

NYT Asia 2013

Jan 7

"Letter: An Elided History of Japan," by a reader, Walter Gray, of Walnut Creek, Calif., who remembers an English-language history book he found in a Tokyo hotel in 1975. The booklet, a chronological overview of Japanese history, omitted references to World War II.

Jan 9

"Letters: Menstrual Shame and Superstitions in India." Three readers, one a physician from the Jain community in North America, comment on the December 29 Op-Ed piece by Rose George who discusses the unfortunate effects of menstrual superstitions and ignorance in parts of India." A link to Ms. Rose's essay.

Jan 10

"Room for Debate: Power for the Women of India." NYT summary of this online-only feature: "How can Indian women gain power so they would not only be safe, but also have more say in their nation's future?" Four short essays: "Political Strength Will Force the Issue," by Nilanjana S. Roy, author; "Change Can Come in Courts, Police and Schools," by Karuna Nundy, lawyer; "Before Bus Horror, Years as Second-Class Passengers," by Abhijit Bannerjee, professor (M.I.T.); and "Respect Is the First Step," by Malliki Dutt, human rights activist.

Jan 18

"India Ink | 'Indian "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" Winner Trains Others to Win;' 'From Tamil Brahmin to Kashmiri Pandit: Weddings Across India;' and 'Regulators Around the Globe Ground Boeing 787s.' "

Jan 19

"India Ink: Weddings Across India," by Sephi Bergerson. NYT summary: "Photographer Sephi Bergerson has documented a wide variety of marriage ceremonies from Tamil Brahmin to Kashmiri Pandit." Eighteen colorful images with informative captions. From a book "Just Another Indian Wedding," scheduled for publication by Harper Collins later this year.

Jan 20

"Steven Rattner: India Is Losing The Race." NYT summary at Home/ Opinion: "It's a popular bet. Will China win? Or will India? Now it's not even close." Steven Rattner, a long-time Wall Street financier, led the restructuring of the auto industry in 2009 as counselor to the Treasury secretary under the Obama administration. Inside this online-only column, there is an interesting and possibly useful graphic that compares India and China on six standard measures of economic health: GDP per capita, GDP growth, inflation, unemployment, budget deficit and investment as a portion of GDP.

Jan 24

"Letters From The International Herald Tribune: Redefining the **Meaning of 'Chinese,'**" by Didi Kirsten Tatlow, from Tainan, Taiwan. NYT summary: "Mainland China is seen as the source of Taiwan's economic future, but on the question of culture, it could be the reverse, with Taiwan showing Beijing how Chineseness can be defined more broadly." Substantial testimony from Mark Harrison, a Taiwan

specialist at the University of Tasmania, about Taiwan's "inclusive national identity that absorbs and celebrates differences."

Jan 25

"Op-Ed Contributor: India's Next Revolution," by Amana Fontanella-Khan in Mumbai. NYT summary at Home/ Opinion: "The **fate of India's women** will rely on the uniting of rural and urban activism--and there are signs of hope that this is happening." The writer is the author of the forthcoming book "Pink Sari Revolution: A Tale of Women and Power in India." Click on the word "book" in the NYT footnote--not in my message here--to go to publisher W.W. Norton's Web page with more details on the writer and this book, due out in August, 2013.

"Movie Review | 'The Taste of Money,' Directed by Im Sang-soo: A Big Nest, Bursting With a Family's Vices," by A.O. Scott, reviewing the latest film from the South Korean director who "offers an elegant private out of the Korean ruling class at home, at work and in bed, showing its members to be ruthless and rotten but also curiously vulnerable." One image.

Feb 1

"Art in Review: **Buddhism Along the Silk Road**: '5th-8th Century,' " by Holland Cotter. Concise but informative, enthusiastic review of an exhibition of "more than a hundred petite, gorgeous, soul-filled objects culled from storage and assembled in the small, high-perched mezzanine gallery of the South and Southeast Asian wing, . . . [telling] the story of how art, which we think of as static, is ever on the move." Photo: a Buddhist bust. At The Metropolitan Museum of Art [New York], through February 10.

Feb 2

"DealBook: Black Cabs of London Get a Bailout From China," by Julia Werdigier. "The troubled [British] maker of a vehicle that is as British as the double-decker bus is getting a lifeline from a Chinese automaker whose last big acquisition was paying \$1.3 billion for Volvo in 2010. The Chinese company, the Zhejiang Geely Holding Group, said on Friday that it had agreed to pay \$17 million for the assets of Manganese Bronzem whose London Taxi Company unit produces the taxis." Photo.

Feb 3

"Footsteps: Where a Poet's Vision Lives on in India," by Eric Weiner. Visiting Shantiniketan, meaning "Abode of Peace," about two and a half hours by train north of Kolkata in West Bengal state. In 1911, the poet, humanist, and Nobel Prize-winner Rabindranath **Tagore** founded a college there, now a sprawling but prestigious university, now known as Visva-Bharati. Much attention to Tagore (1861-1941) and a small museum that celebrates his life. Photos; map. Very long article.

Feb 11

" **'Les Miz' Meets 'Gangnam Style,'** and YouTube Cheers," by Choe Sang-hun. NYT summary: "Millions have watched a parody of 'Les Miserables' put out by the South Korean Air Force and inspired by the 'Gangnam Style' video. . . . 'Les Militaribles' was produced by the South Korean Air Force's official blog team, and is a celebration of sorts of airmen's shared sacrifice during two years of [mandatory] service." There is a serious side to this

story: the South Korean military is said to be having difficulty inspiring a sense of duty among those who are serving or awaiting their call-up. If you insist, you too can watch the thirteen-minute video via a link at this article. Or at an online source, I am sure.

Feb 14

"In High-Tech Japan, the Fax Machines Roll On," by Martin Fackler. NYT summary: "The reluctance to give up fax machines offers a revealing glimpse into an aging nation that can often seem quietly determined to stick to its tried-and-true ways."

"In India, **Kisses Are on Rise**, Even in Public," by Gardiner Harris from New Delhi. "India may be the birthplace of the Kama Sutra, the ancient how-to manual on kissing and sex. But for many years, Indian couples did not widely embrace kissing, at least not in public. Now that is changing." Some attention to Bollywood's role in this sea-change. Photo of a young Indian couple in a local park. Long article, timed, it seems likely, for Valentine's Day., though there is nothing in this article specifically about the "holiday" which has been controversial in some South Asian countries.

Feb 15

"Loi Journal: A Tiny Village Where Women Chose to Be Single," by Julie Cohn in Loi, Vietnam. NYT summary at H/W: "The fierce determination of a group of women to become mothers upended centuries-old gender rules and may have helped open the door for Vietnam to redefine parenthood." Slide show: "Vietnamese Woman in One Village Redefine Parenthood."

"East Asian Physical Traits Linked to **35,000-Year-Old Mutation**," by Nicholas Wade. Gaining a deep insight into human evolution, researchers have identified a mutation in a critical human gene as the source of several distinctive traits that make East Asian different from other races. The traits--thicker hair shafts, more sweat glands, characteristically identified teeth and smaller breasts--are the result of a gene mutation that occurred about 35,000 years ago, the researchers [at the Broad Institute in Cambridge, Mass.] have concluded."

"Art Review: The Seriousness of Fun in Postwar Japan," by Roberta Smith. Reviewing "a mind-shifting exhibition about Japan's best-known postwar art movement": Gutai, an "implicitly kinetic combination of painting and sculpture. 100 works, at New York's Guggenheim Museum, in a show called "Gutai: Splendid Playground." Slide show with eight photographs. Long, informative review of an exhibition open now through May 8.

Feb 17

"As Families Change, Korea's Elderly Are Turning to Suicide," by Choe Sang-hun. NYT summary: "The number of suicides among people 65 and older has nearly quadrupled in recent years, ranking the country's rate of such deaths among the highest in the world."

"The Education Revolution: In China, Betting It All on a Child in College," by Keith Bradsher, from Hanjing. NYT summary: "Millions of Chinese sacrifice heavily for their children's education, but as college graduates saturate a slowing job market, the security they seek is increasingly elusive." Photos. Very long article, the third in a series by Mr. Bradsher "examining the promises and challenges that China faces as it tries to educate its citizens more broadly." Links to the previous two articles. And a

link to: "Room for Debate: The Effects of China's Push for Education." Five short essays, originally published January 21, 2013, examining the effects of the country's rapid expansion of education: "Good for China, and the Rest of the World," by Wang Huiyao, Center for China and Globalization; "Only the Top Students Rival the West," by Gerard Postiglione, University of Hong Kong; "A Long To-Do List," by Eduardo Velez Bustillo, former World Bank official; "China Wasn't Trying to Take on The U.S.," by Zheng Yongnian, National University of Singapore; and "Luring Back the Chinese Who Study Abroad," by David Zweig, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Slide Show: "A Big Bet on Human Capital." Graphic: "In Education, China Takes the Lead."

Feb 22

"Op-Ed Contributor: To Fight India, We Fought Ourselves," by Mohsin Hamid in Lahore, Pakistan. NYT summary: "At the heart of Pakistan's troubles is the celebration of the militant. And the need of the hour, of the year, of the generation, is peace." Long, detailed, informative perspectives on the grip of militancy in Pakistan by the author of the novels "The Reluctant Fundamentalist" and "How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia," the latter reviewed enthusiastically by Michiko Kakutani in this morning's edition. See "Weekend Arts" below.

Feb 25

"Op-Ed Contributor: Shared Wounds in Korea," by Suki Kim. NYT summary at Home/Opinion: "**Park Geun-hye** is a symbol of a girl who grew up before the nation's eyes, only to lose both parents violently, and then become the mother they had been carrying a torch for since her own mother's martyrdom." South Korea's first female president, inaugurated today, is the daughter of the dictator who ruled from 1961 to 1979 before he was assassinated. Her mother was killed in 1974 in a botched attack by a North Korean sympathizer.

