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## **FEATURED ARTICLE**

**China's Affluent Youth Boom** (April 14, 2009, Forbes, by Tim Wang)

Most of China's newly affluent are younger than you think. They won't be in Beijing or Shanghai and they won't save like their parents.

<http://www.forbes.com/2009/04/14/china-consumers-wealthy-markets-economy-luxury.html>

## **GOVERNMENT / POLITICS / FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**Chinese navy spells out long-range ambitions** (April 16, 2009, Reuters)

China will accelerate development of warships, stealth submarines and long-range missiles as the country makes a stronger navy a priority in military modernization, a Chinese admiral told state media. Admiral Wu Shengli said the Communist Party leadership had ordered the navy to upgrade preparedness to defend the nation's expanding interests, Chinese newspapers reported on Thursday. Chinese media have highlighted the government's hopes to build an aircraft carrier, seen as the badge of a mature ocean-going power. But Wu's remarks highlighted the country's broader ambitions to expand its naval reach.

**China muted on key anniversary** (April 15, 2009, BBC News)

The 20th anniversary of the death of reformist Chinese leader Hu Yaobang has passed without being marked in China. The anniversary is seen as the start of an ultra-sensitive period for Beijing, in the run-up to the 20th anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests. It was Hu's death that set in motion the chain of events leading to the 4 June crackdown.

**China pledges to improve human rights** (April 13, 2009, AFP)

China pledged Monday to improve human rights throughout the country, in a highly publicised plan issued ahead of the 20th anniversary of the deadly crushing of the Tiananmen democracy protests. The "National Human Rights Action Plan," the first-ever such document to be issued and approved by the cabinet, promised Chinese citizens more legal protection, better livelihoods and greater political rights. Rights groups said it was encouraging the government had made the effort to put the document out, but noted that similar pledges had been made before with little change. The 52-page plan acknowledged problems in the current system, but pointed out China was a developing country.

**China mulls military contacts with Taiwan** (April 14, 2009, Reuters)

China on Wednesday denied that its military officers would meet Taiwanese counterparts in Hawaii this summer, but suggested the two sides could begin low-key defense contacts via retired personnel or academics. Chinese state media reported last month that officers would meet at August's Transnational Security Cooperation forum organized by the U.S. Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, an institute under the U.S. Defense Department, in Hawaii. A Taiwan Defense Ministry official said military exchanges through academics or retired personnel was an idea "worth evaluating," but did not elaborate.

## **RELIGION**

### **Pope Benedict names new Hong Kong bishop** (April 15, 2009, Reuters)

Pope Benedict appointed John Tong Hon as the new bishop of Hong Kong's Roman Catholic Church after his predecessor in the high-profile post retired, the Vatican said on Wednesday. In a statement, it said the pope had formally agreed to the retirement for reasons of age of Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kiun, whose outspoken views on democratic and religious freedoms had drawn criticism from Beijing. According to newspaper reports, Tong has hinted that he would take a more flexible approach than his predecessor and seek to bridge Vatican and China ties. He is also expected to become a cardinal sometime in the future. Tong had been named Hong Kong's associate bishop last year, paving the way for him to succeed Zen, 77, who had long asked to retire.

## **HEALTH**

### **China reports 7 new deaths from child virus** (April 16, 2009, AP)

Seven more children have died in an especially virulent outbreak of hand, foot and mouth disease in central China, bringing this year's death toll from the virus to 57, state media reported Thursday. About 126,000 cases have been reported this year — nearly 55,000 in March alone, 31 of which were fatal. Almost all patients were children under age 5. Health officials have said this year's strain is especially strong. In China's central Henan province alone, 25 deaths have been reported among about 31,000 cases, up 50 percent from figures released last week, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. The seven deaths reported Thursday occurred in Henan. State media reported last year that the virus sickened 27,000 children and killed dozens in the first few months of 2008 before reports of outbreaks subsided in May.

### **Average life expectancy of Chinese to reach 73 by 2010** (April 13, 2009, Xinhua)

The average life expectancy of Chinese is expected to reach 73 years by 2010, according to the National Human Rights Action Plan of China (2009-2010) released Monday by the Information Office of the State Council, or Cabinet. The basic framework for the basic health care system covering the entire nation will be established by 2010, to make China among the countries where the national basic health service is available, according to the plan. The main goals expected to be reached in 2010 also includes: infant mortality rate, below 14.9 per thousand; mortality rate of children under five, below 17.7 per thousand; mortality rate of pregnant and lying-in women, below 40 per 100,000; and the free national immunity vaccination program for children, 95 percent in cities and 90 percent in the countryside.

