

# FAREED'S BRIEFING BOOK

01-03-2010

## FAREED'S TAKE

At the top of the show, Fareed mentions that in the United States, the Republican Party seems to be rebounding after being on the retreat for almost five years. In the past few months, the right in Germany won a resounding victory. In France, Nicolas Sarkozy's 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 where 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? 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 and 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 center parties taking the 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 "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 US 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 (IN NOVEMBER):

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](#)

### THE US ECONOMY (NOW):

By year's end, new unemployment claims nationwide in the U.S. fell to their lowest level since 2008. It was uneven, however, with half of U.S. states still reporting increases, and some running out of unemployment funds.

["U.S. Jobless Claims Drop to Lowest Level Since 2008,"](#) *Bloomberg News*

U.S. Department of Labor press release:

<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/ui/eta20091574.htm>

## 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, recently 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 said [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.

## Analysis

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.



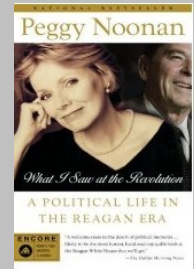
Her most recent books are [Creating Black Americans](#) and [Southern History Across the Color Line](#). Her book *The History of White People* will be published in March 2010.

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

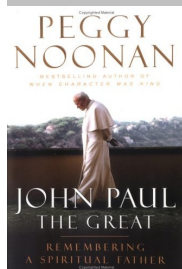


## Peggy Noonan

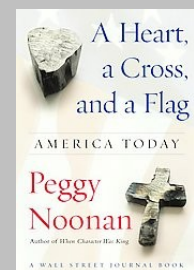
Peggy Noonan was Ronald Reagan's chief speech writer who wrote many of his most memorable words. She wrote about those years in her terrific book [What I Saw At the Revolution](#).



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:

[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](#)

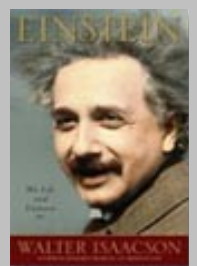
She also mentions: [Public Divided Over Afghan Troop Requests, But Still Sees Rationale for War](#) *Pew Research Center*



### Walter Isaacson

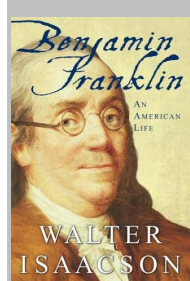
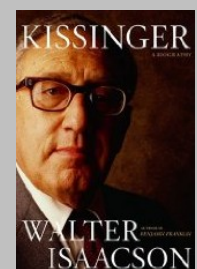
Walter Isaacson is the President and CEO of the Aspen Institute, a nonpartisan educational and policy studies institute based in Washington, D.C. He has been the Chairman and CEO of CNN and the editor of TIME.

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](#)

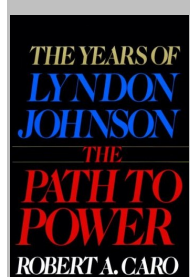
[How to Save Your Newspaper](#) - *TIME*

### Robert Caro

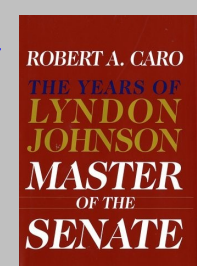
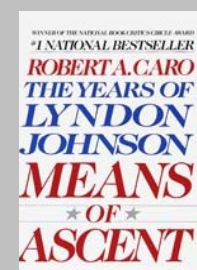
Robert Caro has won two Pulitzer Prizes along with numerous other awards. He is the author of the three volume biography of LBJ -- three volumes so far. And another great work on Robert Moses.

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*



**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*

## MENTIONED ON THE SHOW



### OBAMA'S NOBEL SPEECH

[Read a transcript of Obama's acceptance speech](#)

Read Fareed's analysis of the speech [here](#)

Watch a video of the speech [here](#)

### DUBAI:

For the latest news on Dubai, click [HERE](#).

