



# The European Union and

---

## Southwest Asia:

## Implications for Southeast Asia

Iftikhar A Lodhi

Research Associate

Institute of South Asian Studies

24 April 2009



# Outline

---

- The region
- Issues involved
- EU's responses
- Implications
- Some critical questions
- Concluding remarks

## A Wakeup Call?

---

**“The EU provides the best possible example of a contemporary international alliance rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic.”**



K. Mahbubani (2007),  
“Wake up Washington”, *Global Asia*,  
vol.2, no.2.

## What is in the name?

---

**QUESTION:** What is the State Department's definition geographically of **Southwest Asia**? What countries does that include?

**MR. WOOD:** Matt, I didn't --

**QUESTION:** No, [!!!!]  
you guys named an envoy for **Southwest Asia**. I presume that you know what countries that includes.

**MR. WOOD:** Yes. Of course, we know. I just -- I don't have the list to run off -

Daily Press Briefing  
February 24, 2009

<http://link.brightcove.com/services/player/bcpid1857622883?bctid=14008402001>

<http://www.state.gov/video/?videoid=14008402001>

# Asia before Colonisation

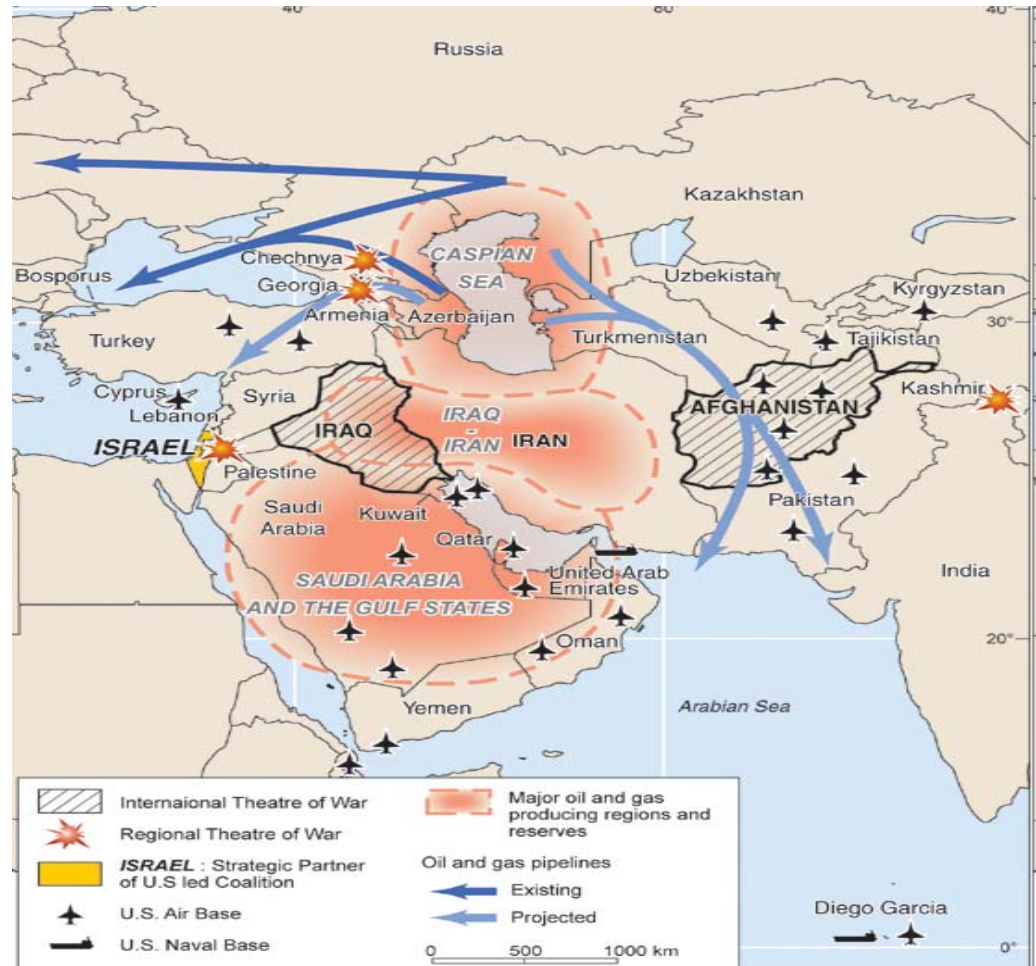




[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet\\_Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Union)

