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America, Beacon of Freedom

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Thomas Paine: *"He that would make his own liberty secure, must guard even his enemy from oppression, for if he violates this duty, he establishes a precedent that will reach to himself"*

President Bush's 2nd inaugural address: *"The survival of liberty in our land increasingly depends on the success of liberty in other lands. The best hope for peace in our world is the expansion of freedom in all the world."*

The year 2008 will mark an historic year for the United States and the world, for awakening some of our innermost insecurities since the crushing sorrow of September 11th. Freefalling into a financial abyss of great magnitude, the headlines have been dominated by doom and gloom forecasts accompanied by [photographs](#) of overwhelmed stockbrokers' sweaty brows, screaming to stay afloat.

There is no doubt that this turbulence will adversely affect all aspects of [American](#) life including national security. The bigger dilemma is how will this impact the U.S. position in the world?

[The answer](#) to that question will be for the next President of the United States and his advisors in administration. The events that have led to America's bailout could not have happened at a worse time in its history. The country has been interrupted amidst one of the most important election campaigns, the result of which has not only impacted America's future but also the worlds.

Coherent [economic and](#) foreign policies will be equally high on the agenda. The next President will have to tread very carefully. As Gen. Eisenhower said in his 1952 presidential campaign, "We must achieve both security and solvency. In fact, the foundation of military strength is economic strength." One should take a solemn moment to digest these words. Particularly today.

If there is anything we've learned it's that we live in very uncertain times that demand an extremely resilient and insightful leader to take America through the coming challenges.

Keeping America secure since September 11th has been victoriously achieved. That momentum must not under any circumstance be jeopardized or undermined - particularly when it comes to foreign policy making. There is no room for folly. There can be no room for oversight.

No doubt America's enemies have been watching with glee whilst the country attempts to recover from its financial hangover from hell and will be watching closely as November 4th rolls in.

Will the new President possess the shrewd skills and the resilience needed to lead with illustrious [strategies](#) that will not only ensure America's economic wellbeing but also protect her from harm by forging forwards with the legacy of spreading democracy and countering terrorism?

One of the next President's chief concerns must be the danger of the Islamic regime in Iran. The "Iranian threat" has many faces. Firstly, the failed UN attempts to enforce the Nonproliferation Treaty - under the pretext of having [nuclear energy](#) for peaceful use the Islamic Republic admittedly [plans](#) to obtain [weapons of mass destruction](#).

Secondly, the regime's armed interference in Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine and Afghanistan. Since their rise to fame the mullahs have had a hefty [insurance](#) policy in that region, hence have been one of the main destabilizing forces by strategically attempting to thwart all allied efforts.

Thirdly, the Islamic Republic is the leading state sponsor of terrorism. They have provided military and financial support to the most hard line and [fierce enemies of freedom and harmony](#) such as Hezbollah in Lebanon, Palestinian extremist Hamas, Shiite militants in Iraq and al Qaeda just before September 11th.

Not only has this put Iran's legacy alongside terrorists but has added a number of big and small countries to its list of enemies. Meanwhile, during their 30-year reign, the Mullahcracy has used [oppression, intimidation, torture and fear](#) in an attempt to deny the people's right to expression and freedom, which has brought about huge unrest throughout Iran.

Prolocutor of the Islamic Regime

During his *unjust* trip to the United States, Ahmadinejad had an *unjustified* [interview](#) with CNN's Larry King. Answering a question about the next President of the United States, Ahmadinejad did not sound unlike some of the United State's critics and clearly used the opportunity to indulge in pandering to those critics: "I think whatever government comes to power must address two agenda items. The first is that it must limit the circle of interventions of the United States abroad, because these interventions and interferences bring about a heavy cost to the American people. Both the dignity and materially of the American people...and materially you tell what it's done itself to the economy, I heard just recently that \$700 billion are to be infused into the [financial institutions](#), where is it being paid from - the pocket of the American people."

His poseur statement is rather amusing considering Iran is OPEC's second largest oil producer and yet its people continue to suffer in one of the world's worst economic hardships. The central bank of Iran announced this month that the inflation rate in August hit 27.6 percent, topping the former high rate of 26.1 percent recorded in July.

Iran's diplomatic isolation has not been reflected in Ahmadinejad's recent U.S. tour. Any meeting with a terrorist state would be an attempt at giving gratuitous legitimacy to an oppressive regime and therefore would not be the appropriate [vehicle](#) to a solution. It is fruitless to assume that an Islamic theocracy which is hostile to the west would be open and amenable to negotiations based on good faith. We have articulated our civilized ethics that we

are people of reason and peace whilst during the last three decades regimes like the Islamic Republic have demonstrated their lack thereof. They are ideologically incapable of empathizing with our grievances. This is engraved in the core policy of the Islamic Republic and without it they would cease to exist. [Just ask the average Iranian citizens](#).

There is unprecedented political, economic and social instability within the country which has been met with mass arrests and executions in an attempt to silence the majority opposition. Even with the [minimal of research](#) one would find a cache of information on arrests, repression, torture and public executions by the regime. No one can refute the regime's tyrannical reign.

Size isn't everything

Albeit all past rhetoric of regime change in Iran, John Bolton recently stated that this has not been sufficient: "Regime change is not something you can turn on and off like a light switch. I wish for the past five years we had been working on it more because had we been doing that we might have been in a different position than today."

But, somewhere on the horizon, with a little bit of gumption - and a hefty dose of luck - perhaps all is not lost. Amidst the confusion of a United Nation's invitation to Ahmadinejad; there is still a hint at winning this tumultuous war on terror and sowing the seeds of democracy by engaging those who would salute it.

Those resilient words of caution and insightful language of goodwill could be heard across the radio waves, news stations and headlines. This time it was the compassionate voice - yet iron will of a little known, but extremely knowledgeable and stylish Governor of Alaska, Sarah Palin. As Ahmadinejad was declaring "American empire is nearing collapse" at the UN General Assembly, Gov. Palin expressed the following [during her address in New York](#): "It is said that the measure of a country is the treatment of its most vulnerable citizens. By that standard, the Iranian government is both oppressive and barbaric...President Ahmadinejad should be held accountable for inciting genocide, a crime under international law. We must sanction Iran's Central Bank and the Revolutionary Guard Corps - which no one should doubt is a terrorist organization. Together, we can stop Iran's nuclear program." Indeed...she took the words right out of our mouths. Her thoughtful address resonated throughout America and Iran.

Today more than ever, America is vulnerable on so many fronts. 2008 will be remembered as the next [chapter](#) for survival both domestically and internationally. America's fight against the overwhelming forces has only just begun. It will be one of the toughest times in office for the next President but by demonstrating that America will not falter in times of economic strife will send a clear signal of strength to her friends and foes alike who will be watching closely for the next few years.

For such a "[tiny country](#)," Iran has been responsible for much of the world's carnage since its inception in 1979. For a country that seeks nuclear power whilst it terrorizes its own people with torture, stoning and unfair imprisonments...can you imagine if such a regime had a [little red button to push](#)?

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