

# A SECOND STRATEGIC FAILURE

I'm more and more convinced this is Dick Cheney's design. Failure in Afghanistan, which might lead to the collapse of Pakistan's western-friendly government, which might lead to a regional war between Sunni and Shiite.

Ashdown told The Observer that Afghanistan presented a graver threat than Iraq.

'The consequences of failure in Afghanistan are far greater than in Iraq,' he said.

---

# THE GUY WHO FAILED POINTS FINGERS

ThinkProgress had a piece the other day about Stephen Hadley visiting the Hill and blaming the military for the failure in Iraq.

Two weeks ago, Sen. Richard Lugar (R-IN) shifted his position on Iraq in a speech on the Senate floor, where he called for a reduction of the U.S. military presence. After the speech, National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley attempted to "calm Republican waters" over Iraq with a visit to the Hill, but his efforts

---

# THE WOMAN LEFT THE COMMISSION

James Fallows repeats a fascinating story Gary Hart and Lee Hamilton told him about the Hart-Rudman Commission.

Early in 2001, the commission presented a report to the incoming G.W. Bush administration warning that terrorism would be the nation's greatest national security problem, and saying that unless the United States took proper protective measures a terrorist attack was likely within its borders.

---

## **AQ KHAN'S ON THE LOOSE**

Does it bother anyone that—at a time when Pakistan's Interior Ministry is raising concerns about the Taliban taking over significant chunks of Pakistan, the father of Pakistan's nuke program is on the loose? [Thanks to Mimikatz for the spelling correction.]

Authorities have eased the virtual house arrest imposed on A.Q. Khan, the disgraced scientist who sold Pakistan's nuclear secrets to Iran, North Korea and Libya, officials said Monday.

[snip]

However, two senior government officials told the

---

## **REPLACING THE IMPERIAL PRESIDENCY IN THE AGE OF GLOBAL WARMING**

I'd like to use the occasion of Al Gore's op-ed in the NYT today to expand on something I said in my talk on Curbing the Imperial Presidency.

In his book *The Imperial Presidency*, Arthur Schlesinger argued that the Imperial Presidency derived from foreign policy:

The Imperial Presidency was essentially the creation of foreign policy.

---

## **TALIBAN TAKING OVER PAKISTAN**

Well, that's probably hyperbole. But it does seem like things in Pakistan are getting pretty dire. So says a Pakistani report put together by its Interior Ministry, providing ominous warnings about the increasing power of the Taliban in the country.

The Pakistani president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, was warned this month that Islamic militants and Taliban fighters were rapidly spreading beyond the country's lawless tribal areas and that without "swift and decisive action," the growing militancy

---

## **CRAVENLY GROVELING**

Remember that superb article on foreign lobbying I described a while back? Well, apparently the two PR/Lobbying firms that got so badly taken by Ken Silverstein are now accusing him of being unethical.

My story in the July issue of the magazine details how two beltway lobby shops I approached, on the pretense that I represented a shady London-based energy firm with a stake in Turkmenistan, proposed to whitewash the image of that country's

---

## THE FOREIGN LOBBY INDUSTRY

Back when the Mearsheimer and Walt paper on AIPAC came out, I expressed my hope that they—or somebody—would catalog the way the foreign influence lobby works.

I'm disappointed, too, because I had hoped Mearsheimer and Walt would provide a sophisticated review of the way foreign lobbies influence our government. I made this point recently in response to the conflation of Bush's NSA-related attacks on journalists and the government's pursuit of leaks to journalists in the Franklin

---

## MUSHARRAF ON THE WAY OUT?

---

## INTERNECINE SQUABBLES, TEN MONTHS LATER