

FAREED'S BRIEFING BOOK

11-08

It's been one year since Obama was elected President – has his promise for change been delivered? Find out what our star studded panel of historians thinks. Plus, as Hamid Karzai gets another term as President of Afghanistan, we get the view from across the border: Pakistan's former President Pervez Musharraf on Karzai, corruption, and the prospects for peace in Afghanistan.

FAREED'S TAKE

At the top of the show, Fareed mentions that in the United States, this was a good week for the Republican party that had been on the retreat for almost five years now. Last week in the United States the Republicans did better than anyone expected. Last month in Germany the center right won a resounding victory. In France Nicolas Sarkozy right wing government reigns with considerable public support. In Italy, Silvio Berlusconi has managed to stay in power largely because the electorate is dissatisfied by the left. In Britain the conservatives are poised to win their first national election in 17 years. Even in countries like Denmark and Sweden the social Democrats usually win, the right is in power.

In fact on continental Europe only one major country. Spain, has a left wing government right now. Why? Well first it shows that we are actually not in a crisis of capitalism. People understand that whatever the failings of our current system and whatever reforms are necessary the solution is not socialism or some workers Utopia. But second, look at the kinds of right wing parties that are winning. David Cameron of Great Britain calls himself a progressive conservative. Sarkozy of France assails bankers and calls for much stricter financial regulation. Merkel of West Germany rejects arguments for free market reform and defends Germany's social market economy.

MORE:

[David Cameron wins his Europe gamble](#) *Telegraph (UK)*

[An article in the Guardian UK](#) discusses July's EU election and how it led to a general defeat for social democrat groups throughout Europe. In its place are now right of centre parties taking lead, as seen in France, Italy, Germany, Hungary, Spain, Czech Republic, and Poland. This recent election is showing a general trend taking place across Europe, with only a sampling of left-of-centre countries left (Portugal, Greece, Malta).

[HERE](#) is a similar article in the *New York Times*.

With Chancellor Merkel's win in Germany's recent elections, and further wins for right parties across Europe, it looks as if Europe's political landscape is moving away from the left. Like Merkel, others are embracing a "new-style conservatism" ([Newsweek](#)).

ALSO MENTIONED ON THE SHOW THIS WEEK:

[Public Divided Over Afghan Troop Requests, But Still Sees Rationale for War](#) *Pew Research Center*

[Independents changing course after Obama's first year](#) *Washington Times*

[1-year poll shows changed views on Obama](#) *USA Today*

[A good time to be a conservative](#) *Washington Post*

[Poll: GOP poised in 2010, but big win iffy](#) *United Press International*

Recent Elections in the US:

[The mod squad](#) *Washington Post*

[Strassel: Hello, Tipping Point](#) *Wall Street Journal*

[Sometimes the right label isn't enough](#) *Politico*

[Eight Reasons the Democrats lost Virginia & New Jersey--and How to Recover](#) *Huffington Post*

[Wake Up America! Referendathon 2009](#) *Huffington Post*

The US Economy:

On the US front, unemployment rose above 10% for the first time since 1983. Many see this as a sign of weakness in the labor market despite third quarter growth following the longest and deepest economic downturn since the Great Depression. Economists predicted an increase of .1% from 9.8% in September. The Labor Department also reported that there was also a net loss of 190,000 jobs in October marking the 22nd straight month of job loss. More from CNNMoney [HERE](#)

AF/PAK:

With Hamid Karzai confirmed as president by the Independent Electoral Commission he appointed, those with stakes in Afghanistan, from the U.S. to the UN, publicly called for Karzai to reduce the corruption in his administration.

Meanwhile, five UK troops were killed by an Afghan they were training and ostensibly working with. NATO and the U.S. propose to move British troops "out of harms way" until the UK general election, arguing that the Taliban will specifically target them.

