

# BRIEFING BOOK: 10-04-2009

## PANEL



### Timothy Garton Ash

Timothy Garton Ash is an author and internationally acclaimed contemporary historian. He is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and St. Antony's College, Oxford University where he is also a professor of European studies and director of the European Studies Centre. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, the Royal Historical Society, and the Royal Society of Arts and a member of several prestigious editorial boards, and he has received numerous honors and awards, including the Somerset Maugham Award, the Order of Merit from Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic, and an honorary doctorate from St. Andrew's University, the oldest university in Scotland.

He is a regular contributor to the *New York Review of Books* and he writes a regular column in the *Guardian*

Last week he wrote in Britain's *Guardian* newspaper last week that "[Democracies dealing with Iran should be Hippocratic: first, do no harm.](#)" "For the sake of a few more slippery promises of nuclear restraint... the US and Europe must not do anything that would give a jot more legitimacy to a fraudulently elected president."

[Timothy Garton Ash : Homepage](#)

For more biographical and professional information on Timothy Garton Ash [click here](#).

#### Recent Articles:

["For Timothy Garton Ash, Europe Means Shared History"](#) RFERL

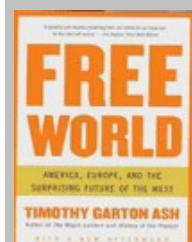
["Europe must decide if it wants to be more than Greater Switzerland"](#) *Guardian* (UK)

["We can't decide Iran's struggle. But we can avoid backing the wrong side"](#) *Guardian* (UK)

["Another fine speech will not be enough"](#) *Guardian* (UK)

### Roger Cohen

Roger Cohen is a foreign correspondent, newspaper editor, author, and columnist. He has reported from over fifteen different countries. Since 2004 he has written a column for the *International Herald Tribune*. He joined *The New York Times* in 1990 as a foreign correspondent for more than a decade before becoming acting Foreign Editor on September 11, 2001, and Foreign Editor six months later. He first wrote for the news pages then wrote for the Op-Ed page after 2007 and was named columnist in 2009.



He has written books such as *Hearts Grown Brutal: Sagas of Sarajevo*, an account of the wars of Yugoslavia's destruction, *Soldiers and Slaves: American POWs Trapped by the Nazis' Final Gamble*, and a biography of General Norman Schwarzkopf entitled *In the Eye of the Storm*. His most recent book is [Free World: America, Europe, and Free the Surprising Future of the West](#).

He has written about the Iranian election protests in the *New York Times*. During one chaotic day, he encountered a woman who asked him "Can the United Nations help us?" When he told her he doubted it, she said "[So, we are on our own.](#)" He wrote, "[In the end, that is true. Iranians have fought this lonely fight for a long time.](#)"

#### Recent Articles:

["A Supreme Leader Loses His Aura as Iranians Flock to the Streets"](#) *New York Times*

["Iran's Day of Anguish"](#) *New York Times*

#### More Articles by Roger Cohen:

[New York Times Articles by Roger Cohen](#)

[International Herald Tribune columns by Roger Cohen](#)



### Reuel Marc Gerecht

Reuel Marc Gerecht is a senior fellow at the [Foundation for Defense of Democracies](#) where he focuses on Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, terrorism, and intelligence and a contributing editor to the [Weekly Standard](#). He is a former Middle East specialist at the CIA's directorate of operations and a former Resident Fellow for the [American Enterprise Institute](#) (AEI). As a vocal supporter of the interventionist foreign policies pursued by the George W. Bush administration after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Gerecht was one of several writers ousted from the AEI in 2008 as part of an apparent effort to distance the think tank from neoconservatism.

From 2001 to 2005 he was a Senior Fellow at the [Project for the New American Century](#), the advocacy group founded by [William Kristol](#) and [Robert Kagan](#) that played a role generating support for hardline U.S. Mideast policies largely in line with those of Israel's right-wing Likud Party, and served as director of its "Middle East Initiative."

Gerecht is a contributor to a 2005 [Hoover Institution](#) book on U.S. intelligence titled *The Future of American Intelligence*. Its lead author is AEI colleague Gary Schmitt, who, like Gerecht, served as a principal of PNAC. Gerecht, who has been a contributing editor at the *Weekly Standard* and a correspondent for the *Atlantic Monthly*, is also the author of *The Islamic Paradox: Shiite Clerics, Sunni Fundamentalists, and the Coming of Arab Democracy* (AEI Press, 2004) and *Know Thine Enemy: A Spy's Journey into Revolutionary Iran* (1997),

which he wrote using the pen name Edward G. Shirley. According to the *Washington Post's* Vernon Loeb, Gerecht describes a CIA directorate of operations that "had grown intellectually dishonest and become an institution where case officers played a cynical 'numbers game' to get promoted by recruiting large numbers of paid foreign agents, regardless of quality. The 'secrets' these agents produced were often nearly worthless [he wrote] and typical case officers either didn't care or didn't know better, lacking language skills and much grounding in the culture in which they operated. 'America's national security would not be compromised by temporarily shutting down the DO,' Gerecht wrote. 'A Directorate of Operations that produces mostly mediocre intelligence and egregiously stupid coup d'etat schemes against, for example, Saddam Hussein harms the United States abroad.'"

