

NY Times "Asia" Articles – 2009

Jan. 2, 2009

"Op-Ed Contributor: **The Next World Order**," by Gurcharan Das in New Delhi. NYT summary: "Both the Chinese and the Indians are convinced that their prosperity will only increase. In China it will be induced by the state; in India, it may well happen despite the state." Perspectives from the author of "India Unbound."

"Economy Blunts **Korea's Appetite for Plastic Surgery**," by Martin Fackler in Seoul. "Turmoil coursing through the financial world and then into the global economy has hit South Korea hard, as it has many middle-income countries . . . A particular chill has seeped into the plastic surgery industry, emptying waiting rooms and driving clinics out of business." Photos. Long article.

"Contradictions in China, and the Rise of a Billionaire Family," by David Barboza in Gujia Village. "The Lius are **China's first-generation billionaires**, born into a world of Mao suits, food rations, price controls and Communist slogans. And the story of how they made their fortune is considered one of the guiding myths of China's Communist party, a symbol of this country's transformation over the last 30 years, since its unlikely embrace of capitalism. But their story also betrays the contradictions of modern China - a country where the average factory worker makes less than \$50 a week." Photo. Long article.

Jan. 15, 2009

"Op-Ed Columnist: Where Sweatshops Are a Dream," by Nicholas D. Kristof, from Phnom Penh, Cambodia. NYT summary: "What the world's most impoverished people need isn't fewer sweatshops, but more of them." To the wretched poor whose lives depend on successful scavenging at a huge trash dump in the Cambodian capital, **work in a sweatshop factory would be a dream** come true. Link to a video: "A Dirty Job: Nicholas Kristof visits a Cambodian garbage dump, where some families make their living scavenging through the toxic pile."

"Actor of the New India Chasing Raw Ambitions," by Somini Sengupta from Mumbai. "**Akshay Kumar, India's superstar Everyman, is coming to America.** His latest film, 'Chandni Chowk to China,' is part kung fu bildungsroman, part Bollywood spectacle, and as much a New Delhi fable of ambition and pluck as it is an allegory of Mr. Kumar's own assiduous rise to stardom." On Friday, it will open in 130 theaters across the U.S. and Canada, "the widest release of an Indian movie in North America, according to its backer, Warner Brothers." Interview with the star. Image; photo; trailer and clips. Attention to the sizeable audience for Indian movies in North America.

Feb. 23, 2009

"**India Celebrates a Hollywood Victory**," by Somini Sengupta. NYT summary: "As India woke up to news of the spectacular wins by 'Slumdog Millionaire' at the Academy Awards, this movie-mad country went 'Jai Ho.' [a reference to the victory song of the movie.] Informative article about the response to the film, not all of it celebratory.

March 1, 2009

"Art: A Caged Man Breaks Out at Last," by Deborah Sontag. Profile of Tehching Hsieh, a **Taiwan-born and trained performance artist, now an American citizen**, whose epic "Cage Piece," wherein he locked himself in a barred cage for a year, documenting with photographs his life there, is now on display at New York City's Museum of Modern Art. Attention to his life in Taiwan, his training and other pieces, also involving documentation of unusual endurance feats. Photo. Slideshow. Long article.

"Strangers in Japan's Neon Wonderland," by Dennis Lim. "For the **new omnibus feature 'Tokyo!'**, three directors, none of them Japanese, were invited to make a film in the Japanese capital. The pedigree of the participants - Bong Joon-ho, Leos Carax and Michel Gondry, all auteurs with cult followings - underlines the **city's place at the cross-roads of global hipsterism**. But the film also serves as a reminder that some of Tokyo's most memorable chroniclers have been visitors, looking in from the outside." Informative anticipation of a movie which had its premiere last year at Cannes and opens in New York next Friday. One image. Not the least useful elements of this long article are the comparisons Mr. Lim draws between "Tokyo!" and other films of similar intention. Link to a trailer.

"India Makes a Place for Dirty Harry," by Daniel Pepper in Singaram. On "**encounter killings**" in India. Numbering in the thousands every year, 'encounters' or 'encounter killings' are **shootouts between the Indian police or army and any criminal element**, from terrorists to petty thieves." There are usually radically different explanations from the survivors of these events. "Meanwhile, Bollywood and Indian media lionize 'encounter specialists' - soldiers or policemen who, like Dirty Harry, specialize in shootouts." Photo. Map. Long article.

March 2, 2009

"Op-Ed Contributor: **Japan's Crisis of the Mind**," by Masaru Tamamoto from Yokohama. NYT summary: "Washington may see Japan, the world's second-largest economy, as a powerful nation, but the Japanese don't see themselves in the same light." Gloomy perspectives from a senior fellow at the World Policy Institute who argues the chief problems in Japan are psychological:

a lack of innovative thinking, an unwillingness to change.

March 3, 2009

"**Fires Are Big Killer of Indian Women**," by The Associated Press from New Delhi. "More than 100,000 young women were killed in fires in India in a single year, and many of those deaths were tied to domestic abuse, according to a study published Monday." Link to the study in The Lancet, a British medical journal.