## THOMAS RICKS

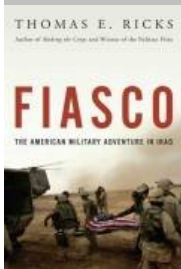
### Thomas Ricks

Thomas E. Ricks is a Senior Fellow at the Center for a New American Security ([CNAS](#)). Concurrently with his duties at CNAS, Ricks writes an online blog for ForeignPolicy.com called "[The Best Defense](#)," and serves as a contributing editor for *Foreign Policy*.

Prior to becoming a Senior Fellow, Ricks was affiliated with CNAS as a Senior Writer in Residence. Ricks covered the U.S. military for *The Washington Post* from 2000 through 2008. Until the end of 1999 he had the same beat at the *Wall Street Journal*, where he was a reporter for 17 years. He has reported on U.S. military activities in Somalia, Haiti, Korea, Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Kuwait, Turkey, Afghanistan and Iraq. He was part of a *Wall Street Journal* team that won the Pulitzer Prize for national reporting in 2000 for a series of articles on how the U.S. military might change to meet the new demands of the 21st century. Ricks also was part of a Washington Post team that won the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for reporting on the beginning of the U.S. counteroffensive against terrorism.

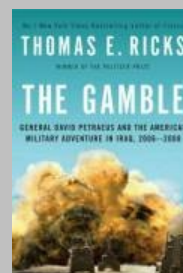


He is a member of the Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society, the Society for Military History, and the International Institute for Strategic Studies. [Biography from CNAS](#).



Ricks is the author of the bestselling [Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq](#) which was a national best seller and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2007. He also wrote [Making the Corps](#) and [A Soldier's Duty](#).

Most recently, he has written a follow-up to [Fiasco](#) entitled [The Gamble: General David Petraeus and the American Military Adventure in Iraq, 2006-2008](#).



### Articles and blogs:

Here is [Ricks' current blog at ForeignPolicy.com](#)

Recently, the *New York Times* [quoted](#) his blog "When was the last time Biden was right about anything?" ["The Best Defense" | FOREIGN POLICY](#)

[Tom Ricks -- Why We Should Get Rid of West Point](#) *Washingtonpost.com*

[Thomas Ricks: Obama's Iraq War Will Be Long - Political Hotsheet ...](#) *CBS News*

[Eight questions for Thomas Ricks](#) *Democracy in America*

# BATTLE OF WANAT

The death of nine American soldiers in July 2008 during an attack by the Taliban on their outpost in the remote village of Wanat in Eastern Afghanistan is getting another look by the U.S. military. The battle of Wanat, described as the "Blackhawk Down" of the Afghan war, is seen as emblematic of the lack of clarity in the strategy in Afghanistan. Why were the soldiers there in the first place? Why weren't they supported by unmanned aerial vehicle flights? The battle is a microcosm of the current debate about whether America should withdraw or concentrate troops, and deal with some parts of Afghanistan only by aerial reconnaissance and bombing.



[Here is the U.S. military's own internal review](#) of the battle of Wanat, as released under the Freedom of Information Act

["The Battle of Wanat"](#) (interactive) *Washington Post*

["Almost a Lost Cause"](#) Greg Jaffe, *Washington Post*

["Battle of Wanat: Not 'Just Another Casualty' - A Son Killed in Battle and A Father Seeking Answers,"](#) *Washington Post*

["Inside an Afghan battle gone wrong: What happened at Wanat?"](#) Thomas Ricks, *Foreign Policy*

["US commanders 'incompetent' over nine soldiers killed in Afghan battle of Wanat,"](#) *Telegraph (UK)*

["Afghanistan assault points out U.S. vulnerabilities,"](#) *Los Angeles Times*

[A Army report on Wanat finds a major counterinsurgency failure ...](#) Thomas Ricks, *Foreign Policy*

[Battle of Wanat - Inside the Ambush](#) *CBS*

[What happened at Wanat?](#) *Small Wars Journal*

[Weapons failed US troops during Afghan firefight](#) *AP*

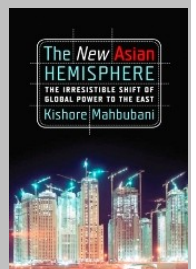
[Pentagon Opens New Inquiry on Wanat Battle](#) *NYT*

