

## Fortnightly links: geopolitics of conflict, dam failures, aid profiles, and more...

By Camilla Burkot and Terence Wood  
12 February 2016

Gallup uses survey data to [tell the sad tale](#) of Yemenis' suffering and the costs of war.

Joost Hiltermann from the International Crisis Group has a [long article](#) in the *London Review of Books* that shows just how complex the politics, and geopolitics, of conflict in the Middle East really is.

In the *Boston Review* Alex de Waal [argues](#) (quite) convincingly that assassinating terrorist leaders, by drone strikes or other means, usually does not reduce the risk of terrorism.

If you want something to worry about in the middle of the night, the *New Yorker* [reports](#) on the potential for catastrophic dam failures in Iraq and Zambia.

In the *NY Review of Books*, Helen Epstein [calls attention](#) to foreign aid, US military activity in Africa, and democratization — or lack thereof — with particular attention to the case of Uganda, which will go to the polls next week.

CNN has a [moving piece](#) on the aspirations of children made refugees by the Syrian war. And the BBC presents a [positive article](#) on Timor Leste's burgeoning entrepreneurs.

What ever happened to Chechnya? *The New Yorker* has a [fascinating profile](#) of Ramzan Kadyrov, the autocrat currently at its helm.

On a more positive note, and for those interested in pursuing a career in development, Mamamia has recently published a series of profiles of 13 Australian women in humanitarian and aid work, among them [Nichola Krey](#), [Kirsty Thompson](#), [Gina Olivieri](#), and [Helen Szoke](#).

And lastly, if you routinely find yourselves befuddled by the sea of UN and development-related acronyms out there, [have we got an app for you](#).

### About the author/s

#### Camilla Burkot

Camilla Burkot was a Research Officer at the Development Policy Centre, and Editor of the Devpolicy Blog, from 2015 to 2017. She has a background in social anthropology and holds a Master of Public Health from Columbia University, and has field experience in Eastern and

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## **Terence Wood**

Terence Wood is a Fellow at the Development Policy Centre. His research focuses on political governance in Western Melanesia, and Australian and New Zealand aid.

Link: <https://devpolicy.org/fortnightly-links-geopolitics-of-conflict-dam-failures-aid-profiles-and-more-20160212/>

Date downloaded: 20 April 2024



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