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Trends. Demise of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Telling Quote

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As quoted in *The New York Times*, the majority leader in the United States (US) Senate, Trent Lott, Republican of Mississippi, stated, "Why should it [a military coup and unrest in Pakistan] have any bearing on this debate [regarding the Senate ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty]? What we're talking about in this treaty is the national security of our own country. Nothing we do here will have any effect on the Government in Pakistan."

Granted, this quote may merely be a rhetorical and partisan flourish with no correspondence to the Senator's belief system on security issues. One still must consider the quote as a successful vehicle of political engagement. It mirrors the success of a perspective that remarkably forswears and discounts the interdependence of nation-states and other political entities--in fact, contemporary globalization. It conveys the sense that security issues and analysis can be validly explored out of context and irrespective of context--beyond the esoteric, technical aspects of treaty verification.

While the vote against ratification has been trumpeted as a defeat for the US president and/or as an impediment to nuclear proliferation and peace, it is even more so a victory for a worldview that is largely anachronistic among policymakers--except, perhaps, within the Beltway of Washington, DC. (See Amador-Campos, J.A., & Kirchner-Nebot, T. (1999). Correlations among scores on measures of field dependence-independence cognitive style, cognitive ability, and sustained attention. *Perceptual and Motor Skills*, 88, 236-239; Davies, M.F. (1998). Dogmatism and belief formation: Output interference in the processing of supporting and contradictory cognitions. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 75, 456-466; Francis, L.J. (1997). Personal and social correlates of the "closed mind" among 16 year old adolescents in England. *Educational Studies*, 23, 429-437; Schmitt, E. (October 14, 1999). Senate kills test ban treaty in crushing loss for Clinton; evokes Versailles pact de feat. *The New York Times*, p. A1; A10; Wagner, D., Cook, G., & Friedman, S. (1998). Staying with their first impulse? The relationship between impulsivity/reflectivity, field dependence/field independence and answer changes on a multiple-choice exam in a fifth-grade sample. *Journal of Research and Development in Education*, 31, 166-175.) (Keywords: Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, Nuclear Weapons.)