

Unitas Online Media Weekly

Exclusively Online

The best opinion pieces from the websites of the national press

Robert Fisk in The Independent [argues](#) that **US troops left a long-lasting mark on Iraq** and brought a plague to the country. Whether it was corruption or torture in the chambers of **Abu Ghraib prison**, American troops have left a muddied track record.

The aftermath of US troops leaving Iraq has consistently been in the headlines. Peter McKay evaluates **the Iraq war** and [argues](#) that close to nothing was achieved in the US mission as Iraqis continue to suffer and politicians such as **Tony Blair** are immune from prosecution.

Kamel Labidi [writes](#) in The Guardian that **Tunisia's adoption of an important women's rights legislation 54 years ago** is failing to stand strong and is a smokescreen for the persecution women now suffer such as the lack of freedom of expression.

In The Times, Amir Taheri [dismisses](#) Iran's media as a propaganda machine that puts up the false pretence that Iran is a rising superpower with an arsenal of military and technological equipment. Iran's careful use of video footage and images of nuclear equipment are tools for scaremongering, Taheri says.

In The Daily Telegraph, Con Coughlin discusses the impact of the **Pakistan floods** on the country and the future of Pakistani rule. He [argues](#) that Pakistani generals are not taking responsibility for a country that is teetering on the verge of collapse.

The Best of the Blogs

The finest from the political blogosphere.

Given that the **mayoral race for Labour leadership** is soon ending, Jonathon Cox in Left Foot Forward points to David Miliband's strengths as possible reasons to vote for him. He [argues](#) that Miliband understands the central tenets of community organizing and is using this to reach a wide audience.

Kalsoom Lakhani in The Samosa [paints a bleak picture](#) of the **Pakistan floods** by pointing to conclusions made by meteorologist Arif Mahmood. Mahmood has said that flood waters will not recede until the end of the month and existing river torrents are heading to major cities such as Hyderabad and Sukkur.

In The Spectator, Alex Massie debunks claims that the **Cordoba Initiative's Imam Faisal Abdul Rauf** is linked to Al Qaeda and is a non-conservative. Massie [argues](#) that none of his opponents have failed to produce any real and damning evidence against him.

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not fasting during the month of Ramadan. Police officers have been arresting those that eat, drink or smoke before sunset including Diab's point of reference, Tarek Elshabini.

Around the world

The best opinion pieces from news sources around the world.

In The New York Times, Nicholas D. Kristof writes that opponents of **Cordoba House (Park51)** are playing into the hands of Al Qaeda and are afflicted by fundamental misconceptions. Kristof [argues](#) that Cordoba House is a community centre, not a mosque and that Islam is not synonymous with terrorism.

Meanwhile, in Pakistan's DAWN newspaper, Irfan Husain [questions](#) America's limits of tolerance underlying the **Cordoba House debate**. This on-going discussion shows no sign of abating after weeks of heated debate and disapproval.

Suhail A. Khan focuses on American Muslims in Foreign Policy magazine and [argues](#) that Muslims voted for George W. Bush but are now leaving the Republican party in droves. He writes that they are socially and economically conservative but have been persuaded by Obama to join his side.

In Haaretz, Israel Harel urges Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to brace himself for more violence and war after **peace talks with Palestinians resume**. He also [argues](#) that the current instability will not be addressed by peace talks, as US President Barack Obama has hoped, and will only sow seeds of more contempt.

The lack of aid to Pakistan is a contentious issue in the news, given that aid agencies are asking for more aid. Archie Law in The Australian [spins the 'aid debate'](#) by arguing that humanitarian aid to Pakistan has become a propaganda tool used by extremists to win the favour of local communities and Pakistanis.

Twitter Top Trends

We bring you the top relevant Twitter trends of the week from the UK and elsewhere.

- **#pakistan** Pakistan's floods, humanitarian aid and the country's political leadership has been in global headlines for weeks.
- **#cameron** UK Prime Minister David Cameron's wife gave birth to a baby girl in Cornwall this week and named her Florence Rose.
- **#gcse** Thousands of GCSE students received their results this week, which showed that students are generally not keen on taking languages.
- **#groundzeromosque** Cordoba House (Park51) continues to dominate discussion in the US as both Republicans and Democrats try to prevent its construction.

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