March 5

"Dance Review: Back and Forth Along an Ancient Trade Route: China Gansu Dance Theater Tells a **Silk Road Story**," by Brian Siebert. " 'Silk Road,' the dance drama presented by the China Gansu Dance Theater at the David H. Koch Theater last week, is an example of the specific way that some Chinese artists can turn their great culture into kitsch." Scathing review of a production that has traveled the globe since 1979 in the role of cultural ambassador. Photo.

March 8

"Special Report: The Female Factor: A Fight to Save Baby Girls in India," by Kamala Thiagarajan in Usilampatti, India. On "gendercide" and the risks to unwanted baby girls in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, and on the Pannaipatti center, an NGO attempting to deal with vastly disproportionate deaths of female infants. Long article. Also at H/W | India Ink.

March 10

"The Price of Marriage in China," by Brook Larmer. NYT summary at H/W: "China's economic rise has bred a new type of matchmaker--the love hunter--for those wishing to outsource their romantic search." Very, very long article.

March 18

"**Architectural Iconoclast Wins the Pritzker Prize**," by Robin Pogrebin. "Toyo Ito, a Japanese architect who broke from

Modernism and designed a library that survived his country's catastrophic 2011 earthquake, was awarded his profession's top honor, the Pritzker Prize, on Sunday." Five images, plus photo of Mr. Ito, who is 71.

March 19

"Opinionator | The Great Divide: Singapore's Lesson for an Unequal America," by Joseph E. Stiglitz. NYT summary: "The American elite loves to rationalize soaring levels of inequality. But the task of achieving a fairer society with more equality of opportunity is, though difficult, within reach." Examining how Singapore has prioritized social and economic equity while achieving very high rates of growth. The writer is a Nobel laureate in economics, a Columbia professor and a former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers and chief economist for the World Bank."

March 26

"The Lede: **Indian Car Ad** Goes Viral, Not in a Good Way," by Robert Mackey. "Perhaps putting the maxim that there is no such thing as bad publicity to a new test, Ford Motor Company was forced to apologize Monday for an ad posted online last week promoting its Indian hatchback with a cartoon showing three bound and gagged women in the rear of a vehicle driven by Silvio Berlusconi, the former Italian prime minister." Image.

March 28

"Lens Blog: Forgotten Victims of World War II," by David Gonzales. NYT summary: "Ahn Sehong has been documenting the plight of Korean women stuck in China decades after the Japanese Army forced them into prostitution during World War II." Twelve black and white images and an explanatory text from an exhibition, "Comfort Women," now on view at the Korea Press Center, Palisades Park, NJ. When the photos were shown in Tokyo last year, they drew a demonstration from right-wing protesters who denounced the now-elderly women as prostitutes.

March 31

"New Ideological Battle in Pakistan: Traffic Circle's Name," by Salman Masood. NYT summary: "A plan to rename a traffic circle in Lahore, Pakistan, for a man who was not a Muslim has become a showcase battle in an ideological war over nomenclature and identity."

"New Jersey Dining | Teterboro: Taking Flight to a Land of Noodles; At Sun Noodle, Lessons in Ramen, With Slurping Encouraged," by Tammy La Gorce. At a gleaming noodle factory and test kitchen in Teterboro, just minutes from Manhattan in good driving conditions, a Japanese master chef holds his first "ramen flight" for five participants in a combination culinary class and tasting. Photos. How to make reservations for the next flight.

"Opinion: **America the Innovative?**" by Eamonn Fingleton. NYT summary at Home/Opinion: "As China becomes richer, is it destined to pass the United States as the world's most inventive nation?" From Dublin, Mr. Fingleton offers perspectives, some of them gloomy, drawn from his book, "In the Jaws of the Dragon: America's Fate in the Coming Era of Chinese Hegemony."

"How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia," by Mohsin Hamid," reviewed by Parul Sehgal under the headline, "Yes Man:" "It's a love story and a study of seismic social change. It parodies a get-rich-quick book and gestures to a new direction for the novel, all in prose so pure and purposeful it passes straight into the bloodstream. It intoxicates." The setting is an unnamed country that sounds a lot like Mr. Hamid's Pakistan. Long review. Photo of Mr. Hamid.

April 2

"Low-Cost Drugs in Poor Nations Get a Lift in Indian Court," by Gardiner Harris and Katie Thomas. NYT summary: "Production of cheap copycat drugs for H.I.V. and cancer used by people in developing countries in Africa and Asia was ensured on Monday in a ruling by India's Supreme Court." The ruling is a reprieve from more expensive medicines, but only for a while. Detailed discussion of the limits of the ruling and the prospects for the future of innovations in drug development. Several Asian nations are mentioned. Links to related items: "Health Care Advocates Cheer Indian Ruling"; and "Video: Drug Debate".

April 7

"Ethnic Rifts Strain Myanmar as It Moves Toward Democracy," by Thomas Fuller. NYT summary: "A visit to the Kachin region is a sobering reminder of how much hatred and mistrust exist between the majority Burman and the ethnic minorities who live in the country's highlands." Slide show: "Myanmar Struggles With Ethnic Tensions."

"**Imelda Marcos, With a Beat**," by Allan Kozinn. "Probably the first thing you need to know about 'Here Lies Love,' the musical conceived by David Byrne and running at the Public Theater through May 19, is that although it is about Imelda Marcos, the former first lady of the Philippines, her famous collection of shoes is neither mentioned nor shown. . . . 'Here Lies Love; is less a biographical portrait than a beat-filled fantasy built on the events and personalities of the Marcos era." Photos--though not of Mrs. Marcos, now 83 and a congresswoman of the Ilocos Norte Province. Long article.

April 10

"Latitude: The **Return of Ramayana**," by Hartosh Singh Bal. NYT summary: "The revival of Indian mythology in contemporary fiction is yet another example of how traditional India has adapted to development, with the attendant gains and losses." From New Delhi, the political editor of Open Magazine and co-author of "A Certain Ambiguity" examines how Indian mythology "has become the most marketable segment of India's English-language book market." Attention to an eight-part series by Ashok Banker on the classical epic, Ramayana.

April 11

"[Guest Columnist:] Yu Hua: In China, Feudal Answers for Modern Problems." NYT summary at Home/Opinion: "Chinese Communists are often finding that it's the old feudal recipes that best enable them to keep a firm grip on society." Dated Beijing, this wide-ranging essay examines old traditions and modern corruption. Yu Hua is the author of "China in Ten Words. The column was translated by Allan H. Barr from the Chinese.

April 12

"Movie Review | Old Hands Looking for New Action," a review by Jeannette Catsoulis of "Fists of Legend," a martial arts film from South Korea, directed by Kang Woo-suk. "As the title . . . suggests, originality is not one of the film's watchwords." "Once-famous street fighters--now paunchy, middle-aged and eager to relive their glory days--compete for cash prizes and fleeting celebrity." One image.

"Mystery Surrounds Withdrawal of 'Django Unchained' in China," by Gerry Mullany and Michael Cieply. NYT summary: "No official reason was given for the decision to suspend 'Django Unchained,' but there was talk among the industry that brief nudity had offended Chinese officials."

"Papua New Guinea Considers Repealing **Sorcery Law**," by Matt Siegel in Sidney, Australia. "Papua New Guinea's prime minister, Peter O'Neill, has vowed to repeal his country's controversial Sorcery Act following the latest in a string of brutal public killings of people accused of practicing black magic."

April 14

"Opinion: The Ghosts of Afghanistan's Past," by William Dalrymple. NYT summary at Home/ Opinion: "As America prepares to withdraw from Afghanistan, Britain's 1842 defeat looms large." The writer is the author, most recently, of "Return of a King: The Battle for Afghanistan, 1839-42."

"Q and A: Climbing '100 Famous Japanese Mountains'," by Kenan Christiansen. Edited excerpts from a conversation through a translator with Akira Chiba about climbing mountains in Japan. Informative about elements of Japanese culture. The headline quotes an influential Japanese book published by Kyuya Fukada in 1964.

Magazine: "How a Single Spy Helped Turn Pakistan Against the United States," by Mark Mazzetti. A magazine-length article about the episode (and its aftermath) wherein Raymond Davis, then an American consultant working for or with the C.I.A. shot and killed two men who approached his car on a street in Lahore. The very long article is adapted from Mr. Mazzetti's "The Way of the Knife: The C.I.A., a Secret Army, and a War at the Ends of the Earth." The writer is a national security correspondent for The Times and shared a 2009 Pulitzer Prize for coverage of Afghanistan and Pakistan. The episode with Mr. Davis began on Jan. 27, 2011; we summarized news reports about it here.

"Latitude: **No-Kite-Fly Zone**," by Huma Yusuf. NYT summary: "Lahore's spring festival is banned again this year as Pakistan's indigenous culture loses more ground to Islamic extremism."

April 15

"Majuli Journal: A Capricious River, an Indian Island's Lifeline, Now Eats Away at It," by Jim Yardley. NYT summary: "The Brahmaputra River, a critical laboratory in climate studies, is fast eroding an island in Assam that it has encircled and sustained for ages." The real subject here is the climate change. Map. Photo.

"Opium Production in Afghanistan Increases for 3rd Year," by Rod Nordland. NYT summary: "The increase, reported

Monday in a United Nations assessment, raised the specter that Afghanistan could become, in the words of one official, 'the world's first true narco-state.' "

April 16

"India, Long the Home of Outsourcing, Now Wants to Make Its Own Chips," by Sean McLain in New Delhi. "The government of India, home to many of the world's leading software outsourcing companies, want to replicate that success by creating a home-grown industry for computer hardware."

April 17

"Cycling Past an Afghan Taboo," by Jed Lipinski. NYT summary at Home/ World: "Sharon Galpin, the founder of a nonprofit organization that aids women in conflict zones, noticed she was the only **women cycling in Afghanistan**. She has set out to change that." Attention to a long-standing taboo on women with bicycles and to the 45 licensed Afghan female cyclists who are defying that taboo. Photos--though none from Afghanistan.

