

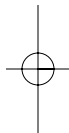
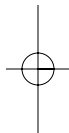


THE HENRY L.  
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***TRANSNATIONAL TRENDS:***  
**Middle Eastern and Asian Views**

**Amit Pandya      Ellen Laipson**  
*Editors*

**July 2008**



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1111 19th Street, NW, 12th Floor  
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Telephone: 202-223-5956  
Fax: 202-238-9604  
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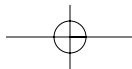
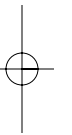
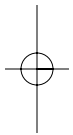
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## PREFACE

Dear Reader,

The Stimson Center has embarked on an exciting exploration of the changing security environment and policy agenda in three critical regions: the Middle East, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. Since spring 2007, we have been engaging in cross-disciplinary conversations with diverse experts in these regions, listening to how they assess their security situation, at the societal, national, and regional levels. This project was inspired by the notion that traditional security discourse, focused on political-military threats to sovereign states, does not adequately capture the security challenges of these societies and states, and may be missing the systemic shift to a security agenda driven more by transnational issues than inter-state conflict.

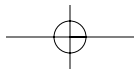
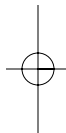
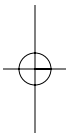
This edited volume captures some, but surely not all, of the rich and stimulating exchanges that took place between the Stimson Center's scholars and experts and activists in the three regions. We held three formal workshops in 2007, in Dubai in June, in Singapore in August, and in Bangkok in September. We also held dozens of smaller meetings and consultations in the regions with experts in a wide range of transnational concerns.

We hope you will find this volume a useful introduction to an emerging set of issues. It is a rich and varied menu of topics, from religion and ideology to management of natural resources and problems of governance. For regional specialists, it should provide a welcome break from the vast literature on regional conflict, and demonstrate the changing nature of security problems. For experts in the distinct issues, it may be useful to see how those issues play out in these strategically important regions, and how the policy challenges vary from region to region.

Amit Pandya directs this large project, with contributions from other Stimson Center Senior Associates and a talented team of researchers. The past year was a most rewarding partnership with several think tanks and security institutes in the regions. We are also grateful for the support from and collaboration with the National Intelligence Council, which has expanded its outreach to nongovernment experts as part of its series of Global Trends publications. It is our hope that our work will add some important insights to the work of government analysts who support strategic planning, in Washington and beyond.

Sincerely,

Ellen Laipson





## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The analysis here would have been impossible without the advice, time, and participation of an enormous number of experts, in the United States and in the regions. Those who participated in our meetings or agreed to be interviewed are listed in Annex 2. That list cannot do adequate justice to all who were kind enough to lend their advice and expertise individually and informally or have otherwise lent assistance in our work. We are indebted to many not named here.

We are particularly indebted to our principal institutional partners, the Gulf Research Center in Dubai (GRC), the Regional Centre for Security Studies in Sri Lanka (RCSS), and the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore (RSIS). We should like to express our gratitude particularly to Dr. Abdulaziz Sager and Dr. Christian Koch of GRC, Dr. Rifaat Hussain of RCSS, and Dr. Mely Caballero-Anthony of RSIS.

Interspersed throughout the longer essays herein are short analyses that focus attention on one particular aspect of the transnational trends discussed, note a particularly interesting conjunction of trends, or offer a succinct case study. In some cases these short pieces provide factual information to supplement and provide context for the longer essays. We are indebted to the following for their preparation of these: Philipp Dermann, Duaa Elzeney, David King, Junko Kobayashi, Jumaina Siddiqui, Vikram Sinha, and Elizabeth Young.

Finally, no acknowledgment is complete without mention of the contribution to this volume of the entire Regional Voices team. We particularly thank Kendra Patterson and Nicole Zdrojewski for their editorial work in preparing this volume for publication; Jacob Brown, Duaa Elzeney, Junko Kobayashi, and Nicole Zdrojewski for preparatory research and logistical organization of the meetings and consultations throughout the regions; our project interns for their work in support of those meetings; and Jumaina Siddiqui for her research on South Asia.