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Top 100 Public Intellectuals

Posted May 2008  **WEB EXCLUSIVE**

They are some of the world's most introspective philosophers and rabble-rousing clerics. A few write searing works of fiction and uncover the mysteries of the human mind. Others are at the forefront of modern finance, politics, and human rights. In the second Foreign Policy/Prospect list of top public intellectuals, we reveal the thinkers who are shaping the tenor of our time.

The **FOREIGN POLICY/Prospect** 2008 World's Top 100 Public Intellectuals poll is now closed.

To view the complete list of intellectuals, please [click here](#).

FOREIGN POLICY and *Prospect* will publish the results of the poll on June 23. To receive updates related to this and other **FP** articles, please enter your email address below.

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Aitzaz Ahsan, *Pakistan*

Lawyer and politician

As president of Pakistan's Supreme Court Bar Association and a senior figure in the Pakistan People's Party, Ahsan has played a leading role in opposing antidemocratic moves by Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf. He is author of *The Indus Saga and the Making of Pakistan*.

Kwame Anthony Appiah, *Ghana/United States*

Philosopher

Appiah is Laurance S. Rockefeller University professor of philosophy at Princeton University and author of numerous books and novels, including *The Ethics of Identity*.

Anne Applebaum, *United States*

Journalist, historian

A regular columnist for the *Washington Post*, Applebaum is a veteran journalist and author of *Gulag: A History*, a Pulitzer Prize-winning account of the Soviet prison system. She wrote "[In Search of Pro-Americanism](#)" for the July/August 2005 issue of **FP**.

Jacques Attali, *France*

Economist, writer

A past advisor to former French President François Mitterrand, Attali played a leading role in helping former Warsaw Pact countries make the transition to market economies. He is author of *Noise: The Political Economy of Music*. A contributing editor to **Foreign Policy**, Attali wrote "[Here Today, Gone Tomorrow: Monogamy](#)" for the September/October 2005 issue of **FP**.

George Ayittey, *Ghana*

Economist

Ayittey is a prominent Ghanaian scholar, activist, and author of *Africa Unchained: The Blueprint for Africa's Future*. As president of the Washington-based Free Africa Foundation, he argues that "Africa is

poor because she is not free." He is an economist in residence at American University.

Daniel Barenboim, *Israel*

Conductor, pianist, peace activist

An outspoken critic of Israeli policies in the Palestinian territories, Barenboim is "conductor for life" at the Berlin State Opera and is widely seen as a successor to Lorin Maazel at the New York Philharmonic.

Anies Baswedan, *Indonesia*

University president, political analyst

Currently president of Paramadina University in Jakarta and a noted researcher, Baswedan played a leading role in the student movements that helped oust Indonesian dictator Suharto.

Pope Benedict XVI, *Germany/Vatican*

Religious leader, theologian

Born Joseph Alois Ratzinger, Pope Benedict is a leading theologian and a staunch defender of Catholic traditions and values. Prior to his election as pope in 2005, he was a prolific author and commentator and even cofounded a theological journal, the influential *Communio*. Before Ratzinger's election, R. Scott Appleby wrote "[Job Description for the Next Pope](#)" in the January/February 2004 issue of **FP**.

Ian Buruma, *Britain/Netherlands*

Essayist

A former journalist who spent years working in Asia, Buruma is best known for *Murder in Amsterdam: The Death of Theo van Gogh and the Limits of Tolerance* and for his commentary on faith and moral relativism. He is a widely syndicated columnist and a popular lecturer.

Fernando Henrique Cardoso, *Brazil*

Politician, author

An internationally renowned sociologist and a two-term former president of Brazil, Cardoso is a professor at Brown University's Watson Institute for International Studies. He has authored numerous books, including *Dependency and Development in Latin America*, and is a director of the Club of Madrid. He wrote "[Here Today, Gone Tomorrow: Political Parties](#)" for the September/October 2005 issue of **FP**.

Noam Chomsky, *United States*

Linguist, activist

A professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology since 1955, the prolific Chomsky is a groundbreaking linguist and a prominent critic of U.S. foreign policy. He wrote "[What Is the International Community: The Crimes of 'Intcom'](#)" for the September/October 2002 issue of **FP**.

