

March 15, 2012

GET INVOLVED TODAY!

[Check out icrd.org](http://icrd.org)
[Volunteer or Intern](#)
[Purchase Books](#)
[Join us on Facebook](#)



Five-digit CFC Code:
12440



"We thank ICRD for opening the door to a new avenue to diplomacy, for providing us with new tools of persuasion and inspiration, and for offering us a better way to deal with the religious dimensions of conflict."

-James Glassman
former Undersecretary of
State for Public Diplomacy
and Public Affairs



Monthly Update

A New Look

Take a look at our new and improved website (link [here](#)). It does a better job of capturing the dynamic nature of our work and represents a tribute to the creative genius of the Velocity Design Group and to ICRD's Tamara Slater.

As the spirit moves, please consider sharing the link with two or three friends or colleagues who you think could become interested in (and possibly supportive of) our work.

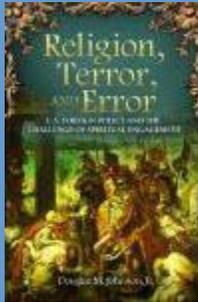


Staying the Course in Pakistan

The focus of our latest Policy Forum was on Pakistan, with some of the more interesting insights listed below (link [here](#) for a more comprehensive report). Again, the purpose of these forums is to inform U.S. foreign policy and public diplomacy with a more nuanced understanding of Islam.

1) To an unsettling degree, the United States and Pakistan have differing strategic priorities:

- Pakistan is reluctant to crack down on the Haqqani network, which is clearly a threat to U.S. interests (in Afghanistan) but less so to those of Pakistan. Having lost more than 30,000 lives in the war on terror, Pakistan gives understandable priority to those challenges that threaten them most directly.
- Beneath the surface, the conflicts in Afghanistan and Kashmir fuel Pakistani support for the Afghan Taliban, stemming from Pakistan's ongoing



"I consider this to be the best book that has yet been published on how religion can be deployed to improve U.S.-Muslim World relations."

-Imam Feisal Abdul
Founder, Cordoba Initiative

perceived need for a tight bond with Afghanistan to provide strategic depth in any future confrontation with India.

2) It is unlikely that an "Arab Spring" revolutionary-style movement will develop in Pakistan because of the country's democratic leanings and its independent judiciary. According to a recent poll, 59% of the population feels that voting gives them a chance to influence decision-making.

3) Despite its democratic trappings, Pakistan remains largely feudal in nature. Those on the top are basically uninterested in empowering those on the bottom.

4) Of even greater concern is the fact that moderates are being increasingly marginalized by the extremists, whose resort to violence has made candid and open discussions on issues like the blasphemy laws dangerous, difficult, and increasingly rare.

5) Significant problems relating to inadequate financial transparency are slowing the expenditure of much-needed Kerry-Lugar funding to enhance Pakistani civil society.

As for ICRD's own efforts to address the challenge, we have made important strides over the past month through the further empowerment of Pakistani universities to provide certification training for madrasa teachers and by developing additional indigenous capabilities for expanding the reach of the program.



With Best Wishes,

Doug Johnston

President

ICRD

1625 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Suite 601
Washington, DC 20036

tel: (202)331-9404

fax: (202)872-9137

postmaster@icrd.org