## **SOCIETY / LIFE**

### **China's birth limits create dangerous gender gap** (February 10, 2009, AP)

China has 32 million more young men than young women — a gender gap that could lead to increasing crime — because parents facing strict birth limits abort female fetuses to have a son, a study released Friday said. The imbalance is expected to steadily worsen among people of childbearing age over the next two decades and could trigger a slew of social problems, including a possible spike in crime by young men unable to find female partners, said an author of the report published in the BMJ, formerly known as the British Medical Journal. The study said analysis of China's 2005 census data extrapolated that males under age 20 exceeded their female counterparts by a whopping 32 million. The study found that China has 119 male births for every 100 girls, compared with 107 to 100 for industrialized countries.

### **China newspaper urges government name quake dead** (April 15, 2009, Reuters)

A Chinese state newspaper has urged the government to swiftly release a full list of those killed in last year's devastating earthquake, including schoolchildren, saying official vows to improve rights demand such disclosure. The call was made on Wednesday by the Southern Metropolitan Daily, a popular and outspoken tabloid published in the southern city of Guangzhou. "If we let the names of the dead lie

buried, human rights can have no place of trust," the paper said in an editorial. The call comes at a sensitive time, a month before the first anniversary of the May 12 quake across southwest China that killed 80,000 or more people, mostly in Sichuan province.

**Doctors confirm contender for world's tallest man** (April 14, 2009, AFP)

A contender for world's tallest man underwent foot surgery at a Chinese hospital where doctors confirmed he is 10 centimetres (four inches) taller than the current title-holder, state press said Tuesday. Zhao Liang, 27, was measured at 2.46 metres when he had an operation at a hospital in Tianjin city to relieve an injury suffered nearly a decade ago, Xinhua news agency reported. It was when he sustained the initial injury that doctors first found out Zhao was taller than fellow countryman Bao Xishun, who is listed by the Guinness World Records as the world's tallest man, the report said.

**China to build subway to terracotta warrior museum** (April 13, 2009, AFP)

China's ancient capital of Xian is to build an underground line to the museum of the famed terracotta warriors, one of the nation's most prized tourist attractions, state press said Monday. The 30-kilometre (18-mile) line will extend from Xian's city centre to the museum that houses the clay warriors that were buried more than 2,200 years ago near the tomb of China's first emperor, Qin Shihuang, Xinhua news agency said. Travel time from the city centre to the museum will take 50 minutes when the subway is completed in 2013, it said.

**More than 174,000 Chinese mainlanders visit Taiwan in 10 months** (April 15, 2009, Xinhua)

More than 174,000 Chinese mainland tourists visited Taiwan from July last year through early April, the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office spokesman Li Weiwei said here Wednesday. Of those, 67 percent, or more than 117,000 mainlanders, traveled to Taiwan in the first four months this year. The daily number of mainland visitors to the island via organized trips reached about 3,000 at the end of March, he said. That number soared to more than 4,000 on April 7.

**Beijing drops as tourist destination** (April 10, 2009, Xinhua)

A combination of factors, apart from the financial crisis, have resulted in less overseas tourists visiting Beijing. The number of holidaymakers visiting the capital fell by 11 percent to 436,491 in January and February this year, Gu Xiaoyuan, deputy chief of Beijing tourism administration, said yesterday. The amount of tourists from Japan and South Korea - which represented 40 percent of the inbound market in recent years - decreased by 16 percent on the same period last year.

**Number of mainland multimillionaires hits 825,000** (April 15, 2009, China Daily)

More than 825,000 people in China's mainland are multimillionaires, according to the Hurun wealth report released on Wednesday. Among the wealthy, 51,000 have more than 100 million yuan, said the report. It was the first report of its kind drafted by British man Rupert Hoogewerf, who has been compiling China's rich list since 1999. According to the new report, the number of wealthy people with more than 10 million yuan in Beijing, Guangdong and Shanghai made up nearly half of the total. Beijing, with a population at more than 16 million, boasts the highest number of millionaires -- at around 143,000.

**BUSINESS / ECONOMICS / TRADE**

**China says economic growth slowest in 10 years** (April 16, 2009, AFP)

China announced its slowest economic growth in at least a decade on Thursday, with the worldwide downturn cooling expansion to just 6.1 percent in the first quarter of the year. After seeing 6.8 percent growth in the fourth quarter of 2008, the figure underlined the impact the global crisis is having on China's export-dependent economy, which in recent years has been used to double-digit expansion.

The figure follows nine percent growth for all of 2008, and comes amid concerns that China this year will experience its slowest economic expansion in 19 years. Before the global economic crisis struck, China had experienced double-digit growth from 2003 to 2007.