J.M. Coetzee, *South Africa*

Novelist

The 2003 winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature, Coetzee wrote his most famous novels—*Waiting for the Barbarians*, *Life & Times of Michael K*, and *Disgrace*—while a university professor in South Africa and the United States.

Paul Collier, *Britain*

Development and conflict economist

Author most recently of *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries Are Failing and What Can Be Done About It*, awarded the [2008 Gelber Prize](#), Collier is professor of economics at Oxford University and a leading expert on the governance and development challenges faced by the world's poorest countries. He wrote "[Africa's Revolutionary Routine](#)" in the May/June 2004 issue of **FP**.

Richard Dawkins, *Britain*

Biologist, author

Dawkins's seminal 1976 work, *The Selfish Gene*, explores the role played by genes in the evolutionary process. He may be better known today for the criticisms of religion and "intelligent design" theories put forth in *The God Delusion*. He shares his "[Epiphanies](#)" in the May/June 2008 issue of **FP**.

Alex de Waal, *Britain*

Writer, Africa activist

A program director at the Social Science Research Council, de Waal is a frequently cited expert on the Darfur crisis and on African health issues.

Thérèse Delpech, *France*

Political scientist

One of France's most respected analysts of international affairs, Delpech is director for strategic studies at the Atomic Energy Commission of France, senior research fellow at CERI (Center of International Relations Studies), and author most recently of *Savage Century: Back to Barbarism*.

Daniel Dennett, *United States*

Philosopher

Dennett is the Austin B. Fletcher professor of philosophy at Tufts University, where his life's work is building a "philosophy of mind" to explain how human consciousness works. He is the author of *Content and Consciousness*, *Consciousness Explained*, *Darwin's Dangerous Idea*, and *Breaking the Spell*, among others.

Jared Diamond, *United States*

Biologist, historian

The preeminent scholar of the relationship between the environment and civilizational success, Diamond is the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Guns, Germs, and Steel* and *Collapse*. He is professor of geography and physiology at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Esther Duflo, *France*

Development economist

Duflo is the Abdul Latif Jameel professor of poverty alleviation and development economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she studies health, poverty, and credit issues in the developing world. She wrote "[21 Solutions to Save the World: Fund What Works](#)" for the May/June 2007 issue of **FP**.

William Easterly, *United States*

Economist, aid skeptic

A scathing critic of [“the ideology of development,”](#) Easterly views much foreign aid as messianic, wasted, or even harmful to developing countries. He is professor of economics at New York University, author of *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good*, and a frequent contributor to **Foreign Policy**.

Shirin Ebadi, Iran

Lawyer, human rights activist

Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003 for her advocacy on behalf of Iranian dissidents and others, especially women and children, Ebadi is a human rights lawyer in Tehran and author of the memoir *Iran Awakening: A Memoir of Revolution and Hope*.

Umberto Eco, Italy

Medievalist, novelist

Eco's dense novels, such as *The Name of the Rose* and *Foucault's Pendulum*, are a dizzying blend of philosophy, biblical analysis, and arcane literary references. An expert in the burgeoning field of semiotics, he is president of the Advanced School of Humanist Studies at the University of Bologna.

Fan Gang, China

Economist

Foreign analysts watch closely the remarks of Fan, the influential director of the government-affiliated National Economic Research Institute in Beijing and a leading reform advocate, for clues about what Chinese leaders are thinking about the global economy.

Drew Gilpin Faust, United States

University president, historian

Harvard University's first female president, Faust is a respected historian of the American Civil War and the author of six books, including most recently *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*.

Niall Ferguson, Britain

Historian

The Laurence A. Tisch professor of history at Harvard University and a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, Ferguson is a prolific author best known for *The Pity of War*, his counterintuitive take on the British role in World War I. He wrote [“Empires with Expiration Dates”](#) in the September/October 2006 issue of **FP** and [“A World Without Power”](#) in the July/August 2004 issue.

Alain Finkielkraut, France

Essayist, philosopher

One of France's most prominent columnists, the controversial Finkielkraut teaches about the “history of ideas” at the École Polytechnique in Paris and is a polemical critic of modern French society.