# The Greater Middle East

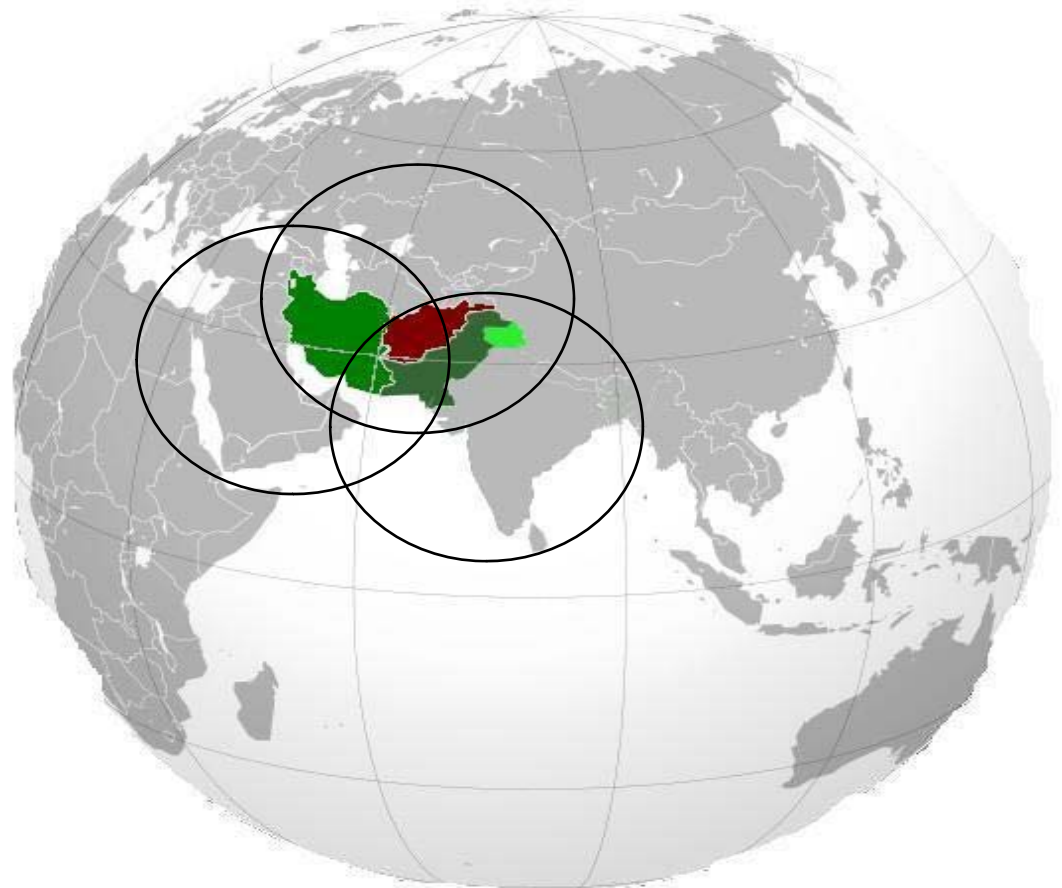
- 11/9 - 9/11
- Protracted Conflicts
- Geography
- Energy
- Capital
- Demographics