### **China's economy shows signs of recovery** (April 13, 2009, AP)

China's economy is showing signs of a nascent recovery, but even officials who want to boost public confidence warn a rebound faces risks from the global crisis and is not yet certain. Imports of oil, iron ore and other raw materials rose in March, reflecting the impact of Beijing's multibillion-dollar stimulus spending on industry. Home and auto sales are up, suggesting consumers might be more willing to spend. A rebound for China, the world's third-largest economy, could help other countries by boosting demand for their exports, though analysts say China alone cannot propel the global economy out of its worst slump since the 1930s.

### **China forex reserves fall in February** (April 11, 2009, AFP)

China's forex reserves, the largest in the world, fell to 1.9121 trillion dollars at the end of February, from 1.9135 trillion a month earlier, the central bank announced. At the end of March, the country's forex reserves rose to 1.9537 trillion dollars, up from 1.946 trillion in December, the bank said on its Internet site.

### **Administration declines to cite China on currency** (April 15, 2009, AP)

The Obama administration on Wednesday declined to cite China as a country that is manipulating its currency to gain unfair trade advantages. The finding in a semiannual Treasury Department report comes after Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said during his Senate confirmation hearings that President Barack Obama believed China was manipulating its currency.

### **Foreign direct investment falls again in China** (April 15, 2009, AFP)

Foreign direct investment in China fell 9.5 percent in March for the sixth straight monthly fall, but there were some signs the worst could be over, the government said. Foreign firms invested 8.4 billion dollars in the country last month, a decline of 9.5 percent year-on-year but still the largest amount since October, the commerce ministry said. The drop in March also narrowed from year-on-year falls in January and February, which saw declines of 32.7 percent and 15.8 percent respectively.

## **LINKS TO DETAILED ARTICLES AND ANALYSIS**

### **How did China's millionaires get so rich?** (April 13, 2009, UPI)

The number of Chinese with private equity valued at 10 million yuan (US\$1.46 million) or more is expected to grow to 320,000 by the end of 2009... The China Private Wealth Report 2009, based on careful research and a rigorous statistical model, examined the investment attitudes and behavior of China's wealthiest citizens.

[http://www.upiasia.com/Society\\_Culture/2009/04/13/how\\_did\\_chinas\\_millionaires\\_get\\_so\\_rich/2430/](http://www.upiasia.com/Society_Culture/2009/04/13/how_did_chinas_millionaires_get_so_rich/2430/)

### **Is China's Economy Strong Enough To Save the World?** (April 10, 2009, Time, by Simon Elegant)

Some China-watchers see a light at the end of the tunnel for the country's faltering economy. These optimists note that there are mounting signs that the government's stimulus efforts — and in particular the flood of credit unleashed by the Central Bank last November — are beginning to have an impact.

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1890568,00.html>

### **Growth Spreads From China's Coast** (April 13, 2009, The New York Times, by Alan Wheatley)

Like a spreading ink blot, messy and uneven, economic growth is seeping inland from the coastal provinces that have been in the vanguard of China's phenomenal growth over the past 30 years.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/04/14/business/global/14insideasia.html?ref=global>

**China's Catholics celebrate tense Easter** (April 11, 2009, AFP)

Easter for China's Catholics has a familiar ring this year as priests and activists say 60 years of government repression of those loyal to the Pope shows no sign of easing.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090412/ts\\_afp/chinareligioneastervatican](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20090412/ts_afp/chinareligioneastervatican)

**HIV/AIDS Deaths on Rise in China** (April 8, 2009, by Kayla Webley)

While most industrialized nations have seen HIV/AIDS death rates steadily decline in the past 10 years, China announced in February that the HIV virus took the lead as the deadliest infectious disease in the nation in 2008, killing nearly 7,000 people in the first nine months of the year.

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1890270,00.html>

**BLOG POSTS**

**Beijing Sixty-Six: Portrait of a Lost Generation** (April 13, 2009, The China Beat)

A friend of the blog forwarded to us information about a current exhibition in Shanghai, "Beijing Sixty Six," which features startling photographs of the Cultural Revolution by Solange Brand.

<http://thechinabeat.blogspot.com/2009/04/beijing-sixty-six-portrait-of-lost.html>

**Tiananmen Moon: Preface** (April 16, 2009, The China Beat)

Cunningham's forthcoming book, *Tiananmen Moon: Inside the Chinese Student Uprising of 1989*

(<http://www.rowmanlittlefield.com/Catalog/SingleBook.shtml?command=Search&db=%5EDDB/CATALOG.db&eqSKUdata=0742566730>) (Rowman & Littlefield, May 2009) details his story of the events. In

honor of the 20th anniversary, Cunningham will be sharing selections from his book at *China Beat* over the coming months.