Thomas Friedman, United States

Journalist, columnist

Friedman—*New York Times* foreign affairs commentator, three-time Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, and author of *The World Is Flat* and *From Beirut to Jerusalem*—is one of the world's most popular and

influential syndicated columnists. He wrote "[The First Law of Petropolitics](#)" for the May/June 2006 issue of **FP**.

Francis Fukuyama, *United States*

Political scientist

Renowned for declaring *The End of History* after the fall of the Soviet Union, Fukuyama is professor of international political economy at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University and author most recently of *America at the Crossroads: Democracy, Power, and the Neoconservative Legacy*. He wrote "[The World's Most Dangerous Ideas: Transhumanism](#)" for the September/October 2004 issue of **FP**.

Yegor Gaidar, *Russia*

Economist, politician

Gaidar was Boris Yeltsin's acting prime minister from June 15 to December 14, 1992 and a proponent of "shock therapy" for the Russian economy. He is a contributing editor to **FP**.

Howard Gardner, *United States*

Psychologist, author

The John H. and Elisabeth A. Hobbs professor of cognition and education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Gardner is the recipient of a MacArthur "genius grant" and the author of more than 20 books, most recently *Responsibility at Work* and *Five Minds for the Future*. He wrote "[21 Solutions to Save the World: An Embarrassment of Riches](#)" for the May/June 2007 issue of **FP**.

Neil Gershenfeld, *United States*

Physicist, computer scientist

Gershenfeld heads the Center for Bits and Atoms at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he takes an interdisciplinary approach to quantum computing, nanotechnology, and personal fabrication. He is author most recently of *Fab: The Coming Revolution on Your Desktop—From Personal Computers to Personal Fabrication*.

Malcolm Gladwell, *Canada/United States*

Pop sociologist, journalist

Author of *Blink* and *The Tipping Point*, Gladwell is a National Magazine Award-winning staff writer at *The New Yorker*.

Al Gore, *United States*

Climate change activist, politician

Since serving two terms as Bill Clinton's vice president in the 1990s, Gore has become a leading advocate on climate change and a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. He starred in the Oscar-winning documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*.

Ramachandra Guha, *India*

Historian

An Indian historian, columnist and MacArthur fellow, Guha has taught in the United States, Norway, and now in Bangalore. He is author of *India After Gandhi*.

Alma Guillermoprieto, *Mexico*

Journalist, author

A Mexican journalist and a MacArthur fellow, Guillermoprieto has written extensively in such publications as *The New Yorker*, *The New York Review of Books*, and the *Washington Post*. A veteran war correspondent, she is a former South America bureau chief for *Newsweek* and author of *Dancing with Cuba*. Her chronicles of Latin America's "lost decade" were published as *The Heart That Bleeds* in 1994.

Fethullah Gülen, *Turkey*

Religious leader

A modernist Islamic scholar and leader of the movement named after him, Gülen is widely considered one of the most important Muslim thinkers alive today. He has authored more than 60 books.

Jürgen Habermas, *Germany*

Philosopher

Habermas's diverse interests range from epistemology to the rule of law, but his most influential work is on the "public sphere"—the arena in which arguments about political matters take place. He is author of *The Theory of Communicative Action* and, most recently, *The Dialectics of Secularization*, a dialogue with Joseph Ratzinger.

Vaclav Havel, *Czech Republic*

Statesman, playwright

A leading dissident and repeated political prisoner during the Soviet era, Havel became president of Czechoslovakia after the Velvet Revolution of 1989, saw his country through a transition to a democratic market economy, and managed the split with Slovakia.

Ayaan Hirsi Ali, *Somalia/Netherlands*

Activist, politician

A former member of the Dutch parliament and a fierce critic of the role of women in Islam, Ali has feared for her life since writing the screenplay for *Submission*, the provocative short film that led to Theo van Gogh's murder.

Christopher Hitchens, *Britain/United States*

Journalist, author

One of the English language's most sought-after polemicists, Hitchens is a columnist for *Vanity Fair* and the author of *God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything*. He wrote "[The Plight of the Public Intellectual](#)" in the May/June 2008 issue of **FP**.

Hu Shuli, *China*

Journalist

Managing editor of *Cajjing*, a top Chinese business magazine, Hu is a veteran journalist, author, and panelist for the *Washington Post's* PostGlobal.