Following the Taliban's killing of five UN electoral assistance staffers in a guest house in Kabul, the UN reacted by moving hundreds of other staff out of the country, or into more secure and centralized facilities in Kabul. Some referred back to the UN's total pull out from Iraq after the bombing of the UN headquarters there.

[Read more at the Associated Press](#)

The United Nations [says it will pull \(BBC\)](#) roughly half its international staff out of Afghanistan after a Taliban raid on a private guesthouse in Kabul left five UN workers dead last week. The United Nations said the relocation of six-hundred staff members would not affect its aid delivery work, which is done by local Afghan staff. The move came after the United Nations announced it would halt its long-term development work in northwestern Pakistan due to security concerns. The head of the UN's Afghanistan mission, Kai Eide, said the temporary staff relocation was not an indication of the United Nations pulling out of the country or evacuating.

Eide [issued a strong warning \(NYT\)](#) to Afghan President Hamid Karzai's government, saying it must reform its political system and election oversight procedures.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon says [it expects to request more emergency funding \(NYT\)](#) for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan on top of the \$130 billion U.S. Congress authorized for the wars last month.

The [Wall Street Journal reports](#) that the staff relocation shows the extent to which security has deteriorated and raises questions about the international body's future role in the region.

More Background:

In a [Financial Times op-ed](#), CFR's Charles Kupchan and Steven Simon say the U.S. military's plan to pursue counterinsurgency in the Afghan countryside is "a bridge too far," and that Afghanistan policy should focus on establishing control in strategic locations.

In a [CFR interview](#), U.S. Major General Richard Formica says that as the Obama administration assesses U.S. troop numbers in Afghanistan, the White House should also double the size of the Afghan army and police.

PANELISTS

Nell Irvin Painter

Nell Irvin Painter is a respected historian, author, and artist. She is currently the Edwards Professor of American History, Emerita, Princeton University. In addition to her earned doctorate in history from Harvard University, she has received honorary doctorates from Wesleyan, Dartmouth, SUNY-New Paltz, and Yale. She has held numerous fellowships and has served as president of the Organization of American Historians.



Her most recent books are [Creating Black Americans](#) and [Southern History Across the Color Line](#). Her book *The History of White People* will be published in March 2010.

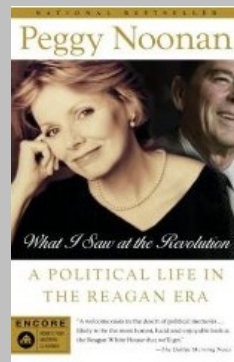
For more biographical information go to the [Nell Irvin Painter Home Page](#).

Peggy Noonan

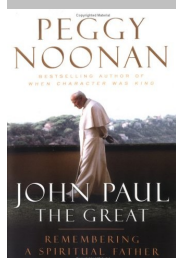
Peggy Noonan was Ronald Reagan's chief speech writer. She wrote many of his most memorable words. And then a terrific book about those years.

[What I Saw At the Revolution.](#)

Peggy Noonan is a columnist for [The Wall Street Journal](#) and the best selling author of seven books on American politics, history and culture.



Her essays have appeared in [Forbes](#), [Time](#), [Newsweek](#), the [Washington Post](#), the [New York Times](#) and other publications. Noonan is a member of the board of the [Manhattan Institute](#).



5 of her books are *New York Times* bestsellers. Her most recent book, [John Paul the Great: Remembering a Spiritual Father](#), was published by Viking in November, 2005. Her collection of post-9/11 columns, ["A Heart, a Cross and a Flag: America Today,"](#) was published by Free Press in June, 2003. ["When Character Was King: A Story of Ronald Reagan,"](#) published by Viking in November, 2001, was a *New York Times* bestseller.