<http://thechinabeat.blogspot.com/2009/04/tiananmen-moon-preface.html>

**China's Olympic venues now** (April 14, 2009, James Reynold's Beijing)

One simple question has defeated most Olympic hosts: what do you do with your collection of expensive and entirely empty stadiums once the Games are over? Beijing believes it's come up with an answer: let everyone come in and have a good nose around. One simple question has defeated most Olympic hosts: what do you do with your collection of expensive and entirely empty stadiums once the Games are over? Beijing believes it's come up with an answer: let everyone come in and have a good nose around.

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/thereporters/jamesreynolds/2009/04/chinas\\_olympic\\_venues\\_now.html](http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/thereporters/jamesreynolds/2009/04/chinas_olympic_venues_now.html)

**Rebecca MacKinnon: My chat with anti-cnn.com** (April 16, 2009, RConversations, via China Digital Times)

On Monday, Rebecca MacKinnon met with the co-founder and web team of Anti-CNN.com. Rebecca summarizes some of the main points of the discussion on her website:

<http://rconversation.blogs.com/rconversation/2009/04/on-monday-afternoon-i-did-an-online-chat-with-these-patriotic-young-people-who-run-anti-cnn-a-website-launched-in-the-wake.html> (note: both sites are blocked in China)

**The Magic Touch** (April 15, 2009, The Beijinger)

A picturesque hutong courtyard is not your typical hospital locale, but then again, the Beijing Massage Hospital (<http://www.thebeijinger.com/directory/Beijing-Massage-Hospital>) is not your typical hospital.

<http://www.thebeijinger.com/blog/2009/04/15/The-Magic-Touch>

**LINKS IN CHINESE**

**全国流动人口计划生育服务三年内将全部免费** (April 14, 2009, Caijing)

<http://news.jinghua.cn/351/c/200904/16/n2526865.shtml>

**中国城市教会的使命与异象** (April 13, 2009, Jidu Net)

<http://www.jidunet.cn/content/200904/0413103T2009.html>

**神在中国的手** (April 14, 2009, Jidu Net)

<http://www.jidunet.cn/content/200904/0413103S2009.html>

**基督信仰在网络时代** (February 23, 2009, Jidu Net)

<http://www.jidunet.cn/content/200902/0223102212009.html>

**央视播放宣教士汤若望与明清帝国同行** (Gui Zheng Net)

<http://www.guizheng.net/article.asp?id=706>

## **LINKS FOR RESEARCHERS**

**The Coming of Age: China's New Class of Wealthy Consumers** (McKinsey & Company)

[http://www.mckinsey.com/locations/greaterchina/mckonchina/reports/mcKinsey\\_wealthy\\_consumer\\_report.pdf](http://www.mckinsey.com/locations/greaterchina/mckonchina/reports/mcKinsey_wealthy_consumer_report.pdf)

**The Historical Record for April 15, 2009: The Death of Hu Yaobang** (April 15, 2009, Jottings from the Granite Studio)

Today marks 20 years since the death of Hu Yaobang, former General Secretary of the CCP and one of Deng Xiaoping's key allies in inaugurating the Reform and Opening Era.

<http://granitestudio.org/2009/04/15/the-historical-record-for-april-15-2009-the-death-of-hu-yaobang/>

**China's excess males, sex selective abortion, and one child policy: analysis of data from 2005 national intercensus survey** (April 9, 2009, BMJ)

[http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/abstract/338/apr09\\_2/b1211](http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/abstract/338/apr09_2/b1211)

**The rise of political Confucianism in contemporary China** (Inside-Out China)

[http://www.google.com/reader/view/?utm\\_campaign=en&utm\\_source=en-ha-ww-ww-bk&utm\\_medium=ha&utm\\_term=google+reader#stream/feed%2Fhttp%3A%2F%2Fwww.insideoutchina.com%2Ffeeds%2Fposts%2Fdefault](http://www.google.com/reader/view/?utm_campaign=en&utm_source=en-ha-ww-ww-bk&utm_medium=ha&utm_term=google+reader#stream/feed%2Fhttp%3A%2F%2Fwww.insideoutchina.com%2Ffeeds%2Fposts%2Fdefault)

## **RESOURCES**

**Images from the Cultural Revolution**, Thomas A. Hahn Docu-images

<http://hahn.zenfolio.com/f320124069>

**Tiananmen: The Gate of Heavenly Peace**

<http://tsquare.tv/>

**Terracotta Typewriter: A Cultural Revolution of Literature**

[http://www.tctype.com/?page\\_id=114](http://www.tctype.com/?page_id=114)

**Bible Broadcasting Network**

<http://www.bbnradio.org/wcm4/schinese/PreHome/tabid/3104/Default.aspx>

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<https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/ChinaSource/ZGBriefsDonation.html>