March 8, 2009

"The Saturday Profile: **An Empire for Poor Working Women, Guided by a Gandhian Approach**," by Somini Sengupta from Ahmadabad, India. About Ela Bhatt, 76, founder and chief executive of her Self-Employed Women's Association which "has offered retirement accounts and health insurance to women who never had a safety net, lent working capital to entrepreneurs to open beauty salons in the slums, helped artisans sell their handiwork to new urban department stores and boldly trained its members to become gas station attendants-- an unusual job for women on the bottom of India's social ladder." Photo; slide show with 12 additional images and captions. Long article datelined March 6 and which originally appeared yesterday.

March 10, 2009

"In China, **No Plans to Emulate West's Way**," by Michael Wines from Beijing. "China's second-ranking Communist Party official [Wu Bangguo] issued a terse and complete disavowal of interest in Western-style democracy on Monday, saying that China would never adopt a multiparty political system, separation of powers, a bicameral legislature or an independent judiciary." Photo: Mr. Wu, chairman of China's parliament, with President Hu Jintao.

March 15, 2009

"Off the Shelf: India's Potential, Seen From the Inside," by Harry Hurt III. Reviewing "Imagining India: The **Idea of a Renewed Nation**," by Nandan Nilekani, co-founder of Infosys Technologies, a business-process outsourcing company based in Bangalore. "One of those rare books in which a businessman proves himself to be a capable expository writer, a balanced social and political commentator, and an innovative economic thinker."

March 16, 2009

"Arts, Briefly: **Chaplin Statue in India Draws Protests**," compiled by Julie Bloom. "Plans to erect a statue of Charlie Chaplin for use in a movie being filmed in India have drawn protests from Hindu activists." The 67-foot tall prop statue, background for a dance routine, is said to be close to a Hindu temple.

March 22, 2009

"Film: Stumbling Toward Bollywood," by Anupama Chopra from Mumbai. "While the triumph of 'Slumdog Millionaire,' which captured eight Oscars and has taken in nearly \$250 million globally so far, has given Hindi cinema a new cachet, the Hollywood studios have been enamored of the market for a decade. But even as talent and money cross borders, the studios are finding out that negotiating the distance between Burbank and Bollywood is trickier than expected." On several **Hollywood-produced, local language films that flopped in India**. Image from "Chandni Chowk to China," a dud that "barely recovered half its cost to Warner Brothers. But the effort to penetrate the Indian market continues.

April 2, 2009

"Kosuke Koyama, 79, an **Ecumenical Theologian**, Dies," by Douglas Martin. "The Rev. Dr. Kosuke Koyama, a theologian internationally known for using arresting metaphors drawn from his experience as a missionary to convey **an influential vision of Christianity as compatible with Asian traditions**, died last Wednesday, in Springfield, Mass. He was 79." Photo. Attention to Dr. Koyama's 1974 book, "Water Buffalo Theology."

April 3, 2009

"Indian Scion Speaks Out, and Uproar Follows Him," by Somini Sengupta from New Delhi. Photo caption effectively summarizes the story: "**Feroze Varun Gandhi**, a candidate for India's Parliament, with supporters after he left court on Saturday . . . He is accused of **inciting Hindu-Muslim strife**." The great grandson of Jawaharal Nehru has been estranged from India's Nehru-Gandhi political dynasty for most of his life. He is a candidate for the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party which has a vocal Hindu nationalist base.

"Antiques: 19th Century Designer Who Looked to India," by Eve M. Kahn. The first of three parts of this examination of forthcoming antiques sales and auctions examines an American furniture and interior [and landscape] designer [and painter] **Lockwood de Forest (1850-1932), who, starting around 1881, "realized that outsourcing jobs to India could be good for his interior design business in America."** The photos that accompany this article are for segments unrelated to DeForest; there are no photos of the made-in-India teak carvings from his efforts that are about to go on sale in a New York antiques gallery.

April 10, 2009

"Film: **Satyajit Ray's World of Restless Watchfulness and Nuance**," by Terrence Rafferty. Anticipating a retrospective film series starting Wednesday in NYC. Twenty of the great Indian filmmaker's movies will be shown through April 30. A number of the films are

discussed in this article. In a footnote, a phone number and a Web site with more information. One image: "Pinaki Sengupta as Apu in 'Aparajito; (1956)." Nine more images in a slide show: "The World of Satyajit Ray."

May 1, 2009

"Beijing Memo: A **Manifesto on Freedom Sets China's Persecution Machinery in Motion**," by Michael Wines. The authorities respond to Charter 08, the latest of several manifestos to shake the political system here. Attention to the detention of one of the writers, Liu Xiaobo, and to his wife, constantly under surveillance. Link to an English text of Charter 08. Long article.

May 3, 2009

"**A Walk in Calcutta**," by Somini Sengupta. Very long, very informative piece about the Indian city, now called Kolkata. Here you will also learn in passing some details about the Indian-born, U.S.-raised correspondent, now NYT's bureau chief in India, in this article returning to her home city. Slide show. Map. Destination information.

May 4, 2009

"**Pakistan's Islamic Schools Fill Void, but Fuel Militancy**," by Sabrina Tavernise. NYT summary: "Pakistan's poorest families have turned to Islamic schools that feed and house children while pushing a militant brand of Islam."

May 6, 2009

"**Korean Man Dies Homeless With \$100,000 in the Bank**," by Choe Sang-hun. NYT summary: "The man, who died last month, was unable to use a single penny of his life savings because he could not prove his identity to his bank, officials said."

May 15, 2009

"Arts, Briefly: '**Slumdog**' Actor's Home in Mumbai Is Demolished," by Vikas Bajaj. "In a scene reminiscent of the gritty hit movie 'Slumdog Millionaire,' municipal workers in Mumbai, India, on Thursday demolished the home of one of the children who starred in the rags-to-riches tale."