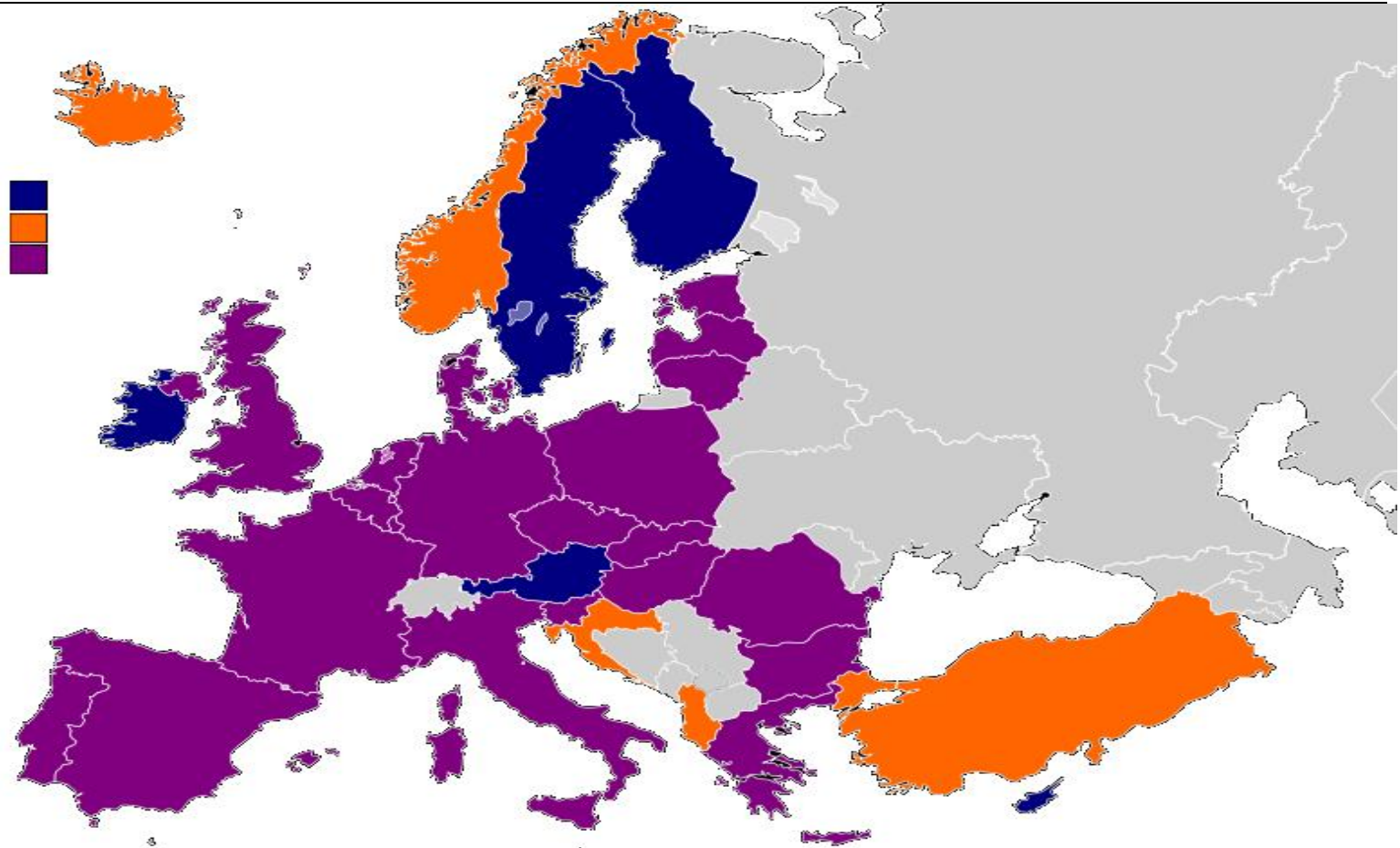
# Issues Involved

---

- The War on Terrorism
- Nuclear Proliferation
- Regional Conflicts
- Iran
- Afghanistan
- Pakistan



# The EU and NATO





## EU's Responses

---

- NATO in Afghanistan
- EU and Af-Pak
- EU and Iran



# India's Responses

---

- US-Iran standoff
- AF-Pak Strategy
- India and the EU

## China's Responses

---

**ZAKARIA:** Minxin, what do you think the Chinese want from America? What do you think they conveyed to Hillary Clinton privately?

**MINXIN PEI:** First of all, keep your rhetoric down. ... Second, ... protectionism

Global Public Square, CNN  
February 22, 2009

# Implications for the Global Order

---

- The West's attitude towards the rest
  - Accommodation
  - Engagement
  - Containment
  - Confrontation
  - Intervention
- UN, G8, G20

# Implications for Southeast Asia

---

- EU, ASEAN's second largest trading partner
- Biggest source of foreign direct investments
- EU-ASEAN FTA under discussion
- ASEM and APEC
  - ASEAN+3
- ARF
- Shangri-La Dialogue



## Critical questions

---

- Will the extension of NATO's membership and areas of responsibilities weaken EU's influence in NATO?
- If so, what is the future of CFSP?
- How EU's extension will affect its CFSP?
- EU in search of identity?
  - "the West", "the Islamic World", Asia
- "Burden Sharing" Dilemma?



## Concluding remarks

---

- Southwest Asia as part of the Greater Middle East is likely to play a more important role in shaping the future geopolitical landscape
- How the EU and the US interact with each other and other powers in the region would have far reaching consequences for the international system

## Concluding remarks

---

- Iran provides a test case not only for the trans-Atlantic alliance but also for the EU-Asian relations
- Being watchful of the developments in the region, Southeast Asian countries would be able to make informed choices with respect to engaging the EU and the US, while protecting their own interests



## Concluding remarks

---

- EU-ASEAN combined normative power for conflict prevention and stability
- ASEAN-EU political engagement should be emphasized
- The EU should balance its political engagement to match with that of its engagement with Asia in areas of economy, development, governance, and human rights

# Concluding remarks

---

**“Success depends not only on whose army wins, but also on whose story wins.”**

– Joseph Nye –

**Thank You**