Samuel Huntington, *United States*

Political scientist

Through such works as *Political Order in Changing Societies*, Huntington's influence on his field is profound, but his most famous book is certainly *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*. Currently the Albert J. Weatherhead III professor at Harvard University, Huntington cofounded **Foreign Policy** in 1970. He wrote his provocative article "[The Hispanic Challenge](#)" for the March/April 2004 issue of **FP**.

Michael Ignatieff, *Canada*

Human rights theorist, politician

A past winner of the [Gelber Prize](#) for his book *Blood and Belonging: Journeys into the New Nationalism*, Ignatieff is a leading thinker on human rights issues. He is deputy leader of Canada's Liberal Party and former head of Harvard University's Carr Center for Human Rights Policy.

Tony Judt, *Britain*

Historian

Judt is the Erich Maria Remarque professor in European studies at New York University, author of *Postwar: A History of Europe Since 1945*, and a frequent contributor to the *New York Review of Books*.

Robert Kagan, *United States*

Author, political commentator

An influential columnist for the *Washington Post* and elsewhere, Kagan is senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and author most recently of *The Return of History and the End of Dreams*. He wrote "[From Victory to Success: Looking for Legitimacy in All the Wrong Places](#)" in the July/August 2003 issue of **FP**.

Daniel Kahneman, *Israel/United States*

Psychologist

A Nobel laureate for his work on "prospect theory," Kahneman is senior scholar at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and the Eugene Higgins professor of psychology emeritus at Princeton. He cowrote "[Why Hawks Win](#)" in the January/February 2007 issue of **FP**, which was selected for publication in *The Best American Political Writing 2007*.

Garry Kasparov, *Russia*

Democracy activist, chess grandmaster

Since his days as a world chess champion, Kasparov has become an outspoken critic of outgoing Russian President Vladimir Putin. Chairman of the United Civil Front, a democratic activist group, he wrote "[21 Solutions to Save the World: A Global Magna Carta](#)" for the May/June 2007 issue of **FP**.

Amr Khaled, *Egypt*

Muslim televangelist

An entrepreneurial preacher and broadcaster, Khaled is an accountant by training but a born evangelical leader. The moderate Khaled, who preaches a message of tolerance and personal redemption through Islam, is wildly popular among younger Muslims in the Arab world.

Rem Koolhaas, *Netherlands*

Architect

Koolhaas is Pritzker Prize-winning principal at the Office for Metropolitan Architecture, but his influence extends to urban theory, journalism, and beyond. The cofounder of *Volume* magazine, his most famous works include Maison à Bordeaux, the Seattle Public Library, and the Casa da Musica hall in Porto, Portugal. He is professor in practice at Harvard University's architecture department and author of *Delirious New York* and *S,M,L,XL*.

Ivan Krastev, *Bulgaria*

Political scientist

Chairman of the Centre for Liberal Strategies in Sofia, Krastev is editor of **FP**'s Bulgarian edition and author of "[What Russia Wants](#)" in the May/June 2008 issue of **FP**.

Enrique Krauze, *Mexico*

Historian

Krauze is publisher of Editorial Clío and editor of *Letras Libres*, a Mexican cultural magazine. He is author of *Mexico: Biography of Power*.

Paul Krugman, *United States*

Economist, columnist

A fiery political commentator for the *New York Times* and a respected trade theorist, Krugman is a John Bates Clark Medal-winning economist at Princeton University. His most recent book is *The Conscience of a Liberal*. He wrote "[Europe Jobless, America Penniless?](#)" in the Summer 1994 issue of **FP**.

Lee Kuan Yew, *Singapore*

Politician, national patriarch

Lee stepped down as prime minister in 1990, but he remains a towering figure in Singaporean politics. His current post is "minister mentor," a job created just for him. He wrote "Here Today, Gone Tomorrow: Laissez-Faire Procreation" for the September/October 2005 issue of **FP**.

Lawrence Lessig, *United States*

Legal scholar, activist

The darling of cyberspace for his efforts to reduce restrictions on intellectual property, Lessig is professor of law at Stanford University and author of *The Future of Ideas*. He wrote "[The Internet Under Siege](#)" for the November/December 2001 issue of **FP**.