"China Mourns the Death of a Student in Boston Blast," by Chris Buckley. NYT summary: "The graduate student who was killed was one of the hundreds of thousands of Chinese who have come to America to be educated at its universities."

April 18

"At War Blog: Afghan Islamic Courts: A Pre-Taliban System With Post-2014 Potential," by Casey Garret Johnson. NYT summary: "Casey Garret Johnson, who served as a political analyst in Afghanistan from 2008 to 2012, discusses the function of an Islamic court system."

April 24

"Henry A. Prunier, 91, U.S. Soldier Who Trained Vietnamese Troops, Dies," by Douglas Martin. Attention to a clandestine mission in 1945 when Mr. Prunier and a team of Americans parachuted into a Viet Minh camp and taught the guerillas there how to use modern American weapons against Japanese occupiers. Ho Chi Minh and Vo Nguyen Giap figure in this fascinating story. Photo: Mr. Prunier in 2011 with a commendation from Vietnam.

April 25

"In Thailand, a Not-So-Glamorous Life on Stage," by Seth Mydans in Bangkok. Itinerant Chinese opera singers are the dwindling artifacts of a bygone life. With shrinking audiences, the actors say they are playing for the gods. Colorful photo, with costume and makeup details of two young performers on a break. One of them reads a tablet device.

"IHT Rendezvous: Satirizing China With the 'China Daily Show,' " by Didi Kirsten Tatlow in Beijing. About a satirical fake news Web site "in a country that is crying out for satire, where reality is so skewed by propaganda and inadvertent humor that it can be hard to tell the difference . . ."

April 26

"Movie Review | 'Midnight's Children,' Birth of a Nation, in the Words of Salman Rushdie," a "mixed" review by Rachel

Saltz for Deepa Mehta's movie, with a screenplay and narration by Rushdie, of his Booker Prize novel of 1981 that overflows with what we now call "magic realism." The "midnight," as many readers surely know, is August 15, 1947, the moment of India's birth as a free country. The protagonist of the book and film is a lad born with strange psychic powers at exactly the stroke of midnight. Notwithstanding some elements the critic finds praiseworthy, the film, she says, "needs an injection of Bollywood's unembarrassed, anything-goes, bigger-than-life spirit, which embraces willy-nilly--as does Mr. Rushdie's novel--the vulgar, the fanciful and the frankly unbelievable."

April 28

"Fleeing Pakistan Violence, **Hazaras Brave Uncertain Journey**," by Declan Walsh. "Ethnic Hazaras, who have borne the brunt of recent violence in Pakistan, are increasingly seeking refuge in Australia, but they must travel a long and perilous path to get there."

"Many Selves; **Tiger Writing**," by Gish Jen," a review by Wesley Yang. A novelist writes a "curious new book about Asian and Asian-American writing," and offers a theory to explain the different narrative methods of Asian and non-Asian writing based in differences in self-perceptions, parenting, and culture. The book, subtitled "Art, Culture and the Interdependent Self," is a transcription of Ms. Jen's Massey Lectures delivered at Harvard University and is published by the Harvard University Press. Wesley Yang, a contributing editor at New York magazine, is writing a book about Asian-Americans.

"A Punjabi Broadcast Draws in New Hockey Fans," by David Sax in Calgary, Alberta. "The weekly Punjabi broadcast of 'Hockey Night in Canada' . . . is thought to be the only N.H.L. game called in a language other than English or French. The broadcast marries Canada's national pastime with the sounds of the Indian subcontinent, providing a glimpse of the changing face of hockey." Much attention to the large Punjabi-speaking community in Canada.

April 29

"Multimedia: Slide Show: Rapid Growth Creates Cities Within Cities in India." NYT summary: "India's crowded urban centers are divided not only by class but also by the legal status of where people live." Eight photos. Link to Saturday's article on illegal districts.

"IHT Rendezvous: Farewell to an Enigmatic Chinese Bishop," by Didi Kirsten Tatlow in Beijing. "Hundreds of people gathered Monday at St. Ignatius Cathedral in Shanghai for the funeral of Bishop Aloysius Jin Luxian, a towering figure of Chinese Catholicism who died Saturday at 96. Missing among the mourners, according to witnesses, were bishops from China's state-run Catholic Church, which rejects the Vatican's claim to lead all Catholics." Photo: Bishop Jin with Chancellor Angela Merkel of German at St. Ignatius Cathedral in 2006.

May 11

"Op-Ed Contributor: Pakistan's Tyrannical Majority," by Manan Ahmed Asif. NYT summary at Home/ Opinion: "A democratic milestone masks rising intolerance of religious minorities." Informative essay about the diminished status of religious and ethnic minorities in Pakistan. The writer is an assistant professor of history at

Columbia University and the author of "Where the Wild Frontiers Are: Pakistan and the American Imagination."

May 12

"Opinion: A People Without a Story," by Aatish Taseer. NYT summary: "In Sri Lanka, the [Tamil] rebel movement betrayed those it was fighting for." Perspectives on the futile fight of the minority Tamils of Sri Lanka, and on Velupillai Prabhakaran, the militant leader "who took the Tamils on a journey of war without end, where no offer of compromise was ever enough, and where all forms of moderation were seen as betrayal." The writer is the author of the memoir "Stranger to History: A Son's Journey Through Islamic Lands." and the novel "Noon." Photo of a Tamil man sweeping at a mass cemetery of Tamil Tigers.

May 15

"Op-Docs: 'A Long Ride Toward a New China,' " by Stephen Manning. NYT summary of this 6'25" video documentary: "Every summer, the blogger 'Tiger Temple' bikes around China to report on rural news stories censored by state-run media."

"Latitude: Shanty China," by Clarissa Sebag-Montefiore. NYT summary: "Despite squalid living conditions, many residents in Beijing's hidden slums are surprisingly hopeful."

May 17

"Women Forced Into **WWII Brothels** Served Necessary Role, Osaka Mayor Says," by Hiroko Tabuchi. NYT summary: "Toru Hashimoto's view that so-called comfort women provided relief for Japanese soldiers 'risking their lives' was swiftly condemned by lawmakers and human rights groups."

May 23

"One Drone Victim's Trail From Raleigh to Pakistan," by Scott Shane and Eric Schmitt. NYT summary: "Jude Kenan Mohammad was killed in what the C.I.A. calls a 'signature strike,' an attack based on patterns of activity, in Pakistan in 2011."

"Court Documents Detail a Deadly Family Feud From Brooklyn to Pakistan," by Mosi Secret. "The tale of the Choudhry family, detailed in hundreds of pages of [U.S.] court documents, is a feud of Shakespearean proportions, sprawling across the two continents and the shifting cultures that these [Pakistani] immigrants and their American children inhabit." Long article

May 24

"Katha Journal: In Myanmar Outpost, a Fading Orwellian Link," by Jane Perlez. NYT summary: "In the town where George Orwell wrote his first novel, 'Burmese Days,' a group of locals are encouraged to restore his house and its unkempt garden." Photo; map. Long article.

May 25

"Women Forced Into **Wartime Sex** Cancel Meeting With Japanese Mayor," by Martin Fackler. NYT summary: "The South Korean women were concerned that Mayor Toru Hashimoto of Osaka, who made provocative comments defending World War II brothels, was seeking to repair his image."

May 26

"One Region in Myanmar Limits Births of Muslims," by The Associated Press. NYT summary: "The unusual order makes Myanmar the only country in the world to impose such a restriction on a religious group."

May 27

"An Artist Depicts His Demons," by Edward Wong. NYT summary at Home/ Arts: "Dioramas by the Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, to be shown in Venice, reconstruct his illegal detention in China in minute detail." Photo. Slide show: Dioramas of a Nightmare." 7 images. Six half-scale fiberglass sculptures, smuggled out of China, depict the artist's detention. They will go on exhibition in Venice starting Tuesday.

"Story of a Young Woman's Awakening Is Top Winner," by Manohla Dargis. While the headline refers to a French film, winner of the **Palme d'Or**, there were Asian winners at Cannes as the long-running film festival concluded its 66th year.

June 12

"Opinionator | The Great Divide: Japan Is a Model, Not a Cautionary Tale," by Joseph E. Stiglitz. NYT summary: "Along many dimensions, Japan has done better than the United States." In one of a series on inequality--the haves, the have-nots and everyone in between--in the United States and around the world, the Nobel laureate in economics and professor at Columbia University examines Japan's recent economic policies and conditions and concludes that Abenomics have much to teach us. Long, detailed essay.

June 15

"Latitude: Japanese Idol," by Michael Cucek in Tokyo. A female Japanese pop group, AKB48, holds a hugely-attended-to national contest for a new member, complaints of its hypocrisy, sexism and appeal to prurient tastes notwithstanding. Video, other links. [Must-reading for "specialists" in Japanese pop culture.] Michael Cucek is a research associate with the M.I.T. Center for International Studies and the author of Shisaku, a blog on Japanese politics and society. Link to the Shisaku home page.

June 16

"**Caste is Not Past**," by Lavanya Sankaran in Bangalore, India. Ken's summary: "As India transforms, one might expect caste [which has been illegal in India for more than six decades] to dissolve and disappear, but that is not happening." Caste, says Ms. Sankaran--resident of Bangalore and author of the novel "The Hope Factory" (2013)--is vibrantly alive when it comes to two significant societal markers--marriage and politics.

June 20

"Op-Ed Contributor: **Why India Trails China**," by Amartya Sen in Cambridge, MA. NYT summary at Home/ World: "A great gap between India and China is in the provision of essential public services--a failing that depresses living standards and is a persistent drag on growth." Amartya Sen, a Nobel laureate, is a professor of economics and philosophy at Harvard. He is the author, with Jean Dreze, of "An Uncertain Glory: India and its Contradictions."

