

2008: The military balance in an unstable world



1. EUROPE

■ **Russia:** Serious concerns over Kremlin's assertive foreign and security policy, seen as response to perceived humiliations of post-Soviet era

■ **Arms control:** *President Putin's* withdrawal from **Conventional**

Forces in Europe Treaty – cornerstone of post-Cold War European security – seen as threat to infrastructure of European arms control

2. AFGHANISTAN

■ **Suicide attacks:** On rise, orchestrated by Taliban and Al Qaeda in Pakistan's tribal areas

■ **NATO:** Lack of coherence between 39 countries under NATO command bedevils nation-building effort and counter-narcotics campaign

■ **Government:** Lacks authority in many areas, undermined by deals brokered by Western allies



3. PAKISTAN

■ **Political turmoil:** Undermining international attempts to combat terrorism in Afghanistan

■ **Erosion of democracy:** Despite *President Pervez Musharraf* relinquishing direct command of army, military has significantly increased grip on civil affairs

7. SOUTH EAST ASIA

■ **Military build-up:** Tensions in region leading to local arms race, with increased defence spending in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. Weapons supplied by Russia, India and China

4. LATIN AMERICA



■ **Venezuela:** *President Hugo Chavez's* plans to acquire warplanes and submarines has led to increased defence spending in Brazil and Ecuador

■ **Brazil:** Allocating \$5.6bn – up 53% – for 2008 military budget

Pictures: AP, Getty Images

5. IRAN

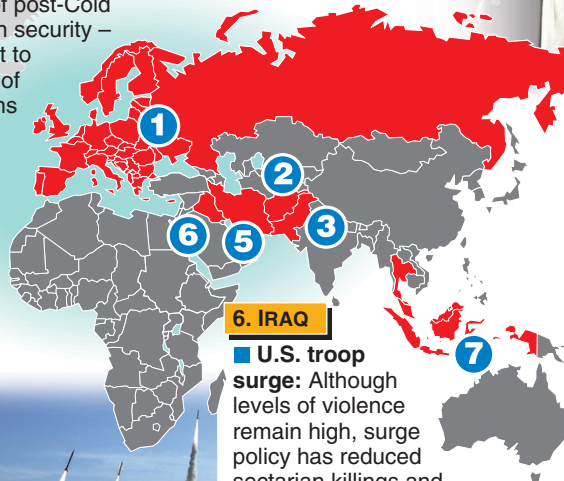
■ **Nuclear weapons:** Recent intelligence that Iran stopped covert work in 2003 reduces threat of U.S. military action

■ **Bushehr reactor:** Decision by Russia to supply enriched uranium fuel has undermined **UN Security Council** sanctions

6. IRAQ

■ **U.S. troop surge:** Although levels of violence remain high, surge policy has reduced sectarian killings and Al Qaeda terrorist attacks

■ **Pressure for U.S. drawdown:** Rapid reduction unlikely, to guard against increased Shia militia activity – especially by *Jaish al Mahdi*, led by cleric *Muqtada Al Sadr* – and rise in Kurd-Turkmen-Arab violence over future of Kirkuk and Kurdish expansionism



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