Reuel Marc Gerecht [biography page](#), Foundation for Defense of Democracies,

Reuel Marc Gerecht has written that we may soon look back on the Iranian Presidential election as ["the June 12th Revolution."](#) ["The election has given a wide variety of Iranians," he wrote in The Weekly Standard, "a simple and transcendent rallying cry. One man, one vote!"](#)

#### Articles:

["Should US focus on al-Qaeda havens?"](#) *BBC News*

["The FPI Forum: "Engagement Is Toast"](#) *The Weekly Standard*

["Pashtuns and Pakistanis"](#) *The Weekly Standard*

["The June 12 Revolution"](#) *The Weekly Standard*

["Iran's Hamas Strategy"](#) *WSJ*

["Reuel Marc Gerecht on Interrogating the CIA"](#) *WSJ*

["Iraq's Jihad Myths"](#) *Washington Post*

## JUSTICE RICHARD GOLDSTONE

Judge Richard Goldstone is a South African jurist who first gained prominence in his home country, pursuing an end to the political violence accompanying apartheid. Later, on the international stage he was a chief prosecutor of the U.N. tribunals for war crimes in Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

He is a recipient of the prestigious MacArthur Award for International Justice and was named "The Hague Peace Philosopher" in the Netherlands, where he worked on a new convention on crimes against humanity.



In April, the UN Human Rights Council appointed him to head a mission to investigate allegations of human rights violations in the 22-day conflict between Israel and Gaza that began last December.

From the start, some on both sides questioned whether a fair inquiry could be made.

And in the end, Israel - which took much of the blame in the final (almost 600 page) report - has reacted angrily. Netanyahu has said that the report threatens to derail the peace process.



[WATCH](#) Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressing the United Nations General Assembly last week:

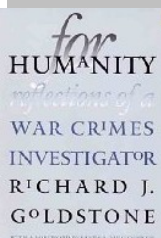
"Who did the UN Human Rights Council decide to condemn? Israel. A democracy legitimately defending itself against terror is morally hanged, drawn and quartered, and given an unfair trial to boot. By these twisted standards, the UN Human Rights Council would have dragged Roosevelt and Churchill to the dock as war criminals. What a perversion of truth! What a perversion of justice!"

Read Netanyahu's full speech [HERE](#)

Just after our interview, the Human Rights Council decided to postpone consideration of Goldstone's report until March 2010.

Click [HERE](#) to read Goldstone's report

#### Read more about Richard Goldstone:



Goldstone's book, ["For Humanity: Reflections of a War Crimes Investigator"](#)

Goldstone's book, ["International Judicial Institutions"](#)

["Goldstone on confronting the past"](#) (South Africa) *Transitional Justice*

#### Articles on the Goldstone Report:

["House of Cards: NGOs and the Goldstone Report"](#) *NGO Monitor*

Watch the ["Goldstone Report Released"](#) on *Link TV*.

["Goldstone report unfair to Israel"](#) *LA Times*

["UK - Israeli cries of bias cannot deflect UN's moral blow"](#) *Financial Times*

["U.N. Investigator Defends Gaza Probe"](#) *WSJ*

["Ehud Barak: U.N. Goldstone Report Supports Terrorism"](#) *WSJ*

["The Goldstone Report"](#) *Foreign Policy in Focus*

["Goldstone Report is not to be ignored"](#) *Huffington Post*

# PRESIDENT URIBE OF COLUMBIA

Between the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, there is little talk of another war the United States has been involved in for decades - the war on drugs.

On the front lines of that war is the President of one of the most dangerous countries on the globe, Alvaro Uribe of Columbia -- and he's fighting it with large infusions of American money and military support.

## President Alvaro Uribe

President Alvaro Uribe is the President of Columbia. For most of his two terms in office, he has enjoyed voter approval between 60% and 80%, according to Gallup polls, largely due to his robust campaign against the FARC rebels.

In September, Colombia's lower house approved a bill which paves the way for President Alvaro Uribe to seek a third consecutive term in office. While some critics decry this as the destruction of Colombia's legal checks and balances- he remains very popular in Columbia..

Uribe is less popular with Latin America's growing number of left-leaning heads of state. Hugo Chavez, Evo Morales, and Rafael Correa all accuse Uribe of offending Latin pride and sovereignty by allowing the expansion of US bases.

There have been approximately 16 attempts to assassinate him, but under his presidency, the murder rate and the incidence of kidnapping have fallen. His administration has been responsible for arresting and extraditing more drug traffickers to the United States and to other countries than all other presidents to date.

[Columbian Country Report](#) *BBC*

[BBC NEWS | Americas | Profile: Alvaro Uribe Velez](#)

## Articles on Uribe:

["Colombia's Uribe Faces a More Wary U.S.: White House is Expected to Raise Concerns about Human Rights, Democracy"](#) *Washington Post*

["Spotlight: President Álvaro Uribe of Colombia"](#) *NYT*

["President Uribe's Hidden Past"](#) *Columbia Journal*

["Uribe changes tack on release of rebels' hostages"](#) *AP*

["Colombia softens stance on rebel hostage releases"](#) *Reuters*

["Uribe: Colombia's spy agency can be eliminated"](#) *AP*

["Alvaro Uribe News"](#) *NYT*

["Alvaro Uribe: The Change Agent"](#) *Business Week*