"**For Many Filipinos, Jobs and the Good Life Are Still Scarce**," by Floyd Whaley. NYT summary at Home/ World: "The Philippines has the fastest-growing economy in East Asia. But unemploy-

ment is still rising and the number of people in poverty has barely changed in six years."

June 21

"Extremism Rises Among Myanmar Buddhists," by Thomas Fuller. NYT summary: "Amid hate-filled speeches and violence, a nationwide fundamentalist movement has grown with an agenda that now includes boycotts of Muslim-made goods." Slide show: "Radical Buddhism Ascendant in Myanmar."

June 22

"Letter: **Inequality in India**," by Joydeep Mitra in Chicago. NYT summary at Home/ Opinion: "A reader says some introspection is necessary." Supporting Thursday's Op-Ed piece by Amartya Sen, "Why India Trails China." The essay is linked to the letter.

June 30

"Violence in Restive Chinese Region Prompts Crackdown," by Chris Buckley. NYT summary: "Communist Party leaders vowed to apply high-pressure methods in the far western region of Xinjiang after two outbursts pitting members of the Uighur minority against police forces."

July 1

"Books of The Times: A Family **Blinded by Bling** and Fancy Designer Names; Kevin Kwan's 'Crazy Rich Asians' Depicts a Cult of Opulence," a review by Janet Maslin. Mr. Kwan's "dizzily shopaholic comedy of crass manners . . . offers refreshing nouveau voyeurism to readers who long ago burned out on American and English aspirational fantasies." Photo: Kevin Kwan.

July 3

"A Chinese Virtue Is Now the Law," by Edward Wong. NYT summary: "That the government enacted a law aimed at **compelling adult children to visit their aging parents** is yet another sign of the monumental changes sweeping through China." Graphic: "Filial Piety: From Strangling Tigers to Taming the Internet." Link to a related article from 2012.

July 13

"Multimedia: Slide Show: For Pakistani Girls, Just Going to Class is a Risk." NYT summary: "Months after an attack on a Pakistani girl who campaigned for education rights, the Taliban war on girls' schooling continues." 13 photos. Link to article "Siege by Taliban Strains Pakistani Girls' Schools," by Taha Siddiqui and Declan Walsh.

July 14

"Leaving the Land: Pitfalls Abound in China's Push From Farm to City," by Ian Johnson. NYT summary: "Even a showpiece project in Shaanxi Province shows flaws in China's urbanization drive, including high electricity costs and a lack of jobs in the new towns." Slide show: "Rocky Transition From Farm to Town in China." Video: "China's Consuming Billion." NYT summary of a 5"20' video: "The Chinese government's ambitious plan to move 250 million people from rural to urban areas aims to create a consumer base to drive the economy." Photos. Map. Second in a series. Link to the earlier article which appeared June 15.

July 16

"Letters From the International Herald Tribune: Play Tests China's Sexual Limits," by Didi Kirsten Tatlow. NYT summary: " 'Our Vaginas, Ourselves,' which addresses everything from masturbation to abortion, is showing at small, unofficial venues across the country." Informative report. Two of the play's eleven scenes are translations of excerpts from Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues." Note from Ken Harris: In the forthcoming NYT summary at Home/World of a column today datelined Beijing and headlined "Play Tests China's Sexual Limits," there are two words which may not pass some filtering or screening systems on individual e-mail services or ISPs, including my own. One word is a Latin term for an intimate part of female anatomy. The other is a word for what might be euphemized as "self-pleasuring." Believing this informative report by Didi Kirsten Tatlow will be of use or interest to ASDP-L's many observers of China's contemporary culture, to China's experience of feminism and to those who examine the degrees of censorship practiced by authorities in the country, I am, nevertheless, posting the NYT summary as published and regret, in advance, any inconvenience of transmission for our readers.

July 17

"Zhengzhou Journal: The Demanding Off-Hour Escapes of China's High-Tech Workers," by Dan Levin. NYT summary: "Young people who work making iPhones and other electronic devices in China flock to nightclubs in their time off, desperately trying to enjoy the present as they strive for a better future." Slide show: "Life Outside the Plant." Video: "Fun Factory."

July 19

"Movie Review | 'The Act of Killing': Mass Murder? Gee, That Was Fun," by A. O. Scott. NYT summary at Home/Movies: " 'The Act of Killing' takes viewers inside the minds and motives of the guilty--in this case, those who massacred as many as 2.5 million Indonesians in the 1960s." A documentary directed by Joshua Oppenheimer, "a notable and still notably rare attempt to explore genocide not only as a historical cataclysm but also as a result of innumerable instances of actual, ordinary behavior." One image. Clip. A NYT Critics' Pick.

"Hong Kong Seizes Smuggled Elephant Tusks," by Bettina Wassener. NYT summary: "The seizure of 1,148 tusks underscored the challenges facing Africa's dwindling elephant populations as rising prosperity in Asia leads to greater demand for ivory."

July 20

"Taiwan's Tennis Ace Flirts With China. How Could She? Cash." By Dan Levin. NYT summary: "Political insecurities have re-emerged over the possibility that Hsieh Su-wei, the first Taiwanese player to win a Grand Slam [the women's doubles championship at Wimbledon] could shift her allegiance to China as part of an endorsement deal."

July 21

"6 Sentenced to Life in Rape of Tourist in India," by The New York Times. NYT summary: "A court sentenced six men to life in prison for the rape of a Swiss tourist last March, one of several highly publicized cases that stirred public anger over sexual assaults in India."

"Hauling New Treasure Along the Silk Road," by Keith Bradsher.

NYT summary at Home/ Business: "With freight trains as their caravans, manufacturers like Hewlett-Packard are reviving an ancient way to ship products made in China to Western Europe." Multimedia feature: "Riding the New Silk Road."

"[Losing Face, Leaping Forward]: 'Wealth and Power: China's Long March to the Twenty-First Century,' a review by Joseph Kahn of "an engaging narrative of the intellectual and cultural origins of China's modern rise," by Orville Schell and John Delury. Long article. Mr. Kahn is the foreign editor and a former Beijing bureau chief of The Times.

July 24

"Op-Ed Contributor: The **Limits on Nationalism in Japan**," by Jennifer Lind. NYT summary: "A cautionary tale for an activist prime minister still basking in victory." The writer, an associate professor of government at Dartmouth, notes that two imminent anniversaries--the 20th year since the signing of the Kono Statement that formally apologized for Japan's use of "**comfort women**"--and the 68th year since Japan's surrender in World War II will tell watchers in Korea and China much about the scope and direction of PM Abe's nationalistic intentions.

July 25

"Letters From The International Herald Tribune: Apps Offer Chinese a Path to the Forbidden," by Didi Kirsten Tatlow. NYT summary: "Millions of young Chinese seem to be plunging enthusiastically into the world of social contact apps, often location-based and with a hook-up element."

July 28

"India Ink | 'Image of the Day' [At India Gate in New Delhi, defense personnel gather to pay tribute to the Indian dead on the fourteenth anniversary of the Kargil war, the last war fought between India and Pakistan.]; **'Failure in Bollywood' [An actress explores failure and denial in Bollywood]**; and 'A Relentless Prosecutor's Crowning Case' [re: an India-born U.S. attorney becomes a media darling for his relentless focus on insider trading on Wall Street]."

July 29

"This Heroine **Wears a Burqa to Fight Evil**," by Salman Masood and Declan Walsh. NYT summary: "A new cartoon in Pakistan features a role model for female empowerment, but her costume has stirred some controversy." About a new computer-animated cartoon series on Pakistani television. No images. "The burqa debate centers on whether [the] use of the all-covering cloak -- albeit a more streamlined version of the one usually seen in Pakistani villages -- is subverting a traditional symbol of segregation and oppression or reinforcing it."

Aug 1

"Despite West's Efforts, **Afghan Youths Cling to Traditional Ways**," by Azam Ahmed and Habib Zahori. NYT summary: "While Afghan youths cultivate Western values--American jeans and smartphones -- they are bound to their society's conservative ways despite the best efforts of the West." Slide show: "Embracing the West, Except Its Ideals" [8 photos]

"India Ink | 'How Not to Talk About Poverty in India;' 'A Nation Shaped by Its Poorest Citizens;' and 'Image of the Day' [women

releasing pigeons in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, as they celebrate the United Progressive Alliance coalition's endorsement of creating the new state of Telangana in Southern India.' "

Aug 4

"Kongar-ol Ondar, a Master of a Vocal Art, Dies at 51," by Margalit Fox. The 'internationally renowned master of Tuva throat singing, the Central Asian vocal art in which a singer produced two or more notes simultaneously--and which to the uninitiated sounds like the betwitching, remarkably harmonious marriage of a vacuum cleaner and a bumblebee--died on July 25 in Kyzyl, Tuva's capital . . . [from] complications after emergency surgery for a brain hemorrhage . . ." Photo. Map, showing Tuva, an independent country from 1921 to 1944 but now part of the Russian Federation. Long, informative and wide-ranging [like Mr. Ondar] obituary.

"On Video: 'The Bruce Lee Legacy Collection' Is a Kick," by Dave Kehr. For the fortieth anniversary of his death at 32 in Hong Kong, an eleven-disc set of films and documentaries of the first Asian superstar in America "since the Japanese actor Sessue Hayakawa had electrified audiences in the silent era." Informative, detailed examination of the actor and his movies. "Perhaps the greatest tribute to Lee's originality is that he became a star in spite of his movies rather than because of them." Three images.

"Next Stop: In Mongolia, the Skyline by the Steppes," by Josh Weil. Very long report from and about a booming Ulan Bator, "the rough and roiling capital of Mongolia." Includes the first photo I recall seeing in the NYT of the urban center of Ulan Bator. Map. Photos. Destination information: Where to stay, eat, drink.