May 18, 2009

"Landslide in India Vote Reshapes Landscape," by Somini Sengupta from New Delhi. "Eleven years ago, when she took over as president of India's oldest political party, Sonia Gandhi was seen as India's most improbable politician: a foreigner with a shaky command of Hindi, reclusive to the point of seeming aloof, a wife who fought to keep her husband from joining politics and who lost him to an assassination. Today, **Mrs. Gandhi, 62, is credited with having scored a stunning political coup**." Analysis of the results of India's parliamentary elections in which the center-left Congress Party scored

unexpectedly well against the rightist-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party. Photos. Long article.

May 19, 2009

"Young Pakistanis Take One Problem Into Their Own Hands," by Sabrina Tavernise in Lahore. "A group of young Pakistani friends, sick of hearing their families complain about the government, decided to spite them by taking matters into their own hands: every Sunday they would grab shovels, go out into their city, and pick up garbage." **Students from elite private schools organize to achieve a goal that eludes their city: clean streets.** Photo. Long article.

"**Chinese City Is Chilly to a Sex Theme Park**," by Edward Wong from Beijing. Officials in Chongqing order the dismantling of the first sex theme park, Love Land, in China, well before construction is completed. Photo: workers pull down the bottom half of a giant thong-clad female mannikin. Some attention to what is said to be a "Chinese attitude" toward sex: "alternately more prudish and more open than that of Westerners."

May 23, 2009

"**Indonesians Embrace American-Style Reality TV**," by Norimitsu Onishi, from Jakarta. "The United States has long worried about the fate of Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, where radical Islamic groups staged a series of attacks against Western interests in the early years of this decade. But the country's television viewers have embraced shows that, though not explicitly American, are American in their formats, conceits and, often, values." Photo: a contestant on "Minta Tolong" - "AskFor Help." She won \$100 for helping a disabled person.

May 24, 2009

"Journeys: **A Humble Road to the Noble Truths in India and Nepal**," by Ralph Frammolino. "When the head monk strode in, our worlds finally merged. As he beat time on a wooden instrument, we performed a **Korean chant of the Heart Sutra**, a traditional teaching on emptiness. Yet what filled the room was full and deep, the atonal harmonies of a Buddhist ensemble - at once jarring, beautiful and transportive." Eight days of spiritual and other moments on the so-called Buddhist Circuit in southern Nepal and northern India. Photos; map. Destination information. Long article.

May 27, 2009

"A Dispute Half a World Away Darkens a Movie House in Queens," by Kirk Semple. On the sad fate befalling The Eagle, a little movie house in Jackson Heights, Queens, an immigrant neighborhood of New York City. "The cause of the theater's untimely closing...lies not in New York but clear on the other side of the planet. In Mumbai, India, **a seven-week-old strike by film producers has brought Bollywood, that country's multibillion-dollar film industry, to a halt**." Long,

informative report which does not, however, deal with the issues involved in the Bollywood strike. Photos.

"**Worshipping at the Altar of Ramen**," by Frank Bruni. "I stare into a bowl of this noodle soup - sometimes almost translucent, sometimes cream-colored, sometimes tawny, sometimes edging up on black and glittering darkly - and can't begin to know precisely what's in there." Rhapsodic attention to the joys of the Japanese noodle, with particular focus on one New York restaurant, Ippudo in the East Village. Photos; long article.

May 29, 2009

"Multimedia: A City, and People, at a Crossroads." Slide show narrated by Michael Wines, linked to his recent story about the demolition of the old central city of Kashgar. NYT summary: **The Uighurs**, an ethnic minority group, have long dominated the city of Kashgar. Now that the Chinese government has scheduled the ancient Spice Road outpost for a modern make-over, what will become of them?"

May 31, 2009

"Letter: Hiroshima Project: Villains, Not Victims," by Jmar Gambol from Manila. A child of people who suffered from Japan's aggressions in World War II is "**deeply offended . . . to find the sufferings of the victims of the atomic bombings equated to those of the Jews of Europe**" - the writer's reading of an article about the current "Hiroshima Project" of performances in New York described in an article in The Times, May 10, which is linked.

June 1, 2009

"Our Towns: Made in India, but Published in New Haven," by Peter Applebome in New Haven. **Indian journalists, recruited through Craigslist** ads in Bangalore and Mumbai, are writing articles for The New Haven Advocate, an "alternative weekly," and its sister publications in Hartford and Fairfield County." Outsourcing journalism.

"Columnist: Indochina Dreaming," by Roger Cohen. NYT summary: "A story of baroque intrigue in which **colonial France meets California** in Vietnam's highlands."

June 6, 2009

"A Long Journey to Document a Monk's Long Journey," by Michael Powell. About the Israeli filmmaker Nati Baratz, director of "**Unmistaken Child**," **the new documentary about the search by a young Tibetan Buddhist monk** for the reincarnation of a revered master." Photo: Mr. Baratz. Link to the June 3 NYT review of the movie and to a trailer for the film on YouTube.

June 7, 2009

"China Creates **Specter of Dueling Dalai Lamas**," by Edward Wong from Dharamsala, India. "For centuries, the selection of the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama has been steeped in the mysticism of a bygone world. . . . All that is about to change, as the current Dalai Lama and his followers in exile here in India compete with the Chinese government for control of how the 15th Dalai Lama will be chosen." Long, informative article, with attention to the historical process of selection, perspectives by scholars, including Robert Barnett of Columbia University. Photos; map (on 2nd online page).