Steven Levitt, *United States*

Economist, author

Best known for coauthoring *Freakonomics* with Stephen J. Dubner, Levitt is the Alvin Baum professor of economics at the University of Chicago. A 2003 winner of the John Bates Clark Medal for economists under 40, his most famous work links the rise in abortions to the drop in crime rates in the United States.

Bernard Lewis, *Britain/United States*

Historian

Eminent scholar of the Ottoman Empire, the Middle East, and Islam, Lewis is the Cleveland E. Dodge professor emeritus of Near Eastern studies at Princeton University. His most recent book is *From Babel*

to *Dragomans: Interpreting the Middle East*.

Bjørn Lomborg, *Denmark*

Environmentalist, statistician

Controversial for his view, as expounded upon in *The Skeptical Environmentalist*, that combating global crises such as HIV/AIDS ought to take precedence over fighting climate change, Lomborg wrote "[21 Solutions to Save the World: Take Your Vitamins](#)" for the May/June 2007 issue of **FP**.

James Lovelock, *Britain*

Environmental scientist

Lovelock's great contribution to science is the famous Gaia hypothesis, the idea that Earth can be thought of as a giant organism. A developer of numerous scientific instruments used by NASA, Lovelock is author most recently of *The Revenge of Gaia: Why the Earth Is Fighting Back—and How We Can Still Save Humanity*.

Mahmood Mamdani, *Uganda*

Cultural anthropologist

Mamdani is the Herbert Lehman professor of government in the anthropology, political science, and international affairs departments at Columbia University and was director of the Institute of African Studies there until 2004. He is the author most recently of *Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: America, the Cold War and the Roots of Terror*.

Minxin Pei, *China*

Political scientist

A senior associate and director of the China Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, he is author of *China's Trapped Transition: The Limits of Developmental Autocracy* and wrote "[The Dark Side of China's Rise](#)" for the March/April 2006 issue of **FP**.

Ashis Nandy, *India*

Political psychologist

A scholar at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies in New Delhi, Nandy studies "political psychology, mass violence, cultures and politics of knowledge, utopias and visions."

Sunita Narain, *India*

Environmentalist

Director of India's Centre for Science and Environment, Narain is a leading advocate of sustainable development and a strong supporter of fairness in environmental negotiations. She won the 2005 Stockholm Water Prize for the center's work on water management.

Martha Nussbaum, *United States*

Philosopher

Nussbaum, currently the Ernst Freund distinguished service professor of law and ethics at the University of Chicago, is a classicist with a special interest in female equality. She is author most recently of *Liberty of Conscience: In Defense of America's Tradition of Religious Equality* and wrote "[The World's Most Dangerous Ideas: Religious Intolerance](#)" for the September/October 2004 issue of **FP**.

Sari Nusseibeh, *Palestine*

Diplomat, philosopher

Nusseibeh is professor of philosophy and president of Al-Quds University in Jerusalem. A leading Palestinian moderate, Nusseibeh worked with former Israeli Shin Bet chief Ami Ayalon in 2002 and 2003 to develop "The People's Voice" peace initiative.

Amos Oz, *Israel*

Novelist, journalist

A professor of literature at Ben-Gurion University, the influential Oz was among the first to advocate a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He cofounded Peace Now in 1978. His most recent nonfiction book is *How to Cure a Fanatic*.

Orhan Pamuk, *Turkey*

Novelist

Pamuk won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2006 after a year in which he faced criminal charges in Turkey for his frank comments about the Armenian genocide. His most famous books are *My Name Is Red*, *Snow*, and *Istanbul: Memories and the City*.

David Petraeus, *United States*

Military strategist

The commanding general of U.S. forces in Iraq, Petraeus is the architect of the U.S. military's revised field manual on counterinsurgency.

Steven Pinker, *Canada/United States*

Linguist, psychologist

Steven Pinker is the Johnstone family professor at Harvard University and author of seven books, including *The Stuff of Thought: Language as a Window into Human Nature*. A frequent essayist for such publications as the *New York Times*, *Time* magazine, and *Slate*, Pinker focuses on language and cognition in his research.

Richard Posner, *United States*

Judge, author

Richard Posner is a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and the author of dozens of influential works on everything from legal philosophy and jurisprudence to catastrophic climate change. His most recent book is *How Judges Think*.