Aug 10

"Cramming for Stardom at Korea's K-Pop Schools," by Choe Sang-hun. NYT summary at Home/ World: "Private institutions have sprung up around the country to teach Korean pop music, and long-established music and dance schools have begun to get with the pop plan."

Aug 11

"Opinion: How to Read Afghanistan," by Vanessa M. Gezari. NYT summary at Home/ Opinion: "American soldiers need help understanding the veiled meanings behind the stories of their allies and enemies." A long and informative essay about how Afghans rely on allegory, metaphor, parables and jokes to convey meaning, and how mistranslation may have unforeseen, even fatal consequences. Ms. Gezari is the author of "The Tender Soldier: A True Story of War and Sacrifice," described at the Pulitzer Center Web site as "a narrative account of an ambitious, troubled Army program [the Human Terrain System] that sends civilian social scientists into combat with soldiers to help them understand local culture, and of one idealistic group of Americans who risked everything to try to change the course of the war in Afghanistan."

Aug 13

"India Ink | 'A Conversation With: U.S.C.I.R.F. Vice-chairwoman Katrina Lantos Swett' [the officer of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom discusses the commission's insistence on keeping Navendra Modi, the chief minister of Gujarat, off American soil]. Mr. Modi has been linked to official

indifference to the slaughter of Muslims during sectarian violence in 2002]; 'Right This Way, Senator' [a New Delhi-born restaurateur, Ashok Bajaj, brings power dining to Washington, D.C.; and 'Image of the Day' [India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, after launching Monday]."

Aug 14

"Letter: Microcredit in Bangladesh," by Larry Reed, Director, Microcredit Summit Campaign, Chicago. NYT summary at Home/Opinion: "The Microcredit Summit Campaign criticizes Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's destructive actions."

"From Outsiders to Innkeepers in China's Sleepy Countryside," by Mike Ives in Xizhou. At a boutique hotel here in Yunnan Province, far from the noise of any major city, guests are welcomed by the American owners. Photo. Long article.

"Potent Memories From a Divided India," by Somini Sengupta. NYT summary: "A project called the 1947 Partition Archive is recording the recollections of people who lived through the violent division of British India into independent India and Pakistan." Video: "Preserving Partition [3'-48"]" The oral history project--which currently holds 649 recorded interviews, clips from which are available online--is based in Berkeley, California.

Aug 16

"Memo From Beijing: Amid Tribute to King of Pop, an Echo of Tiananmen Square," by Edward Wong. NYT summary: "A Michael Jackson tribute show by Cirque de Soleil startled China's capital with a brief flash of a censored 1989 photo of a man facing down tanks near Tiananmen." The "offensive" image--which brought an audible gasp from an audience of thousands at the first performance--was cut from subsequent performances. The reporter speculates about the inclusion of the image in a video which had been screened in preview for Chinese censors: "It could be, though, that the blanket censorship of all things related to June 4, 1989, has resulted in such widespread amnesia about the episode that even some censors can no longer recognize the taboo material for what it is." Long article.

"Art in Review | 'Dunhuang': 'Buddhist Art at the Gateway of the Silk Road', " a review by Holland Cotter of a show at the China Institute Gallery, 125 East 65th Street, Manhattan, where "two tiny galleries which at present hold a distillation of one of China's greatest Buddhist art sites, the Mogao Caves near the far western oasis city of Dunhuang." Photo. [Ken's note: If you have access to the online NYT, you might find interesting Asia-related detail about the newspaper's Pulitzer Prize-winning art critic by clicking the hyperlink at his byline in this article.]

Aug 18

"A Sporting Chance; 'The Great Tamasha,' by James Astill," a review by Rahul Bhattacharya of a book subtitled "Cricket, Corruption, and the Spectacular Rise of Modern India." An informative and balanced review by an Ondaatje Prize-winning novelist--"The Sly Company of People Who Care" [2012] --who writes: " 'The Great Tamasha' is a series of excursions into a cricket-fixated society." "Tamasha," we are told, is Hindi for "spectacle."

Aug 19

"An **Afghan Poet** Shapes Metal and Hard Words," by Azam Ahmed in Khost. NYT summary: "Many Afghans who have grown cynical after years of war have found a voice in a sharp-tongued poet who fixes trucks by day and writes by night." Two photos of Matiullah Turab, one of them of him welding a part of a truck. Text includes three short poems translated from the Pashto by The New York Times. Long article.

Aug 22

"Memo From New Delhi: Rival Economists in Public Battle Over Cure for India's Poverty," by Gardiner Harris. NYT summary: "India's inability to pull hundreds of millions out of poverty despite decades of robust growth has sparked an unusually nasty fight between two of its greatest economists." On the "battle" that has broken out between Amartya Sen, 79, Nobel laureate, "one of India's greatest living intellectuals," and an old rival, Jagdish Bhagwati, also 79. At the core of the disagreement: the role of government versus the private sector.

Aug 25

"Battling Superstition, Indian Paid With His Life," by Ellen Barry in Pune where he was shot and killed by two assassins Tuesday. NYT summary: "The killing of Narendra Dabholkar, a former physician who aimed to drive skepticism into India's superstition, is the latest episode in a wrestling match between traditionalists and reformers." Dr. Dabholkar, 67, had a long list of enemies, including supporters of caste practices, animal sacrifice, the magical treatment of snake bites and the sale of magic stones. Photo of a memorial in Pune, which includes in the background a portrait of Dr. Dabholkar. Long article.

"Afghans Share Their Views on the West's Influence," compiled by Hanna Ingber. NYT summary: "The United States and its allies have worked for a decade to instill democratic and legal reforms in Afghanistan. The New York Times asked Afghans to comment on their impact."

Sept 8

"**Two Indias**: 'An Uncertain Glory: India and Its Contradictions' by Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen," reviewed by Jyoti Thottam. The book, by two economists--Sen won the Nobel in economic science in 1998-- is "an urgent, passionate, political work that makes the case that India cannot move forward without investing significantly--as every other major industrialized country has already done--in public services." And, citing Katherine Boo's "Behind the Beautiful Forevers": "It isn't simply want of money that makes the slum dwellers of Annawadi miserable; it's being trapped in a system that's rigged against them."

Sept 14

"The Saturday Profile: Filmmaker Giving Voice to Acts of Rage in Today's China," by Edward Wong. NYT summary: "Reports of ordinary people being driven to violence persuaded the director Jia Zhangke to put aside his first big-budget martial arts film and tell their story instead." The director of "Still Life," about a town about to be flooded by the construction of the Three Gorges Dam, talks about his new movie, "A Touch of Sin," with some attention to his dealings with the state censors who eventually passed the movie for exhibition.

Sept 27

"Astana Journal: Nostalgia Burns Bright in a City Renewed," by Jane Perlez, in Astana, Kazakhstan. "Beneath the futuristic and expensive designs [of this 'urban showcase' capital city], ancient **traditions of Kazakhstan's nomadic origins**--some say dating from the days of Genghis Khan--are making a comeback on the sports field. [But] nostalgia is not limited to sports." Photos. Considerable attention to the game of kopkar, known as buzkashi in Afghanistan, a tough version of polo.

Sept 30

"Opinionator | The Stone:]The Enigma of Chinese Medicine," by Stephen T. Asma: NYT summary at Home/Opinion: "If a system of medical treatment practiced for thousands of years can't meet Western scientific standards, should it be dismissed?" In the light of his own experiences with it, an American philosopher [Columbia College Chicago] examines traditional Chinese medicine. Interesting and articulate essay by a philosopher soon to be a Fulbright resident in Beijing. Online only.

Oct 8

"**Uighurs** in China Say Bias Is Growing," by Andrew Jacobs. NYT summary: "The Uighurs, a Muslim people who make up the largest ethnic group in the Xinjiang region, complain of barriers to employment and the free exercise of religion."

"Unease in Hawaii's Cornfields," by Andrew Pollack. NYT summary at Home/Business: "With the collapse of the sugar and pineapple industries, seeds have become the state's leading agricultural commodity, but residents are concerned."

"ArtsBeat: A Few Controversies Amid a Record Number of Foreign-Language Oscar Entries," by Larry Rohter. Focus on two well-reviewed, perhaps distinguished films from India ["The Lunchbox"] and China ["Touch of Sin"] which were not nominated by their respective countries. And to the titles of several other Asian films among the 73 countries plus Hong Kong, the Palestine territories and Taiwan which submitted films for consideration. The shortlist will be announced in January in advance of the ceremony on March 2.

"Documenting a Pakistani Girl's Transformation," by Adam B. Ellick. NYT summary: "The story of how Malala Yousafzai went from being a quiet 11-year-old to a spokeswoman for girls' education to a victim of the Taliban to a Nobel Prize candidate." Video: "The Making of Malala."

"Record-Setting Diamond Sale Shows Appetite for Luxury in Asia," by Bettina Wassener in Hong Kong. "As investors fret about the budget standoff in the United States and slowing growth in Asia, the confidence of the world's superrich to splurge on top gems and works of art appears intact, judging by a string of Sotheby's auctions in Hong Kong in the past five days."

Oct 10

"Op-Ed Contributor: For America, Life Was Cheap in Vietnam," by Nick Turse. NYT summary: "The Vietnamese general Vo Nguyen Giap is remembered for his acceptance of enormous casualties. But American commanders were no less brutal." Mr. Turse, a

historian and journalist, is the author of "Kill Anything That Moves: The Real American War in Vietnam."

Oct 11

"Holding Court in All Their Petaled Glory; Art of the Japanese Chrysanthemum at the Botanical Garden," by William Grimes. "The stately chrysanthemum, one of nature's noblest flowers, harbors a dark secret. It enjoys pain." Long, informative review of a new (and necessarily brief) flower show based on Japanese techniques for cultivating and displaying many surprising varieties of the kiku, or chrysanthemum, Japan's most-revered flower. Two astonishing photos. "Kiku: The Art of the Japanese Garden" runs through Oct. 27 at the New York Botanical Garden, Bronx River Parkway. Seen by bg.org for more details.