FOR MORE ARTICLES BY PEGGY NOONAN INCLUDING THE MOST RECENT:

[Governed by Callous Children Wall Street Journal](#)

[Does the Saddle Fit? Wall Street Journal](#)

[A Farewell to Harms - WSJ.com](#)

[Peggy Noonan: Home](#)

[Peggy Noonan Archive - WSJ.com](#)

Noonan mentions a recent Gallop Poll on the show: [Gallup.Com - Daily News, Polls, Public Opinion on Government](#)

More from Gallop:

[Obama Job Approval](#)

[Presidential Job Approval](#)

[Healthcare](#)

[Gallup Poll](#)

[Topics](#)

[About Gallup](#)

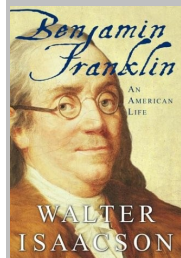
She also mentions: [Public Divided Over Afghan Troop Requests, But Still Sees Rationale for War](#) Pew Research Center



Walter Isaacson

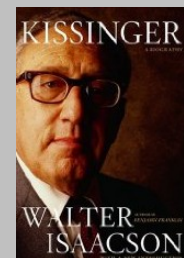
Walter Isaacson is the President and CEO of the Aspen Institute, a nonpartisan educational and policy studies institute based in Washington, D.C. He has been the Chairman and CEO of CNN and the editor of TIME.

He is the author of several biographies including:



[Einstein: His Life and Universe](#),

[Benjamin Franklin: An American Life](#), and [Kissinger: A Biography](#).



Isaacson began his career at the *Sunday Times of London*. He joined Time Magazine in 1978 and served as a political correspondent, national editor and editor of new media before becoming the magazine's 14th editor in 1996. He became Chairman and CEO of CNN in 2001, and then president and CEO of the Aspen Institute in 2003. He is the chairman of the board of Teach for America, which recruits recent college graduates to teach in underserved communities. He is also chairman of the board of the U.S.-Palestinian Partnership, set up by the U.S. State Department to promote economic and educational opportunities for the Palestinian people. He is on the Board of United Airlines, Tulane University, Society for Science & the Public, and the Bipartisan Policy Center. He was appointed after Hurricane Katrina to be the vice-chairman of the Louisiana Recovery Authority.

[Read Mr. Isaacson's published articles.](#)

[About Walter Isaacson | The Aspen Institute](#)

[How to Save Your Newspaper - TIME](#)

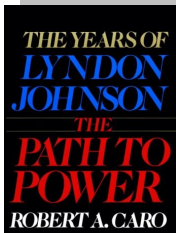
Robert Caro

Robert Caro has won two Pulitzer Prizes along with numerous other awards. He's the author of the amazing three volume biography of LBJ -- three volumes so far. And another great work on Robert Moses.

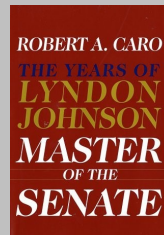
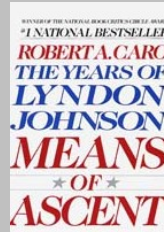
For his biographies of Robert Moses and Lyndon Johnson, Robert A. Caro has twice won the Pulitzer Prize for Biography, twice won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Best Nonfiction Book of the Year, and has also won virtually every other major literary honor, including the National Book Award, the Gold Medal in Biography from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the Francis Parkman Prize, awarded by the Society of American Historians to the book that best "exemplifies the union of the historian and the artist."



To create his first book, [The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York](#), Caro spent seven years tracing and talking with hundreds of men and women who worked with, for, or against Robert Moses, including a score of his top aides. He examined mountains of files never opened to the public. [The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York](#) was chosen by the Modern Library as one of the hundred greatest nonfiction books of the twentieth century.



To research *The Years of Lyndon Johnson*, Caro and his wife, Ina, moved from his native New York City to the Texas Hill Country and then to Washington, D.C., to live in the locales in which Johnson grew up and in which he built, while still young, his first political machine. He has spent years examining documents at the Johnson Library in Austin and interviewing men and women connected with Johnson's life, many of whom had never before been interviewed. The first volume of *The Years of Lyndon Johnson* was [The Path to Power](#), the second volume is [Means of Ascent](#), and volume three, [Master of the Senate](#), has been called "a masterpiece . . . Robert Caro has written one of the truly great political biographies of the modern age."



