

## **THE WORLD IN BRIEF: MARCH 31, 2006**

**IMMIGRATION:** Dominant issue. Major focus on Latino community's growing political importance to congressional and presidential races. GOP worries of losing lead with Latino vote. Immigration policy also threatening to become wedge issue among Democrats (WP). Topic will dominate Sunday talk shows.

**NATIONAL SECURITY:** More criticism of Democrat's national security plans for being short on details. Focus on Democrat's long-term problems with national security (Rothenberg Report, LAT).

**CAPITOL HILL:** Senate Judiciary Cmte held contentious hearing today on Sen. Feingold's call to censure the President. Protectionist legislation increasing executive and congressional scrutiny over foreign acquisitions enjoys bipartisan support (WSJ).

**2006 ELECTIONS:** Democrats facing trouble recruiting strong candidates (Cook, Natl Journal).

**IRAN:** Rice's call for imposing sanctions on Iran receives cool reaction from Russia and China (NYT/WP). Coverage of EIBaradei's comments opposing sanctions on Iran (LAT/Wires). Reports of Iran missile firing, discussed in DoS briefing.

**IRAQ:** Tom Friedman, NYT: Success in Iraq "hangs in the balance"; Rumsfeld "criminally negligent" for not deploying enough troops. Calls for immediate government formation and increased security visibility. Heavy coverage of Jill Carroll's release, dangers of reporting in Iraq, implications on press coverage (Ignatius, etc).

**ISRAEL/PALESTINIANS:** State briefing dominated by questions on new regulations severing US contacts with Hamas govt. Wire coverage of Quartet statement, Bolton comments on Hamas and Palestinian FM. Coverage in major papers of Kedumim suicide bombing. Israel's election results were about socio-economic issues, not national security (WP, EJ Dionne).

**ME DEMOCRACY:** Iran and other regimes holding back on democracy in hopes Bush's successor will abandon reforms. Yet, US in post 9/11 will not cut and run (WSJ, Amir Taheri).

**INDIA:** US-India nuclear deal meeting chilly reception on the Hill, lawmakers predict delays and difficulties if not outright rejection (LAT).

**HARVARD PAPER:** Continued criticism (Martin Peretz, New Republic, Alan Dershowitz, NY Sun.)