"**Czechs Cool to Presence of Workers From Asia**," by Dan Bilefsky from Prague. "The [unemployed] Vietnamese workers are part of a larger influx of poor Asian workers, including tens of thousands from China, Mongolia and elsewhere, who were recruited to come to Eastern Europe to become low-skilled foot-soldiers in then booming economies. Now, they have been hit particularly hard by the sudden contraction of those economies." Photos. Long article.

June 20, 2009

"Op-Ed Contributor: **The Myth of the \$12 Million Uighur**," by Stuart Beck. NYT summary "Unattributed leaks and unsubstantiated rumors have twisted Palau's decent act of taking in U.S. detainees into another grab for dollars by a cunning third-world country." The writer is Palau's permanent representative to the United Nations.

"Editorial Notebook:: Hawaii Blues," by Lawrence Downes. A member of the Times' editorial board **reflects on the woes of Hawaii**. "The economy is really bad, The housing market and construction industry are in deep slumps. Tourism has been hammered by the recession and swine flu. Unemployment is doubled what it was a year ago . . . And now, to top everything off, a communist dictator [Kim Jong IL] supposedly wants to blow up Hawaii." NYT summary: "On the 50th anniversary of the only island state, there seems little to celebrate."

June 26, 2009

"Donggaocun Journal: From a Beijing Suburb, Vibrant Strings," by Andrew Jacobs in Donggaocun, China. "Once known primarily for its abundant **peach harvest**, the town, about an hour's drive from downtown Beijing, has become one of the world's most prodigious **manufacturers of inexpensive cellos**, violas, violins and double basses." Photo: child at a violin lesson. Map.

July 1, 2009

"**Malaysia Dilutes Its System of Ethnic Preferences**," by Thomas Fuller from Bangkok. "Najib Razak, Malaysia's prime minister, announced Tuesday a major rollback in the system of ethnic preferences that has

defined the country's political system for almost four decades. The new policy would severely weaken a requirement that companies reserve 30 percent of their shares for ethnic Malays, the country's dominant ethnic group." Attention to the political and economic privileges long-given to ethnic Malays and members of other indigenous ethnic groups.

July 2, 2009

"**Journey to India Is Inside the Mind**," by Anand Giridharadas. NYT summary: "The first thing Anand Giridharadas [born in the U.S.] learned about India was that his parents had chosen to leave it. Now, as he too prepares to depart it, his mind goes back to his earliest pictures of India." [From the pages of the NYT's "International Herald Tribune."]

July 5, 2009

TODAY'S PAPER/ WEEK IN REVIEW. Anand Giridharadas' personal essay from the International Herald Tribune, "**Farewell to an India I Hardly Knew**," shows up today in the "Week in Review" section, along with a photo of a bus in Calcutta, painted, with what is surely unintended irony, with two signs: "My India Is Great," and "Danger."

July 8, 2009

"Clashes in China Shed Light on Ethnic Divide," by Edward Wong in Urumqi. On the dynamics that lead "many of the area's 10 million **Uighurs to believe their culture and livelihoods [are] under assault by the Han** Chinese, the dominant ethnic group in China, according to local residents, foreign scholars and recent studies of the area." Photos. Map. Video: "Ethnic Clashes in Western China." **Links to recent articles on the unrest in Xinjiang.**

"Editorial: Now Xinjiang." NYT summary: "Beijing's rulers will never achieve the stability they covet until they work toward **political solutions that give five minority groups more autonomy over their lives.**"

"Op-Ed Contributor: Beijing Always Wins," by Russell Leigh Moses. NYT summary: "**Why China's leaders aren't frightened by Uighur unrest.**" Perspectives from the dean at The Beijing Center for Chinese Studies.

July 9, 2009

"**Poor Migrants Describe Grief From China's Ethnic Strife**," by Edward Wong. NYT summary: "The killing of a son in ethnic riots was a ruinous end to the journey of a [Han] family trying to forge a new life in the Xinjiang region, China's remote desert region." From Urumqi, a touching story of a stricken family and the influx of Han, the dominant ethnic group in China, who, at Beijing's encouragement, have settled among Muslim

Uighurs here and transformed Xinjiang. Photos; audio "back story" from Edward Wong. Long article.

"After Her Rise in China and Expulsion, a **Uighur Becomes the Face of Her People**," by Erik Eckholm in Washington. "As the global face of resistance to what she calls the worsening Chinese repression of the Uighurs, Rebiya Kadeer is displaying the tenacity and sense of destiny that drove her improbable climb inside China in decades past, from laundry girl to famed business mogul." Interview with Ms. Kadeer. [The NYT reporter served in China six and more years ago and reported widely on the SARS epidemic there.]

"Mound Provides Painful Challenge to Japanese Pitcher," by Michael J. Schmidt. "When starting pitcher Hiroki Kuroda took the mound against the Mets on Wednesday night for the Los Angeles Dodgers, he faced two familiar challenges: the hitters in front of him and the ground beneath his feet." **Subtle differences in the texture of pitchers mounds in U.S. and Japan create foot problems for this right-handed pitcher who now wears a special shoe** to prevent blistering caused by the way he drags the top of his right foot in his normal delivery. Attention to this and other seldom-noticed differences between Japanese and American baseball. Photo.