"Art Review: A Turnabout From Manga to Zen; 'Rebirth: Recent Work by Mariko Mori,' at Japan Society," a review by Karen Rosenberg, who is disappointed in this installation by an artist she clearly admires. "[Ms. Mori's] works here] make up an ambitious but disappointing show, which summons big ideas and primal energies only to give them trite, New Agey forms." Photo. The show runs through January 12 at New York's Japan Society, 333 East 47th Street, Manhattan. Japansociety.org.

Oct 12

"A Bridge Between **Western Science and Eastern Faith**," by Kim Severson in Atlanta, specifically, at Emory University. NYT summary at Home/World: "A small band of Tibetan monks and a team of translators have been working to bring Western science to the monastic education system in India."

Oct 13

"Opinion: The **End of the Nation-State?**" by Parag Mehta in Singapore. NYT summary: "With rapid urbanization under way, cities want to call their own shots. Increasingly, they can."

Oct 14

"In India's Politics, Jail Time Is a Badge of Honor," by Ellen Barry in Daltenganj. NYT summary: "A growing, urbanized middle class wants to drive from the system hundreds of tainted politicians who are seen as heroes among tribal voters." Photo: a former leader of a Maoist insurgency, elected to Parliament despite murder charges and prison time. Map. Long article.

Oct 15

"In Bhutan, a Bid to Turn **Basketball** From a Royal Sport to a National One," by Gardiner Harris. NYT summary: "After decades of being a largely royal preserve, basketball in Bhutan is about to have its breakout moment, as a South Korean coach has been hired to build a national team."

"As China Moves to Lower Professor's Profile, Colleges Are Seeking to Raise Theirs," by Andrew Jacobs. NYT summary: "Government efforts to silence a Peking University professor who has criticized Communist rule come as China's colleges are ambitiously seeking respect abroad as great centers of learning." Xia Yeliang, described here as "an accomplished Peking University economist, . . . expects to be dismissed from his teaching post at Peking University, one of the nation's most prestigious schools."

A law professor at the university says punishing Professor Xia would most likely harm the university's efforts at elevating its stature abroad." Photo. Long article.

"Malaysian Court Restricts Use of 'Allah' to Muslims," by Thomas Fuller. NYT summary: "A three-judge panel ruled that non-Muslims may not use the word to refer to God, citing concerns of a threat to Islam."

"Sinosphere Blog*": Chinese Embracing the Perceived Freedom of R.V.'s," by Andrew Jacobs. NYT summary: "Recreational vehicles may have middle-brow associations in the United States, but in China, they are seen as an upholstered magic carpet, toilet included, that provides an escape." ***Note this new NYT feature.**

Oct 16

"Kumar Pallana, Who Went From **Yoga to Film**, Dies at 94," by Margalit Fox. "Kumar Pallana, an Indian plate spinner turned Texas yoga instructor turned--in his late 70s and long beyond--sought-after character actor in films by Wes Anderson, Steven Spielberg and others, died on Thursday at his home in Oakland, Calif. He was 94." Some attention to his life in India, where he was born in Indore in 1918. Photo.

Oct 17

"Memo From Hong Kong: Milder Accounts of Hardships Under Mao Arise as His Birthday Nears," by Chris Buckley. NYT summary: "As the 120th anniversary of Mao Zedong's birthday approaches [December 26], some are playing down the devastation of the famine that gripped China from 1958 to 1962."

Oct 19

"The Saturday Profile: A Sri Lankan Journalist Eagerly Toes the Line," by Gardiner Harris in Colombo. Re: Rajpal Abeynayake. "HE calls himself the **Rush Limbaugh of Sri Lanka**, 'except I'm not as obnoxious.' His critics say he should be hanged from a lamppost." Profile of the editor in chief of the Daily News, Sri Lanka's largest English-language daily newspaper, wholly owned by the government. Mr. Abeynayake is "a gushing admirer of Sri Lanka's president, Mahinda Rajapaksa." Journalists who are NOT admirers don't endure here very long; some disappear, some exile themselves, a few die violent deaths. Photo. Long article.

Oct 20

"**Policing Village Moral Codes** as Women Stream to India's Cities," by Ellen Barry in Rohtak, India. NYT summary: "As young Indian women leave rural homes to finish their education in cities, they balance their new freedom against the social norms of their villages back home." In the rural state of Haryana, abutting New Delhi, village khappanchayats--unelected all-male councils--attempt to maintain medieval moral codes by monitoring and controlling the social lives of their young women, even after they leave for college or work in the nearby city. And then there's the college right here in Rohtak, Haryana's largest city. Photos. Long article.

Oct 23

"[Op-Ed Columnist] Thomas L. Friedman: The Shanghai Secret. NYT summary at Home/Opinion: "How these schools in China made it to No. 1 in the world." The foreign affairs columnist is in China, visiting some of the highest- and lowest-performing

schools in the country. "By doing things that American and Chinese educators know work--but doing them systematically and relentlessly--Shanghai has in a decade lifted some of its schools to the global heights in reading, science and math skills."

Oct 24

"Letters: Bargaining With the Censors to Get Published in China." Two informative letters from (1) U.S. author John Israel with advice about how a stratagem for his book enabled its publication in China; and (2) from the president of an American college, Ohio Wesleyan, about the donation of royalties by an American author, Ezra F. Vogel, who accepted censorship of his book about Deng Xiaoping.

Oct 25

"**Thai Buddhism's Supreme Patriarch** Dies at 100," by The Associated Press in Bangkok. Somdet Phra Nyanamvara headed the country's order of Buddhist monks for more than two decades. Some details on the order and the role of the Supreme Patriarch and his friendship with the Dalai Lama. A pronunciation guide to his name. If you sound it out phonetically, you'll very likely be wrong.

Oct 26

"Op-Ed Contributor: **Before Malala**," by William Dalrymple, from New Delhi. NYT summary [which unfortunately re-directs the focus of the writer's attention--the historic role of active women in Pashtun public life]: "Pashtun society was, for many years, a center of nonviolent resistance against British rule." Essential reading for ASDP-L readers interested in the struggle against extremism and misogyny in Pashtun history. Mr. Dalrymple is the author, most recently, of "Return of a King: The Battle for Afghanistan, 1839-42."

Oct 28

"Wikipedia China Becomes Front Line for Views on Language and Culture," by Grace Tsoi in Hong Kong. "The Chinese-language version of Wikipedia has become more than an online encyclopedia: it is a battlefield for editors from China, Taiwan and Hong Kong in a region charged with political, ideological and cultural differences."

"Gang Rape in India, Routine and Invisible," by Ellen Barry and Mansi Choksi. NYT summary: "The details of a gang rape case in Mumbai reinforce the notion that rape remains a largely invisible crime in India." [Originally published October 26.]

Oct 30

"Letters From India: Dangers Come With Freedom for Indian Women," by Ellen Barry. NYT summary of an essay published (and summarized here) yesterday: "Women are quickly gaining new freedoms in India, but new dangers are also arising because women are expanding their perimeter."

"A Culture of Bidding: Forging an Art Market in China," by David Barboza, Graham Bowley and Amanda Cox. NYT summary: "In China's growing art market, now the second largest in the world, outside auction results often overshadow false sales data and forged art."

Oct 31

"Letter From China: A Lonely Passion: China's Followers of **Friedrich A. Hayek**," by Didi Kirsten Tatlow. NYT summary: "Friedrich A. Hayek believed that economic planning by the state always leads to a loss of individual liberty, and that the best life is delivered by a private economy run by people whose rights are protected by law--which makes promoting his ideas in China an uphill battle."

"India Ink | 'A Conversion With: Jazz Pianist Vijay Iyer;' 'Image of the Day: October 30' [a man in what may be a rice paddy carrying a large number of handmade bamboo baskets on a long pole, on his way to sell them at a market in the northeastern state of Tripura]; and A Train Through Kashmir.' " The latter is an informative essay about a new link in an ambitious project to connect Kashmir to the north Indian plains. Photo: train arriving at the Banihal railway.

Nov 2

"Latitude: Ending Vietnam's 'Suicide Season,' " by Lien Hoang in Ho Chi Minh City. NYT summary: "Students have everything riding on college entrance exams, and for those who fail, the results can be fatal." Attention to the "national obsession" in Vietnam with college entrance examinations "that promote rote memorization at the expense of critical thinking" and, at the end of the essay, by a writer who covers Southeast Asia, a comparison with China.

Nov 3

"Profile in Style | China's Fashion Matchmaker," by Noah Feldman. "As luxury brands try to crack the exploding Chinese market and the Chinese seek to export their own fashion stars to the West, Melvin Chua--bon vivant, image maker and cross-cultural connector--is the man in the middle." A peek--actually, a long peek inside the world of the founder of the public relations and event-organizing firm Ink Pak. The company, based in Shanghai, advises global luxury brands on how to succeed in China. Slide show: "Made in China."

Nov 4

"Bits Blog: In Singapore, Building Businesses for the Next Billion," by Quentin Hardy in Singapore. "Living in modern Asia is about embracing contradiction and change. A deeper look at what's now happening inside this old factory building [where the writer, years ago, began his first serious work in what was then a warehouse] showed how much today's cheap, portable technology is affecting virtually all societies around the world."

"Opera Review: 'War Sum Up' . . .Voices Raised for Peace, With **Noh and Manga**," a review of a "stimulating multidisciplinary, pan-cultural creation mounted by the Danish arts laboratory Hotel Pro Forma. . . . The sources are Japanese: lines borrowed from Noh theater [performed in Japanese with projected titles by a Western cast], and imagery inspired by manga." Photo. There were two performances only--and no references here about further iterations. But see the Web site for Hotel Pro Forma for a list of three performances in 2014 in Holland.