Samantha Power, *United States*

Journalist

A former foreign-policy advisor to Barack Obama's presidential campaign, Power is best known for her Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide*. She is the Anna Lindh professor of practice of global leadership and public policy at Harvard University's Carr Center for Human Rights Policy.

Robert Putnam, *United States*

Political scientist

Putnam, a Harvard University professor of political science, is best known for *Bowling Alone*, his study of the decline in civic participation in the United States.

Yusuf al-Qaradawi, *Egypt/Qatar*

Cleric

Perhaps the most influential preacher in Sunni Islam, Qaradawi hosts the weekly show *Sharia and Life* on the Al Jazeera satellite channel.

V.S. Ramachandran, *India*

Neuroscientist

Ramachandran directs the Center for Brain and Cognition and at the University of California, San Diego. Richard Dawkins calls him the “Marco Polo of neuroscience” for his work on behavioral neurology. His best-known book is *Phantoms in the Brain*.

Tariq Ramadan, *Switzerland*

Philosopher, scholar of Islam

Born in Switzerland, Ramadan is a prominent advocate for a “European” version of Islam. A grandson of Muslim Brotherhood founder Hassan al-Banna, he was [interviewed](#) in the November/December 2004 issue of **FP**. His most recent book is *In the Footsteps of the Prophet: Lessons from the Life of Muhammad*.

Gianni Riotta, *Italy*

Journalist, political commentator

A columnist for the *Corriere Della Sera* newspaper and one of Italy’s foremost pundits, Riotta is a contributing editor to **FP**. He is author of the novel *Prince of the Clouds* and wrote “[Who Wins in Iraq? Old Europe](#)” for the March/April 2007 issue of **FP**.

Nouriel Roubini, *Italy/United States*

Economist

A widely cited expert on international macroeconomics and finance, Roubini is chairman of RGE Monitor and professor of economics at New York University’s Stern School of Business. He wrote “[The Coming Financial Pandemic](#)” in the March/April 2008 issue of **FP**.

Olivier Roy, *France*

Political scientist

One of the world’s top scholars of political Islam and terrorist movements, Roy is research director at the French National Center for Scientific Research. His 1992 book *The Failure of Political Islam* remains essential reading for anyone who wishes to understand contemporary Islamism.

Salman Rushdie, *Britain*

Novelist

His second novel, *Midnight’s Children*, won a prestigious Booker Prize in 1981. But Rushdie wasn’t catapulted to international fame until Iranian Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini condemned him to death in

1989 for writing *The Satanic Verses*. Rushdie was knighted in 2007.

Jeffrey Sachs, *United States*

Development economist

A former special advisor to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan for the Millennium Development Goals, Sachs directs the Earth Institute at Columbia University. He is author of *The End of Poverty* and wrote "[21 Solutions to Save the World: How to Stop a Serial Killer](#)" for the May/June 2007 issue of **FP**.

Fernando Savater, *Spain*

Essayist, philosopher

Best known for his insights on ethics, religion, and terrorism, Savater is philosophy professor at the Complutense University of Madrid.

Amartya Sen, *India*

Development economist

Sen is an Indian-born economist whose influence spans the globe and ranges far beyond his field. He won the 1998 Nobel Prize in economics for his work on poverty, development, and democracy. Presently, he is the Lamont university professor at Harvard University.

Lilia Shevtsova, *Russia*

Political scientist

A senior associate at the Moscow Center of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Shevtsova is author of *Putin's Russia* and *Russia—Lost in Transition*. She wrote "[Think Again: Vladimir Putin](#)" for the January/February 2008 issue of **FP**.

Peter Singer, *Australia*

Philosopher

Singer is the Ira W. DeCamp professor of bioethics at Princeton University and a controversial advocate of "animal liberation." His many books include *Practical Ethics* and *Rethinking Life and Death: The Collapse of Our Traditional Ethics*. Singer wrote "[Here Today, Gone Tomorrow: The Sanctity of Life](#)" for the September/October 2005 issue of **FP**.

Lee Smolin, *United States/Canada*

Physicist

Smolin is a theoretical physicist whose work on quantum gravity and "fecund universes" has established him as a leading thinker on some of the biggest questions in physics. Since, 2001, he has been a founding and senior researcher at the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics in Waterloo, Ontario. Smolin is author of *The Life of the Cosmos* and *The Trouble With Physics: The Rise of String Theory, the Fall of a Science, and What Comes Next*.