July 15, 2009

"Art Review: **The Collected Ingredients of a Beijing Life**," by Holland Cotter. "The [New York] Museum of Modern Art's multistory atrium seems designed to hold monuments. But at the moment, it's filled with the distinctly ungrand contents of one person's everyday life." The Chinese Conceptualist artist Song Dong, "one of the most inventive figures in contemporary Chinese art . . . who had the idea of turning the contents of his mother's home, which was also his childhood home, into the installation titled 'Waste Not.' It is at once a record of a life, a history of a half-century of Chinese vernacular culture and a symbolic archive of impermanence." Photo. Slide show: "Waste Not." Long article.

July 23, 2009

"Op-Extra: [online edition only]: Happy Days: The Doctor Is Within," by Pico Iyer. In a continuing NYT examination of **the search for contentment in its many forms and today, an essay about the 14th Dalai Lama** by an author whose many years of contact . . . have revealed a man more practical than metaphysical." Photo. Video: "An Interview With the Dalai Lama," with NYT reporter Edward Wong.

July 25, 2009

"The Saturday Profile: Tales From Rural Pakistan, Lived and Shared," by Sabrina Tavernise from Mueenabad. NYT summary: "**Daniyal Mueenuddin's short stories about life in southern Punjab raise some of the**

biggest questions in Pakistan today." Attention to the fiction and to the life of the writer, born and educated largely in the U.S., now a landlord himself on his family's old and prosperous estate in southern Punjab. Photo. Long Article.

[Click on the hyperlink at the first mention of the author's name to connect with a Web site all about him and a clearer photograph than the one in Saturday's paper. Mueenuddin's collection of stories "In Other Rooms, Other Wonders," was published this year but there is no link to a NYT review at today's NYT profile.]

July 26, 2009

"**Kyrgyzstan: At the Crossroad of Empires**, a Mouse Struts," by Clifford J. Levy in Bishkek. "Kyrgyzstan, a mountainous nation in Central Asia that has long been a contender for the title of most obscure former Soviet republic, has suddenly become prime real estate, like a one-homely neighborhood that all the A-listers now covet." Photos; map. Link to related stories.

"Op-Ed Columnist: The Losers Hang On," by Thomas L. Friedman at Jalozai Camp, Pakistan. "The dominoes you see falling in the Muslim world today are the **extremist Islamist groups and governments. They have failed to persuade people** by either their arguments or their performances in power that their puritanical versions of Islam are the answer. Having lost the argument, though, the radicals still hang on thanks to gun barrels and oil barrels - and they can for a while."

"Op-Ed Columnist: Not a Victim, but a Hero," by Nicholas D. Kristof in Meerwala, Pakistan. About **Assiya Rafiq, kidnapped at 16, raped and beaten** for a year, and turned over to the police who, she says, took turns raping her. "[Suicide] is the customary escape in rural Pakistan for a raped woman, as the only way to cleanse the disgrace to her entire family. Instead ... she is seeking to prosecute both her kidnappers and the police . . . This isn't a tale of victimization but of valor, empowerment and uncommon heroism." Photo: Assiya, in hiding with her mother. The police, she says, have threatened to rape her again and kill her unless she withdraws her charges.. Links to related sites.

"Phenomenon: Live in 2-D," by Lisa Katayama, from Tokyo. About Nisan - not his real name - "part of a thriving subculture **of men and women in Japan who indulge in real relationships with imaginary characters** - in this case, with a two-dimensional drawing of a pre-pubescent anime character drawn more or less life size on a pillow. "According to many who study the phenomenon, the rise of 2-D love can be attributed in part to the difficulty many young Japanese have in navigating modern romantic life." Long article. One photo.

July 28, 2009

China: **Uighur's Visit Criticized**," by Sharon LaFraniere. "China criticized Japan on Monday following a visit by Rebiya Kadeer, an exiled Uighur leader who China said incited riots in the Xinjiang region this month." Ms. Kadeer now lives in the United States. Lecturing in Japan, she denies involvement in the ethnic violence.

"The Well-Paid Flirt," by Hiroko Tabuchi in Tokyo.

"The women who pour drinks in Japan's sleek gentlemen's clubs were once shunned because their duties were considered immodest: lavishing adoring (albeit nonsexual) attention on men for a hefty fee. But with that line of work, **called hostessing, among the most lucrative jobs available to women and with the country neck-deep in a recession**, hostessing positions are increasingly coveted, and hostesses themselves are gaining respectability and even acclaim." Photo; slide show "Women Look to Hostessing in Recession." [On its own page, this article has another headline: "Young Japanese Women Vie for a Once-Scorned Job."]

July 29, 2009

"**China Puts Online Games That Glorify Mafia on Its Hit List**," by Andrew Jacobs in Beijing. "On Monday, the Ministry of Culture issued a notice banning online games that feature Mafioso kingpins, mauling street gangs or any sort of hooliganism predisposed to organization. The decree, which promises 'severe punishment' for violators but fails to specify the penalties, also prohibits Web sites from including links to Internet games that glorify organized crime." Photo: an Internet cafe in Anhui Province.

"**China Seeks Assurances That U.S. Will Cut Its Deficit**," by Mark Landler and David E. Sanger from Washington. "China sought and received assurances from the Obama administration that the United States would reduce its budget deficit once an economic recovery was under way, a senior Chinese official said Tuesday at the end of two days of high-level talks between the countries."