Nov 10

"Leaving the Land: New China Cities: Shoddy Homes, Broken Hope," by Ian Johnson in Huaming. NYT summary: "China's government-led urbanization, meant to solve one problem,

may be creating a new set of troubles that could plague Chinese cities for decades." Photo; map. Third of a series of very long articles looking at how China's government-driven effort to push the population to towns and cities is reshaping a nation that for millenniums has been defined by its rural life." Links to the previous articles.

Nov 13

"[Contributing Op-Ed Writer:] **Stories Indian Politicians Like to Tell**," by Pratap Bhanu Mehta. NYT summary: "The Congress Party uses ideology over practicality to fix political institutions." The opposition B.J.P. comes in for similar criticism in this poorly-summarized long essay by the president of the Center for Policy Research in New Delhi. "Despite massive social change and a yearning for strong but fair economic growth, neither party is articulating a discourse suited to the times. Both still prefer to conjure up a counterfeit history than propose a coherent vision of the future."

"Op-Ed Contributor: Where the Gods Live On ... and On," by Tunku Varadarajan. NYT summary: "A cricket icon retires, and India ponders its newer and brasher self-image." Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar, 40, the oldest member of India's national cricket team and the most revered cricketer, perhaps the most revered contemporary India, retires from the game after the five-day test match with West Indies that begins in Mumbai on Thursday. Tunku Varadarajan is a research fellow at the Hoover Institution and a writer at large for The Daily Beast.

Nov 15

"Op-Ed Contributor: Surrender, Oblivion, Survival," by Gina Apostol. NYT summary: "In **Tacloban**, history is our tsunami. And in our seaside shelters, we keep watching the tide return to the Philippines once again." From Hadley, MA, where she is an English teacher and novelist, the writer, who grew up in Tacloban, recalls the ironies of life and history there. Long, very informative essay, brimming with controlled anger: at incompetent and corrupt leadership, a history of unpunished plunder, and spurned demands for a forceful response to climate change.

"Not Even Marcos Family Is Spared Residents' Ire," by Keith Bradsher. NYT summary: "Some of the blame for the slow relief efforts after Typhoon Haiyan is falling on Imelda Marcos and her family, who have long been revered in Tacloban, the Philippines." It is her home town. Ms. Apostol's Op-Ed essay above reflects critically on Imelda Marcos.

Nov 17

"Growing Clamor About **Inequities of Climate Crisis**," by Steven Lee Myers and Nicholas Kulish, datelined Warsaw. Lede: "Following a devastating typhoon that killed thousands in the Philippines, a routine international climate change conference here turned into an emotional forum, with developing countries demanding compensation from the worst-polluting countries for damage they are already suffering." Long article.

"Taking the High Road," by Andrew Jacobs. Photo caption: "From Kashgar to Tashkurgan in the southern crescent of Xinjiang." A leisurely three-day tour along

the Karakoram Highway that links China to Pakistan. Photographs; map. Very long article.

"In Myanmar, Retracing **George Orwell's Steps**," by Lawrence Osborne. Long text and slide show, with this summary: "Lawrence Osborne visits the cities of Yangon, Bagan and Mandalay to look for what's left of the landscape and British architecture that inspired the young Orwell to pen his novels." Eye-catching photographs and evocative text.

Nov 18

"Op-Ed Contributor: The Transparent Chinese," by Murong Xuecun. NYT summary: "The breakdown of trust is the worst consequences of living life under surveillance." Murong Xuecun is the pen name of Hao Qun, the author of "Leave Me Alone: A Novel of Chengdu." The essay, which describes personal experiences, was adapted from a speech delivered in New York on Nov. 14 at a symposium of surveillance sponsored by PEN America. Translated from the Chinese by Jane Weizhen Pan and Martin Merz.

Nov 19

"Europeans Fault American Safety Effort in Bangladesh," by Steven Greenhouse. "Tensions broke into the open on Monday involving two large groups of retailers--one overwhelmingly American, the other dominated by Europeans--that have formed to improve factory safety in Bangladesh." European retailers, who have made binding commitments to engage in and pay for safety enhancements in Bangladeshi garment factories, are troubled by the refusal of American retailers to make guaranteed loans. From the Europeans' perspectives, the U.S. retailers are "free-riding" on the commitments of others. Attention to what Walmart says it is doing; praise and criticism of the adequacy of Walmart's efforts and its inspection reports.

"An Old Chinese Novel Is Racy Reading Still," by Jennifer Schuessler. Caption for an image: "A 17th-century illustration for the Ming dynasty novel 'The Plum in the Golden Vase,' newly translated, in five volumes with more than 4,400 endnotes, by David Roy." The book is an unexpurgated translation of "an infamously pornographic tale of the rise and fall of a corrupt merchant, written by an anonymous author in the late 16th century." Another photo: Mr. Roy, 80, an emeritus professor of Chinese literature at the University of Chicago. Long article--though not a review of the book, which is published by Princeton University Press.

Nov 22

"Latitude [Blog]: The **Only-Child Blues**," by Clarissa Sebag-Montefiore in Shanghai. Ken's summary: The news that the Chinese government would relax the one-child policy--one of its most sweeping, intrusive and defining--may be a step backward for some women in China.

"Master of Sightless Sword Play," by Wendell Jamieson. NYT summary of a long, informative examination: " 'Zatoichi: The Blind Swordsman,'

a box set from the Criterion Collection, assembles the 25 films starring Shintaro Katsu as a samurai." The films, available in Blu-ray and standard DVD, were made between 1964 and 1973. Two images. The article was published yesterday.

Nov 23

"Editor in India, Known for Investigations Into Corruption, Is Accused of Rape," by Ellen Barry. NYT summary: "Rape and sexual assault charges have been filed against Tarun Tejpal, the editor of Tehelka, a liberal-minded magazine that has influenced a generation of young Indian journalists."

"After Conviction, Focus Turns to Ownership of **Marcos Artwork**," by James C. McKinley. NYT summary at Home/New York: "Four masterpieces at the center of the successful prosecution [in New York] of Imelda Marcos's former personal secretary are also the subject of multiple claims of ownership, including by the Philippine government." One image: "Le Bassin aux Nymphes" (1899), Claude Monet.

Nov 24

"In **Golf**, South Koreans Find a New Model for Success," by Karen Crouse. NYT summary: "Led by Inbee Park, the L.P.G.A. Player of the Year, South Koreans have 108 L.P.G.A. victories." The "secret" of success may be independence from parents passionate for success for their young.

Nov 27

"Guangzhou Journal: With Glut of Lonely Men, China Has an Approved Outlet for Unrequited Lust," by Dan Levin. NYT summary: "**The Guangzhou National Sex Culture Festival** is where hedonism meets capitalism in China, and its mostly male visitors reflect the country's gender imbalance."

Dec 2

"[Arts, Briefly] A First for Sotheby's: An Auction in Beijing," compiled by Adam W. Kepler. "Sotheby's held its first commercial auction in mainland China on Sunday, when an oil painting by Zao Wou-ki, 'Abstraction,' sold for \$14.7 million, the highest price ever paid at auction for one of his works, according to Bloomberg News." The seller was the Art Institute of Chicago. Image: Zao Wou-ki's "Abstraction" [1958].

"Movie Review | 'Bullet Raja': Macho Hero and His Sidekick Shoot 'Em Up in a Crooked India," by Rachel Saltz.

"India Ink | **A Dalit Village** Waits Uneasily for Justice;' 'Years of Mourning the Losses in Mumbai;' and 'India's One-Woman Tea Party.' "

Dec 3

"The Week: An **Older Buddha**, and Disease Numbers Good and Bad," by Douglas Quenqua. Among the scientific developments of the week: "Architects find evidence that Buddha lived centuries earlier than previously thought." Summarizing, very concisely, an article in the journal "Antiquity"--which is linked here. [Click on the tab named "Current Issue."]

"Op-Ed Contributor: The Hijacking of Chinese Patriotism," by Yu Hua. NYT summary: "Loving one's country isn't the same as loving the government."

"India Ink | **'Homeless in Delhi** Get Chance to Exercise Voting Rights;' 'Nonresident Indians Play Major Role in Aam Aadmi Party's Delhi Campaign;' and 'Image of the Day: December 2' [Japan's Empress Michiko being welcomed by PM Manmohan Singh in New Delhi].

Dec 4

"New Delhi Journal: A Eunuch in India Campaigns as a Political 'None of the Above,' " by Ellen Barry.

Dec 6

"Sinosphere | 'Outrage as Chinese Girl, 10, Goes Unpunished for Attacking Baby;' 'Taiwan May Miss Out on Jia Zhangke's "A Touch of Sin," '; and 'In China, **Mandela** Is Claimed by Authorities and Dissidents Alike.' "

Dec 7

"The Saturday Profile: A Leader in Mao's Cultural Revolution Faces His Past," by Jane Perlez. NYT summary: "Chen Xiaolu's public apology for persecutions nearly 50 years ago has raised hopes that China might finally be ready to face its dark past."

Dec 8

"**Musicals Couldn't Bet Hotter** Off Broadway (by 7,000 Miles)," by Patrick Healy. NYT summary: "Seoul, South Korea, has become a boomtown for American musicals, with producers opening Korean-language versions of hits and flops alike."

"Deadly Factory Fire Bares Racial Tensions in Italy," by Elisabetta Povoledo. NYT summary: "A blaze that killed seven at a garment factory, and the subsequent outrage, exposed a complicated, and at times tense, cohabitation of Italian residents and Chinese migrants."

"Pursuits: A **Love Letter to a Smelly Fruit**," by Thomas Fuller. NYT summary: "Durian stinks so badly that it's banned from airplanes, hotels and mass transit in most Southeast Asian cities. So why does the author adore it?" Video: "The King of Fruits."

"Heads Up: Cultivating a Wine Region in India," by Shivani Vora. NYT summary: "Nashik, a picturesque area about a two-and-a-half drive from Mumbai, is turning into a popular wine destination."

