

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

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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](#).