Abdolkarim Soroush, *Iran*

Religious theorist

A leading figure on the Iranian left, Soroush is currently a visiting scholar at Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs. His most important works are collected in *Reason, Freedom, and Democracy in Islam: Essential Writings of Abdolkarim Soroush*.

Wole Soyinka, Nigeria

Playwright, activist

Winner of the 1986 Nobel Prize in Literature, Soyinka is one of Africa's most distinguished playwrights. Soyinka was imprisoned during the Nigerian civil war and became a fierce critic of subsequent Nigerian regimes. He is formerly the Elias Ghanem professor of creative writing at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Michael Spence, United States

Economist

Winner of the 2001 Nobel Prize in economics, Spence is known for his work on signaling in the job market. He is a Hoover Institution fellow, Philip H. Knight professor emeritus, and former dean of Stanford University's Graduate School of Business.

Lawrence Summers, United States

Economist

A U.S. Treasury secretary under the Clinton administration and a former president of Harvard University, Summers is a columnist for the *Financial Times* and a member of the editorial board of **Foreign Policy**. He shared his "[Epiphanies](#)" in the March/April 2008 issue of **FP**.

Charles Taylor, Canada

Philosopher

Author most recently of *A Secular Age*, Taylor is known for his communitarian political philosophy.

Mario Vargas Llosa, Peru

Novelist, politician

An astonishingly prolific author and essayist, Vargas Llosa is one of the giants of contemporary Latin American literature. His most acclaimed work is *The Green House*. He is the 1994 recipient of the prestigious Miguel de Cervantes Prize.

Harold Varmus, United States

Medical scientist

A former director of the National Institutes of Health, Varmus won the Nobel Prize in Medicine (along with J. Michael Bishop) for his cancer research. He now heads the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan.

J. Craig Venter, United States

Biologist, entrepreneur

Famous for trying to compete with the Human Genome Project, Venter currently heads Synthetic Genomics, a company that aims to produce alternative fuels using microorganisms.

Michael Walzer, United States

Political theorist

A leading U.S. political theorist who has written extensively about the concept of "just war," Walzer is

coeditor of the leftist quarterly *Dissent*. He is professor emeritus at the Institute for Advanced Study and author most recently of *Politics and Passion: Toward A More Egalitarian Liberalism*.

Wang Hui, China

Political theorist

Wang is professor of Chinese language and literature at Tsinghua University. Sent to the hinterlands for his role in the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989, Wang is a leading member of China's "New Left" movement and a past editor of *Dushu*, one of China's most influential literary journals.

E.O. Wilson, United States

Biologist

A two-time Pulitzer Prize-winner (for *On Human Nature* and *The Ants*) and naturalist, Wilson argues that human behavior can largely be explained by biology. He is Pellegrino university professor emeritus of entomology at Harvard University.

Martin Wolf, Britain

Journalist, columnist

Perhaps the world's most influential economics commentator, Wolf is associate editor and a columnist for the *Financial Times*. He is author of *Why Globalization Works* and wrote "[Who Wins in Iraq?: The United Nations](#)" for the March/April 2007 issue of **FP**.

Yan Xuetong, China

Political scientist

Yan, a forceful advocate of China's national strength, is director of the Institute of International Studies at Tsinghua University. Yuan Ming [reviewed](#) his 1996 book, *On Analysis of China's National Interests*, for the Summer 1997 issue of **FP**.

Muhammad Yunus, Bangladesh

Microfinancier, activist

Recipient of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize, Yunus is the founder of the Grameen Bank and a pioneer in the field of microfinance. He shared his "[Epiphanies](#)" in the January/February 2008 issue of **FP**.

Fareed Zakaria, United States

Journalist, author

Zakaria is editor of *Newsweek International* and author of *The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad*. He wrote "[The World's Most Dangerous Ideas: Hating America](#)" for the September/October 2004 issue of **FP**.

Slavoj Zizek, Slovenia

Sociologist, philosopher

A self-described Marxist philosopher, sociologist, and cultural critic, Zizek is senior researcher at the Institute of Sociology at the University of Ljubljana.