Aug. 2, 2009

"An Underwater Fight Is Waged for the Health of San Francisco Bay," by Malia Wollan in San Francisco.

"Chela Zabin will not soon forget when she first glimpsed the golden brown tentacles of the latest alien to settle in the fertile waters of San Francisco Bay. . . . The tentacle in question was that of an Asian kelp, **Undaria pinnatifida, a flavorful and healthful ingredient in miso soup and an aggressive, costly intruder** in waters from New Zealand to Monterey Bay. The kelp, known as wakame (pronounced wa-KA-me) ...[is] native to the Japan Sea." Photos.

Aug. 3, 2009

"**Hate Engulfs Christians in Pakistan**," by Sabrina Tavernise in Gojra. " . . . The attack in this shabby town in central Pakistan - the culmination of several days of rioting over a claim that a Koran had been defiled - shows how precarious life is for the tiny Christian minority in Pakistan." Photo: a Christian couple outside their destroyed home a day after more than 100 Christian houses were burned and looted. Links to related stories. Map.

"**China Arrests 319 People in Unrest in Xinjiang**," by Andrew Jacobs in Beijing. "Chinese security officials have detained an additional 319 people whom they suspect of taking part in the unrest in the far western region of Xinjiang, the official media reported Sunday."

"Tsonjin Boldog Journal: **Genghis Kahn** Rules Mongolia Again, in a P.R. Campaign," by Dan Levin in Tsonjin Boldog, Mongolia, where a 131-foot statue of the legendary horseman, sheathed in 250 tons of gleaming stainless steel, rises on the plains "like a shimmering mirage," part of a new theme park. NYT summary: "**The 13th-century ruler has been rebranded in Mongolia** on everything from an international airport to mugs, with a focus on his lighter side." Photo; map.

Aug. 7, 2009

"**Migrants to China's West Bask in Prosperity**," by Andrew Jacobs by Shihezi. "This city of 650,000 is a showcase of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, a uniquely Chinese conglomerate of farms and factories that were created by decommissioned Red Army soldiers at the end of the civil war." On the now predominantly-Han city in far western China that in five decades of toil has transformed a vast and once-sparse borderland and contributed to ethnic tensions with the indigenous **Uighur** population, now a distinct minority. Photos; map.

Aug. 13, 2009

"**New Army Handbook Teaches Afghanistan Lessons**," by Thom Shanker from Washington. "In page after page, the handbook draws on lessons from Wanat and other missions, some successful and some that resulted in death and injury for American and allied forces. The manual can be read as an effort to push the nuances of the complex counterinsurgency fight now under way in Afghanistan down from the generals and colonels to newly minted privates as well as to the sergeants and junior officers who lead small units into combat." About a 123-page manual, "Small-Unit Operations in Afghanistan," that will be delivered over coming days to Army units joining the fight in Afghanistan.

Aug. 14, 2009

"**China Warms to New Credo: Business First**," by Michael Wines. NYT summary: "China has tried to separate its push into the business area from domestic politics, but lately when politics and business have collided, business has won." Examining the implications of China's action this week in backing down (to some considerable degree) in its prosecution of a case against Rio Tinto, the Anglo-Australian mining giant, and in backing off its contentious plan to install censorship software on all new computers sold in the country. Ken Lieberthal, Charles Freeman, James Feinerman and Jonathan Hecht are quoted. Photo of a Chinese Internet cafe.

Aug. 17, 2009

"**Bollywood Star's Questioning at Newark Airport Is Talk of India Day**," by Winnie Hu. When a visiting Bollywood star, **Sharukh Kahn**, who is Muslim, is stopped on Friday for a more-than-cursory questioning at Newark's international airport, eyebrows and questions are raised in the Indian community in the U.S. as well as in India. Attention to the incident and reactions to it. "To make matters worse, the trip was also to promote a new film, 'My Name is Khan,' which is about racial profiling in Muslims after the Sept. 11 attacks." Photo of Mr. Khan, "described by some at the Brad Pitt of India." Another photo from Sunday's India Day parade in Manhattan. The incident is said to have been the talk of the annual parade. He did not participate in the festivities.

Aug. 18, 2009

"New Delhi Journal: **Matchmaking in India: Canine Division**," by Lydia Polgreen in New Delhi. "The pups of India's surging middle class have a problem. Everyone, it seems, wants a male dog. This being India, every also wants his or her dog to have a mate." But finding the perfect match often proves to be as difficult with the canine species as with the human. Photo.

Aug. 19, 2009

"**Bollywood Star Urges Fans to Halt Protests**," compiled by Dave Itzkoff.

Aug. 20, 2009

"News Analysis: **Filipinos Lament How Far They Haven't Come**," by Seth Mydans in Manila. "The weeks since Mrs. Aquino's death . . . have been a period of self-examination and self-doubt among many Filipinos, as they consider how little has really changed [for many of them] since [she came to power in 1986]." In schools, coffeehouses, rice fields, churches and offices around Manila and in the countryside, there seemed to be a shared sense that the people of the Philippines had failed themselves." Photo: mourners of former President Corazon Aquino.

"U.S. Officials Get a Taste of Pakistanis' Anger at America," by Helene Cooper in Karachi. "For all of the [U.S.] administration's efforts to call attention to the nonmilitary ties that would bind the two countries, **America is still being judged by many Pakistanis as an uncaring behemoth whose sole concern is finding Osama bin Laden**, no matter the cost in civilian Pakistani lives." Assessing the just-concluded visits here by high-level American officials.