Homepage: [Caro, Robert](#)

[Robert A. Caro News - The New York Times](#)

[Robert Caro's Last LBJ Volume | Newsweek Books | Newsweek.com](#)

Awards:

[Pulitzer Prize for Biography](#) 1975 for *The Power Broker*

[Pulitzer Prize for Biography](#) 2003 for *Master of the Senate*

[National Book Award for Nonfiction](#) 2002 for *Master of the Senate*

PERVEZ MUSHARRAF

As we try to make very clear on this program, you can't talk about the United States' problems in Afghanistan without talking about the problems next door in Pakistan. For almost 10 years - from 1999 until just last year - Pervez Musharraf ruled over that nation, first as the Army's Chief of Staff then as President. If anyone knows the Pakistan army - what they are capable of and moreover what they are WILLING to do in this war on terror - it is Pervez Musharraf. If anyone knows the strategic landscape of the region - it is Pervez Musharraf. And so, Fareed talked to him when he was in the United States.



Fareed's take on the conversation:

The conversation ranged widely but two important issues include Musharraf's view of Hamid Karzai -- which is very dim -- but also of what kind of government is possible in Afghanistan. He's of the view that Afghanistan always had a loose, consensual arrangement between the center and the regions and we should try to return to that kind of arrangement and not a strong central government.

The second is the Pashtun problem. Musharraf believes that the crucial problem is that the Pashtuns, the ethnic group whose members live in both Afghanistan and Pakistan, are alienated from the central government and that Karzai -- even though he is a Pashtun -- has lost their support. Pashtuns make up 50 percent of Afghanistan but 100 percent of the Taliban. The only way to make Afghanistan more stable is to bring some of these disgruntled Pashtuns back into the fold.

Later the conversation widens to include not just Afghanistan but Pakistan. Musharraf, an authentic representation of the mind of the Pakistani military, repeatedly denies that the Pakistani military is in any way involved with the Taliban, though most commentators would disagree. When Fareed pointed out to him the odd fact that the leaders of the Afghan Taliban are all in a Pakistani city, Quetta, he denied it.

And then, you will really see the Pakistani military's worldview when he accuses the Afghan government as being under the influence of India. Americans see Afghanistan as a problem on its own, perhaps now they understand that Pakistan is linked in with it. But in reality, there is a sixty-year old geopolitical rivalry at play here, between Pakistan and India.

And Pakistan has deep suspicions that India will end up in control in Afghanistan once the Americans leave, which means that they view the Afghan government not as a partner but a potential problem.

More on Pervez Musharraf:

NEW YORK TIMES TOPICS: PERVEZ MUSHARRAF



[Pervez Musharraf News - The New York Times](#)

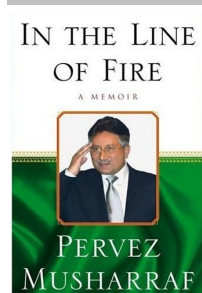
[Musharraf: Troop debate shows U.S. weak - Washington Times](#)

[NA lashes out at Emergency declared by Musharraf](#)
The News International

[The Musharraf I Know | Foreign Policy](#)

[Amid Pakistan Chaos, Musharraf Fancies a Comeback](#)

[Pervez Musharraf Facts, information, pictures | Encyclopedia.com](#)



Musharraf's book: [In the Line of Fire: A Memoir \(9780743283441\): Pervez ...](#)

More on Musharraf [HERE](#)

Here is the interview Fareed mentions from Musharraf's office in Rawalpindi:

[Zakaria: Q&A With Musharraf | Newsweek World | Newsweek.com](#) Jan 12, 2008

and [Musharraf's Last Stand by Fareed Zakaria](#)