

NY Times "Asia" articles – 2010

Note: Items before September, plus Oct/Nov were lost because of a "Corrupted File" error in WORD.

Sept. 3

"Movie Review | 'A Woman, a Gun and a Noodle Shop,': Remade in China: Coen Brothers' Tale of Infidelity and Revenge," a review by A. O. Scott of **Zhang Yimou's remake of "Blood Simple," -the Coens' striking debut feature from 1985.** "By working through the self-conscious genre imitation that was something of a novelty in 'Blood Simple,' Mr. Zhang uncovers the primal, mythic intensity of the story and also changes the tone of its essential nihilism." Informative review of a film whose long and awkward English title will probably not help its marketing in the U.S. One image. A sidebar interactive feature comparing a scene from both movies.

"Movie Review | 'Last Train Home': A Family Caught in the Wheels of China's Industrial Locomotive," by A. O. Scott. Informative review of a **documentary by the Chinese-Canadian filmmaker Lixin Fan about the "changing social landscape of China** - a change registered in drastic alterations of the physical and demographic environment . . ." One image. Link to last Sunday's feature article about Mr. Fan and his movie.

Sept. 4

"Indonesian Muslims Protest **Plan to Burn Quran**" 7:42 am; dated Jakarta, on the response there to reports that a Florida church, the Dove World Outreach Center, plans to mark the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks by burning copies of the Quran.

Sept. 5

"Resentment Simmers in Western Chinese Region," by Andrew Jacobs in Urumqi. "Beneath the gloss and mercantile buzz of **Urumqi**, the capital of the Xinjiang region, there is a palpable unease that neither tens of thousands of surveillance cameras nor the patrolling squads of black-shirted police officers can completely assuage." Photos. Long, informative report.

Sept. 26

"Character Building," a review by Lesley Downer of "**Dreaming in Chinese: Mandarin Lessons** in Life, Love and Language," by Deborah Fallows. "Fallows spent three years living in China with her husband, the journalist James Fallows. Since she's a linguist by training, her method of getting under the skin of the country was to immerse herself in its language." Positive

review of a book which would appear to have considerable interest for many ASDP-L readers. No excerpt at this time.

Sept. 28

"**A Thai Region Where Husbands Are Imported,**" by Seth Mydans in Udon, Thailand. An American man, a twice-divorced, retired naval officer, takes a young Thai bride, but instead of returning to the U.S. with her, he has settled down in northeast Thailand. "He is part of an expanding population of nearly 11,000 foreign husbands in the region, drawn by the low cost of living, slow pace of life and the exotic reputation of Thai women - something like a brand name for Western men seeking Asian partners." About "mixed marriages" here, more than half of which end in divorce, says Mydans. Photos. Long article.

Dec. 9

"China's Answer to Nobel Mystifies Its Winner," by Edward Wong in Beijing. **Lien Chan, the Taiwanese politician and winner of China's recently announced Confucius Peace Prize** "had yet to hear officially that he had won. Or that he was to appear at the ceremony in Beijing on Thursday to claim \$15,000 in award money. Or that there was even such a thing at a Confucius Peace Prize." One matter is clear: Mr. Tan does not support the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo.

Dec. 14

"**Ethnic Mongolian Dissident** Released by China Is Missing," by Andrew Jacobs in Beijing. "A prominent ethnic Mongolian dissident imprisoned in China on charges of espionage and 'separatism' was released last week when his 15-year term was up, but he remains missing along with his son and wife, according to human rights groups." Re: Hada, 55, "an influential advocate for Mongolian culture and one of China's longest serving political prisoners." Photo. Attention to the cases of other political prisoners who appear to be suffering extralegal punishment.

Dec. 15

"Op-Ed Columnist: We've Only Got America A," by Thomas L. Friedman. NYT summary: "A rising superpower (think China) and a rising group of superempowered individuals (think **WikiLeakers**) are currently challenging the world system."

Dec. 22

"I.H.T. Special Report: Doing Business in China: East Meets West, but It Takes Some Practice," by Dan Levin in Beijing. "The huge influx of foreign companies in China in recent years has spawned a **burgeoning industry of cultural communication and innovation consultants** paid to train Westerners and Chinese in each other's languages, management styles and corporate cultures." Focus on the work of Carla Kearns,

founder of TLI-The Mandarin School, based in Toronto.
Photo of Ms. Kearns.

Dec. 27

"Necessity Pushes Pakistani Women Into Jobs and Peril," by Adam B. Ellick in Karachi. Miss Rabia Sultana, 21, has swapped her home life for a cashier's job at McDonald's. And though the conservative men in her family are outraged, they accept her monthly salary, \$100, "to supplement the household budget for expenses that the men in her family can no longer pay for, including school fees for her younger sisters. Ms. Sultana is part of a small but growing generation of lower-class women here who are entering service-sector jobs to support their families, and by extension, pitting their religious and cultural traditions against economic desperation." Photos. Video: "Women Who Work: Struggling to Provide: In Pakistan, Cost of Being a Working Woman." Long article.

"E. Gene Smith, Who Helped to Save **Tibetan Literary Canon**, Dies at 74," by Margalit Fox. Attention to the Tibetan Buddhist Resource Center, founded in 1999 by Mr. Smith, a Utah native who through persistence, ardor and benevolent guile amassed the largest collection of Tibetan books outside Tibet, saving them from isolation and destruction and making them accessible to scholars and Tibet exiles around the world." Undated photo of Mr. Smith, who died in his home in Manhattan on December 16. Informative obituary.

Dec. 30

"Shanghai Schools Approach Pushes Students to Top of Tests," by David Barboza in Shanghai. Noting that 15-year-olds in Shanghai schools outperformed students from about 65 countries on a recent international standardized test that measured math, science and reading competency, educators here and elsewhere have been busy analyzing and interpreting the meaning of the results. Two photos. Very useful, long article.

Dec. 29