Aug. 21, 2009

"**U.S. Military to Stay in Philippines**," by Thom Shanker from Washington. "Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates has decided to keep an elite 600-troop counterinsurgency operation deployed in the Philippines despite pressure to reassign its members to fulfill urgent needs elsewhere, like in Afghanistan or Iraq, according to Pentagon officials. . . .In the seven years that the Philippines-based American force has been operating, its members have trained local security units and provided logistical and intelligence support to Filipino forces fighting insurgents."

"**As Japan's Mediums Die, Ancient Tradition Fades**," by Martin Fackler in Mount Osore, Japan. " . . . The last remaining itako [spiritual mediums who hold seance-like ceremonies that customers hope will allow them to commune with spirits of the dead] are vanishing. . . . Found only in peripheral areas like this volcano on the far northern tip of Japan's main island, and only dimly known to most Japanese, the itako are among the last remaining adherents to ancient shamanistic beliefs that predate Buddhism and modern forms of Shintoism, Japan's two main religions . . . " Photos.

Aug. 22, 2009

"Op-Art: Sartorial Stumping. In ethnically divided Afghanistan, **what a candidate wears sends a powerful message**. The three top candidates all used dress in their election strategy." Slide show.

"On Religion: Among Young Sikhs, Expressions of Faith Mixing Two Worlds," by Samuel G. Freedman.

Young, urban (and urbane) Sikhs in the New York metropolitan area are worshipping in what religion scholars call the emergent movement: "a growing **trend toward small, nimble, bottom-up, laity-led congregations** that especially attract young adults." Informative piece.

Sept. 11, 2009

"Birth Pangs of a New Country," by Akash Kapur in Pondicherry, India. "The new India is . . . a complicated place. And while the cities contain all the nation's possibilities, the exuberance and sheen of a people emerging from decades of underdevelopment, they embody, too, **the seamier side of rapid development**."

Insightful analysis in this "personal essay" by an American writer who moved back to India in 2003.

Sept 24, 2009

BUSINESS DAY: "**In China, Philanthropy as a New Measuring Stick**," by Julie Makinen from Hong Kong. Some prosperous Chinese corporations are finding ways to give back to their communities.

Oct. 20, 2009

"Room For Debate: **Beauty and the Bento Box**," by The Editors. NYT summary of this online feature: "**Why does Japan put such a high value on aesthetics?**" Four essays by "knowledge able outsiders" (John Maeda, Kenya Hara, Nick Currie and Denis Dutton) responding to the questions: "What does the care devoted to the visual details in a packed lunch suggest about the [Japanese] culture? Why is such value placed on aesthetics in everyday life in Japan?" At our news summary posting time, 74 readers have added their own comments in this "moderated debate" - which remains open for other contributions.

Nov. 12, 2009

"Multimedia: Tuning Out the Taliban." NYT summary: "The lyrics and videos of some Pakistani rock songs reflect widespread views among educated young fans that **the West is more of a problem than the Taliban**."

Nov. 13, 2009

"Rural India Gets Chance at Piece of Jobs Boom," by Lydia Polgreen in Bagepalli, "a small town deep in rural Karnataka State in India's southwest." Slide show: "**Outsourcing Jobs Arrive in Rural Areas**." Map.

Nov. 28, 2009

"**Some Indians Find It Tough to Go Home Again**," by Heather Timmons in New Delhi. Long article about the difficulties faced by "repats," Indians who sought another life away from India - particularly in America - only to return, drawn to work in the business community by India's booming economic growth.

Nov. 29, 2009

"**Baby Boom of Mixed Children Tests South Korea**," by Martin Fackler from Yeonggwang. A maternity ward at the general hospital here is busy once again. "More surprising than the fact of this miniature baby-boom is its composition: children of mixed ethnic backgrounds, the offspring of Korean fathers and mothers from China, Vietnam and other parts of Asia. . . . Now, these unions are bearing large numbers of mixed children, confronting this proudly homogeneous nation with the difficult challenge of smoothly absorbing them." Photos. Long article.

"Economic View: **Dangers of an Overheated China,**" by Tyler Cowen. "President Obama's recent trip to China reflects a symbiotic relationship at the heart of the global economy: China uses American spending power to enlarge its private sector, while America uses Chinese lending power to expand its public sector. Yet this arrangement may unravel in a dangerous way, and if it does, the most likely culprit will be Chinese economic overcapacity."

Dec. 3, 2009

"Letters From The International Herald Tribune: From Places of the Heart, a New Order," by Akash Kapur. **How land reforms, enacted shortly after 1947, have changed the lives of Indian villagers** and the zamindars, or landlords, who once ruled with feudal-like authority. Focus on the son of a local zamindar. [This informative online feature is a posting to The Times' web site from its newspaper subsidiary, The International Herald Tribune, and is a column, not a conventional "letter to the editor" in the usual newspaper sense.]

Dec. 6, 2009

"The Demons That Haunt the Pakistanis," by Sabrina Tavernise from Islamabad. "To find out where Pakistan's head was, I sought help from one of the country's top psychiatrists. What I got was not so much an explanation as an illustration, in all its anger, of the **embittered language in which a great many Pakistanis discuss their relationship with America** - living proof of just how different America's understanding of Pakistan is from its own view of itself." Photos.