Dec 9

"Congress Party Defeated" in Indian State Elections," by Ellen Barry and Hari Kumar. NYT summary: "The results signaled the waning power of the dynasty that has dominated Indian politics for nearly all the post-Independence era."

"A Public Works Boom in Japan Has Echoes From the Lost Decade," by Hiroko Tabuchi in Saga. NYT summary at Home/World: "Japan's much-lauded growth plan is a throwback to the country's troubled '90s when it tried to build its way back to prosperity." Attention to the disappointing results in Saga-- a small prefecture in southern Japan--of the public works boom of the '90s. Long article. One photo.

"A Global Dining Empire Loses an Outpost," by Jane Perlez in Beijing. NYT summary: "Maison Boulud, part of the chef Daniel Boulud's international dining empire, closed Sunday after five years, the victim perhaps of the staid habits of Beijing restaurantgoers." Interesting restaurant stories, and a comparison with dining in Shanghai.

Dec 10

"Philippines and Muslim Rebels Move Closer to Final Peace Deal," by Floyd Whaley in Manila. "The two sides have reached agreement in sharing power in Muslim-dominated parts of the southern Philippines and hope to reach a final deal by January, according to a statement released Sunday." Issues remain that may prove to be barriers to final settlement of the decades-long insurgency.

"Editorial: Japanese Cuisine Goes Global." NYT summary: "Japan hopes a new UNESCO designation will boost both tourism and food exports."

"Op-Ed Columnist: The Beast in India's Midst," by Roger Cohen. NYT summary: "A prominent feminist journalist is hounded in the most talked-about rape case in India."

"India's Rape Problem, and How Men See It," by Anand Giridharadas in New Delhi. ". . . The idea of rape as a physical impossibility is one of many myths about sexual violence that remain in common circulation among men in India."

Dec 11

"Chinese Professor Who Advocated Free Speech Is Fired," by Andrew Jacobs. NYT summary: "Zhang Xuezhong, who teaches

at the East China University of Political Science and Law in Shanghai, has repeatedly called on the Chinese government to abide by its own Constitution."

Dec 12

"Beijing Journal: As Winter Nears, Chinese Capital Is Blanketed in Green," by Andrew Jacobs. NYT summary: "In a city crowded with BMWs, upscale malls and produce-packed supermarkets, the **stockpiling of cabbage** speaks to an era of scarcity that still haunts Chinese of a certain age."

"Editorial: India's Reversal on Gay Rights." NYT summary at Home/Opinion: "The Indian Supreme Court issued a disgraceful ruling against human rights in upholding a law that bans gay sex."

"Boite: Tokya: A Japanese-Themed Dance Club," by Brian Sloan. A subterranean space along a short stretch of East 58th Street is a hard-partying hot spot for some slender and scruffy New Yorkers. The Japanese "theme" is represented by a veteran sushi chef and video images of Tokyo projected on the walls. Pricy bottle service rules, whatever that means. Photo.

"Op-Ed Columnist: Gandhi and Mandela," by Roger Cohen in New Delhi. NYT summary: "Self-rule for the two men forged in South Africa's racist crucible was a political goal. It was also an internal value." Informative and wide-ranging essay with some possibly useful insights about current political life in India.

Dec 13

"Opposition Leader's Execution Spurs Protests in Bangladesh," by Gardiner Harris. NYT summary: "Abdul Quader Molla, a top opposition leader, is the first person executed as a result of a war crimes tribunal that has sought to hold people accountable for atrocities committed during the 1971 war for independence." The execution "spurred protests across Bangladesh, with worse expected for Sunday when the opposition has called for a nationwide strike."

"Disputed Statue to Be Returned to Cambodia," by Tom Mashberg and Ralph Blumenthal. NYT summary at Home/Arts: "A 10th-century statue of a Hindu warrior will be returned to Cambodia under an agreement signed on Thursday by Sotheby's, the consigner and federal prosecutors." Photo.

"India Ink | 'Youth Trumps Experience and Wealth in Unlikely Aam Aadmi Party Win,' **Love and Gender**, According to the Hindu Epics;" and 'Image of the Day: December 12' [laborers building a temporary bridge over the Ganges River in Allahabad, in preparation for the Magh Mela festival in January. A

striking photo of men silhouetted against a rising (or possibly setting) sun]."

Dec 14

"The Saturday Profile: A **Karzai Impersonator** Finds Fame and Misfortune," by Azam Ahmed. NYT summary: "A young man named Zabiullah sounds exactly like the Afghan president, but that is where the similarities end." An itinerant and irreverent comedian earns renown but little real employment. Photo; video. Long article.

Dec 15

"The annual All-Japan Phone-Answering Competition is a closely watched contest that some say reiterates the stereotype of women in clerical positions." Video: "Hello, Japan's Champion Speaking ..."

"As Rover Lands, China Joins Moon Club," by Chris Buckley. NYT summary: "China became the third country to accomplish a 'soft landing' in which a rover will explore the lunar surface to further the nation's broader ambitions in space."

Dec 16

"A Culture of Bidding: A Chinese Art Power Rises, Posing an Issue for Reform," by Graham Bowley and David Barboza. NYT summary: "A state-run conglomerate's rise from an arms dealer to the world's third largest auction house has hindered oversight of China's fraud-ridden art market, experts say." Part 2 of a series, of which "Forging an Art Market," which is linked here, was the first, appearing on October 28.

"[Op-Ed Columnist:] India's Aspirational Volcano," by Roger Cohen. NYT summary: "The old politics are over. Passivity has given way to ferocious engagement." Mr. Cohen files from New Delhi today.

"Op-Ed Contributor: The Dear Leader's Heinous Act," by Suki Kim in New York. NYT summary: "For Kim Jong-un to have an uncle executed is a grave debasement of Korea's Confucian culture." Informative personal essay and news analysis by a writer who was in North Korea, teaching English at an elite university in the suburbs of Pyongyang when Kim Jong-il died two years ago. A journalist, she is the author of a novel and a non-fiction memoir, "Without You, There is No Us: My Time with the Sons of North Korea's Elite," to be published next fall.

Dec 18

"Amid Chinese Rivalry, Japan Seeks More Muscle," by Martin Fackler. NYT summary: "A new five-year defense plan, described as 'proactive pacifism,' calls for acquiring drones and amphibious assault vehicles, and reverses a decade of military spending cuts."

"U.S. Forging Closer Military Ties With Philippines," by Keith Bradsher. NYT summary: "American officials want to rotate more military forces through the country, concerned about mounting pressure from China on its neighbors."

"In Uzbekistan, the Practice of Forced Labor Lives on During the Cotton Harvest," by Mansur Mirovalev and Andrew E. Kramer. NYT summary: "Every autumn, the government drafts about a million people--including doctors, teachers and other professionals--to pick cotton, providing free labor for the world's fifth-largest cotton exporter." Dated Samarkand. Photo. Long article.

"Outrage in India, and Retaliation, Over a Female Diplomat's Arrest in New York. NYT summary: "Politicians from across the Indian political spectrum expressed anger, and the New Delhi police in turn removed security barriers that were meant to protect the American Embassy."

"Japan Star in Demand but Also in Limbo," by Ken Belson. NYT summary at Home/Sports: "**Pitcher Masahiro Tanaka** told his Japanese league team that he wants to play in Major League Baseball next season, but the team, Rakuten, does not want to let him go."

"A Changing Terrain of Love," by Bina Shah in Karachi. NYT summary: "In Pakistan, where arranged marriage is still common, tension rises between tradition and new ideas." Bina Shah is a novelist and short story writer. She writes here, informatively, about romantic love, Islam, Sufi poetry and other concepts.

Dec 19

"Capitalizing On China: Mastering the Chinese Chop System," by Deb Weidenhamer. A thorough primer on the chop system, the millennia-old signature stamp or printed seal still in wide use in business life in China today to authenticate paper transactions. Useful advice for the small business owner contemplating expansion into China. Deb Weidenhamer is chief executive of Auction Systems Auctioneers and Appraisers.

"ArtsBeat: **Philip Glass** and Tyondai Braxton Join a Benefit for the Philippines," by Allan Kozinn.

"Op-Ed Contributor: The Last Gasp of Thai Paternalism," by Duncan McCargo. NYT summary: "Bangkok's middle classes are terrified by the rising political clout of migrant workers from the countryside." Duncan McCargo, whose essay here is datelined New York, is professor of Southeast Asian Politics at the University of Leeds and a senior research affiliate at Columbia University.

"[Op-Ed Columnist:] **Inquality, Indian Style,**"
by Roger Cohen. NYT summary: "The
epiphany of one Indian who fled the greed-
is-good fast track to help the poorest."

Dec 20

"India's Misplaced Outrage." NYT summary:
"Indians seem incensed that one of their diplo-
mats was arrested instead of being concerned
about the treatment of a domestic worker."

"Movie Review | 'Personal Tailor,' Directed by Feng
Xiaogang; A Dream Factory for a Benighted China,"
a review by Manohla Dargis. NYT summary at
Home/Arts: " 'Personal Tailor,' a blend of comedy
and satire, centers of a fantasy fabrication service
that provides wealthy clients with a taste of the
lives they have always wanted." One image. Clip.

"Death of Indonesian Copywriter Brings Scrutiny
to Advertising Industry," by Kate Lamb in Jakarta.
NYT summary: "Ananda Pradnya Paramita, 27,
died shortly after posting on Twitter that she had
worked for 30 hours straight, prompting criticism
of the industry's workaholic culture."

"Mayor and 3 Others Shot Outside Philippine
Airport," by Floyd Whaley. NYT summary:
"Motorcycle-riding gunmen fatally shot four
people in front of the Manila airport, sending
blood-spattered holiday travelers fleeing in
terror." The mayor, from the troubled southern
province, is said to have been a target for
assassination on two other occasions. His wife
and nephew were also killed.