# KISHORE MAHBUBANI

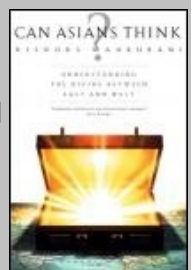


Kishore Mahbubani is a renowned writer and scholar. Mahbubani is now the Dean and Professor in the Practice of Public Policy of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore. He was a diplomat for Singapore for 33 years and has written many books and articles on world affairs. He is the author of several books including:

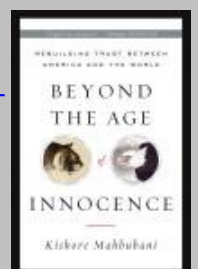
[The New Asian Hemisphere: The Irresistible Shift of Power to the East](#),



[Can Asians Think? Understanding the Divide Between the East and West](#) and



[Beyond the Age of Innocence: Rebuilding Trust between America and the World.](#)



His website: [Kishore Mahbubani](#)

ARTICLES BY MAHBUBANI:

[America's Conflicting Destinies](#)

*The New York Times*, 19 November 2009

[End of Whose History?](#)

*The New York Times*, 11 November 2009

[Expect the Unexpected](#)

*Malaysia Insider*, 04 November 2009

[The Republic of Common Sense](#)

*The Straits Times*, 09 September 2009



### [Why Asia Wins](#)

*Foreign Policy*, 24 August 2009

### [Dealing with Iran-Not just about feeling good](#)

*The Straits Times*, 19 August 2009

### [Power and IMPENDING GLORY](#)

*India Today*, August 2009

### [Asia Keeps the West's Betrayed Faith \(with William Weld\)](#)

*The Financial Times*, 22 July 2009

### [Why Singapore Enjoys a Low Crime Rate](#)

*The Straits Times*, 15 July 2009

### [India's New Path to Greatness, Project Syndicate, June 2009](#)

### [Nothing Official About People](#)

*Hindustan Times*, 10 June 2009

### [The Virtues of Secularism](#)

*The Straits Times*, 20 May 2009

### [The Audacity of Hope for Palestine](#)

*Project Syndicate*, April 2009

### [The Dangers of Democratic Delusions](#)

*Ethics & International Affairs*, Volume 23.1 (Spring 2009)

### [Can America Fail?](#)

*The Wilson Quarterly*, Spring 2009

### [Lessons for the West from Asian Capitalism](#)

*Financial Times*, 18 March 2009

### [Economist Debate on Brand America, Against the Motion](#)

*The Economist*, February 2009

### [What Hillary Didn't Do in Asia](#)

*Newsweek*, 28 February 2009

### [The Asia Renaissance, What Matters](#)

McKinsey & Company, 26 February 2009

## ARTICLES ABOUT KISHORE MAHBUBANI

### [A massive PR boost for MM Lee](#)

3 September 2009

### [Aisa treading near overconfidence](#)

By ANDRES OPPENHEIMER, 03 September 2009

### [Her anti-Indian expat remarks rile netizens](#)

By TEH JEN LEE, 28 July 2009

### [Mr International](#)

By Patrick Jonas, *Tabla*, 24 July 2009

### [Yes We Can \(Survive\)](#)

By Zakir Hussain, *The Straits Times*, 21 April 2009

### [While the West is Angry, Asia Stays Unshaken](#)

By David Pilling, *Financial Times*, 31 March 2009

### [Obama Wrestles the Ox](#)

By Simon Roughneen, *ISN News*, 19 January 2009

### [Chosen Few](#)

*The Hindu*, 13 January 2009

More here

<http://www.mahbubani.net/articles.html>

## MENTIONED ON THE SHOW THIS WEEK:

Fareed mentions a piece Mahbubani wrote a year ago, just before the Presidential election. In his *Newsweek* article, Mahbubani said that if Obama were elected President of the United States, fifty percent of the Anti-Americanism in the world would disappear.

Here's link to Kishore's 1/08 *Newsweek* article: ["If The World Could Vote," Newsweek, Jan 5, 2008](#)

Mahbubani mentions the APEC meeting in Singapore. Here is more on that meeting:

["APEC Free Trade A Key Issue Under Japan's Chair In 2010," Bernama](#) (Malaysia National News Agency)