"**The War in Pashtunistan,**" by Scott Shane. Long, informative article about the history, people and culture of a region that straddles 1,000 miles of the 1,600-mile Afghan-Pakistan border, inhabited by the ethnic Pashtuns, "a fiercely independent people . . . [who] have a language (Pashto), an elaborate traditional code of legal and moral conduct (Pashtunwali), a habit of crossing the largely unmarked border at will, and a centuries-long history of foreign interventions that ended badly for the foreigners." Photos. Map.

Dec. 8, 2009

"**Years Later, Destruction of a Mosque Still Echoes,**" by Lydia Polgreen in Ayodhya, India. Seventeen years ago this week, "a mob of Indian activists tore the building to pieces [a "squat, nondescript mosque" that had stood on the spot since 1528] with little more than their bare hands. . . . That frenzied act of destruction, and the political movements that flowed from it, presented the biggest challenge to India's identity as a secular, multi-ethnic democracy since the country was created by the bloody partition of British India in 1947." Attention to the publication of the long-awaited and controversial government commission report on the tumultuous events. Photos. Long, informative article.

Dec. 10, 2009

"Books of The Times: Personal Take on Public Projects in Two Devastated Lands," an informative and sympathetic review by Janet Maslin of **Greg Mortenson's new book, "Stones Into Schools: Promoting Peace With Books, Not Bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan."** Maslin says this book is "very different" in style and tone from "Three Cups of Tea," Mortenson's runaway success. Photos, including one of Mr. Mortenson. Excerpt.

Dec. 11, 2009

"**The Making of a Massacre in the Philippines,**" by Carlos H. Conde; no dateline. "Two things may help to explain the violent power politics in this impoverished part of the southern Philippines: the red-roofed and high-walled mansions that have long dominated the center of this town [the capital of Maguindanao Province where the Ampatuan family have ruled nearly feudally for decades] and the men in uniform carrying automatic weapons who guarded them." [Very long and possibly useful background piece on the massacre. It originally appeared in The Times's subsidiary, The International Herald Tribune.]

"**A Politician Goes Hungry to Redraw India's Map,**" by Jim Yardley from Hyderabad. A hunger strike here that unexpectedly paralyzed this city and mutated into a national melodrama ends when the state government yields and says it will divide sprawling Andhra Pradesh state and create a new state, Telangana. To be anchored by Hyderabad, a major technology hub, the new state offers the prospect of opportunities or marginalized population of this economically-important but politically powerless region. Photo. Long article, with attention to the historic roots of Telangana, a region which existed as a separate state until 1956.

Dec. 12, 2009

"From Icon to Lifestyle, **the Marketing of Bruce Lee,**" by Mark McDonald from Hong Kong. Shannon Lee, a former actress who lives in Los Angeles, just 4 when her father died, is hoping to rebuild her father's image in the global marketplace - "she calls it 'relaunching the brand, as it were.'" Martial arts movie star Mr. Lee (1940 - 1973) "was born in San Francisco but grew up as a tough Hong Kong street kid." Photo. Long article.

Dec. 15, 2009

"Japanese Obsessions," by Roger Cohen. A column from The International Herald Tribune, a Times' subsidiary. NYT summary: "Japan is rich enough, bored enough with national ambition, strait-jacketed enough and gloomy enough to find immense attraction in playful **electronic escapism.**"

"Bid to Partition Indian State Leads to Political Paralysis," by Jim Yardley in New Delhi. "The Indian state of Andhra Pradesh sank into a contentious political paralysis on Monday as local lawmakers adjourned indefinitely without addressing a controversial resolution to divide the state. Elsewhere in India, demands for statehood have intensified in several regions as the issue has mushroomed into a nationwide political tempest for the governing Congress Party."

Dec. 18, 2009

"Letter [i.e., Column] from the International Herald Tribune:[Currents]:Modernizing by Leapfrogs and Bounds," by Anand Giridharadas. NYT summary: "If getting with the global program means **sacrificing growth for greenness, it involves similarly wrenching tradeoffs in other spheres - for example, in the relations of parents and children.**" A misleading summary - the real subject is the difficulty faced by emerging nations and cultures to be "global-modern and yet simultaneously of one's own place." Telling and possibly useful examples from Indian, Chinese and Muslim communities.

Dec. 20, 2009

"Pamir Mountains, the Crossroads of History," by Andy Isaacson. Visiting in the Wakhan Valley which divides Tajikistan and Afghanistan. Informative piece, with attention to the history and culture of this "rugged branch of the ancient Silk Road." Photos; slide show. Map. Very long article.

"Choice Tables: The Flavor of Bali, at Roadside Stands," by Gisela Williams. Attention to **Bali's many streetside food vendors known as warungs.** "Scattered throughout Indonesia, warungs usually occupy a modest shack or roadside lean-to with a small counter and a bench where customers sit and eat traditional dishes." If you heed the warnings of the guidebooks and hotel concierges, "you'll miss some of the best food the island has to offer." Some recommendations. Long article.

Dec. 25, 2009

"Movie Review | **'Sita Sings the Blues': Legendary Breakups: Good (Animated) Women Done Wrong In India,**" by A. O.Scott. Reviewing, favorably, an animated film by Nina Paley who adapted the main story from the ancient Indian epic, the Ramayana. "An amazingly eclectic 82-minute tour de force"