with **LESLIE GELB** about the need to create an effective strategy for the United States. Dr. Gelb argues that the economy is vital to U.S. national security interests, more so than the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. We also spoke with **HASSAN ABBAS** on the state of relations between the United States and the Muslim world. Dr. Abbas discusses the implications of U.S. foreign policy directed at the Muslim world and argues that moving forward, the United States should avoid becoming involved in sectarian politics in the region and instead focus on supporting Muslim reformists.

The 2009 climate change negotiations in Copenhagen sparked much discussion on how to move forward on climate issues. **LUIS ALBERTO MORENO** contends that Latin America’s water problems could provide the necessary push to engage the region’s policymakers in global climate negotiations. **TOM BROOKES** argues for the creation of a low-carbon economy to generate economic growth and hence ensure energy security at the national and global levels. **BRIAN FINLAY** offers a comprehensive look into the biotech industry, highlighting particularly both the benefits of and the challenges posed by dual-use technologies.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Editor-in-Chief of *The Fletcher Forum* this academic year. On behalf of the entire team, I hope you enjoy this edition of *The Fletcher Forum of World Affairs*.

NAUREEN KABIR
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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