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FEATURED ARTICLE

Overview: Three Generations View China at 60 (National Public Radio)

The People's Republic of China turns 60 this year. The world's most populous country has undergone a remarkable transition since its birth as a communist state.

Part 1: Finding flaws in the national character

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=104056407>

Part 2: Chinese author sees breakdown of values

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=104435507>

GOVERNMENT / POLITICS / FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Geithner to meet top Chinese leaders (May 27, 2009, AFP)

US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner will meet with President Hu Jintao to discuss expansion of ties and current economic turmoil during his trip to Beijing on June 1-2, officials said Wednesday. The economic pointman of President Barack Obama will also meet Premier Wen Jiabao and Vice Premier Wang Qishan during the visit, his first to China since taking office on January 26. The meetings would involve "a range of issues of importance to both countries, including strengthening US-China economic ties to promote stable, balanced and sustained economic growth in the two nations and further global economic recovery," a Treasury statement said.

China lawyers in touchy cases could be disbarred (May 27, 2009, AP)

China's judiciary is warning law firms to rein in lawyers who take up human rights and other politically sensitive cases, lawyers said Wednesday, increasing the pressure in a government campaign that has so far failed to curb growing legal activism. Lawyers said authorities had met or talked on the phone with senior members of at least nine law firms in recent weeks, urging them to not seek the renewal of licenses for certain lawyers or to submit partial applications that would allow authorities to reject them on technicalities. If carried through, the disbarments would mark the broadest effort in recent years by China's authoritarian government to rein in a growing number of activist lawyers.

Dissidents claim Tiananmen anniversary crackdown (May 27, 2009, AFP)

China is tightening curbs on key dissidents before next week's sensitive 20th anniversary of the bloody crackdown on the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests, activists and their relatives said. Authorities from the public security ministry took dissident Bao Tong -- a former aide to late Chinese leader Zhao Ziyang, who was purged for sympathising with pro-democracy protesters -- out of Beijing on Monday, his son told AFP. Another dissident, Jiang Qisheng, told AFP that police had been stationed at his Beijing home around the clock and were following him everywhere. Bao Tong had agreed to leave Beijing before the English version of "Prisoner of the State" came out in mid-May, his son said, adding that his father was taken to Huangshan, a scenic mountain region in eastern China's Anhui province. He was scheduled to return to Beijing on June 7.

China 'resolutely opposed' to NKorean nuke test (May 26, 2009, AP)

China's government says it is "resolutely opposed" to the nuclear weapons test carried out by communist neighbor and ally North Korea. A Foreign Ministry statement says the North carried out Monday's test in defiance of the international community and its own commitments to denuclearize the Korean peninsula.

Former China official says he helped Zhao on memoir (May 21, 2009, AFP)

A former top official in China has said he and three others secretly helped deposed leader Zhao Ziyang pen a memoir in which he sharply criticises the violent crackdown on the 1989 Tiananmen protests. Du Daozheng, once the head of China's state publishing watchdog, said he and three former top officials transcribed recordings made by Zhao that were later turned into the recently published English-language "Prisoner of the State". Du said three ex-officials -- Xiao Hongda, former vice head of the party's disciplinary commission; Yao Xihua, former chief editor of the Guangming Daily; and Du Xingyuan, a former cabinet secretary -- helped him with Zhao's tapes. "After the recordings were made, Xiao Hongda and myself locked ourselves in a room and listened," Du said in the statement made public by Bao Pu, the publisher of the Chinese version of the book and the son of a former top Zhao aide. "We felt that the recordings were extremely important, logical and accurate. All we needed to do was to transcribe them and we would have a book." Du called the book "incomparable" to anything previously written about China's early years of economic reform and the period leading up to the Tiananmen crackdown. His statement will be the preface to the Chinese-language version of "Prisoner of the State" due to be released late this month in Hong Kong to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the protests, Bao told AFP.

Chinese President Meets Leader of Taiwanese Party (May 26, 2009, The New York Times)

President Hu Jintao of China hosted the leader of Taiwan's governing party in Beijing on Tuesday, as both sides promised closer economic ties and a continued thaw in relations between the rivals. China promoted the visit as a step toward more investment in Taiwan's technology sector, while Taiwanese officials said they hoped to benefit from an influx of mainland Chinese tourists.

RELIGION

Pope urges China reconciliation (May 25, 2009, BBC News)

The Pope has told Chinese Catholics of the officially tolerated Patriotic Church and those who worship secretly take steps towards reconciliation. Beijing broke off formal diplomatic relations with the Vatican in 1951, and Catholic worship is only permitted in officially recognised churches. But members of the underground church have kept their allegiance to Rome. It is estimated that, altogether, there are more than 10m Catholics throughout China.

HEALTH

China defends safety of drug exports (May 26, 2009, AFP)

Chinese pharmaceutical exports are safe, a senior official said Tuesday, dismissing media reports that the country was a major exporter of fake or shoddy drugs as "sensational." "I cannot agree with some foreign media allegations that China has become a major exporter of fake drugs," Bian Zhenjia, deputy commissioner of the State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA), told reporters. Bian was asked during a press briefing to comment on reports of Chinese-made counterfeit pharmaceutical products being exported overseas. In January, London-based newspaper The Observer reported that Chinese drug counterfeiters were producing copies of the world's bestselling pharmaceuticals. The report said those drug pirates managed to sell an estimated eight million fake pills to the British healthcare system in 2008.

SOCIETY / LIFE

China tea farmers attack police station (May 26, 2009, AFP)

Hundreds of angry tea farmers attacked a police station in southern China after rumours spread that one man had been killed in custody for fighting for farmers' rights, state media said. The attackers damaged the station in Guangdong province with stones and bricks and set police vehicles on fire in Saturday's incident, the China Daily said of the latest in a string of attacks on Chinese police stations. The riot lasted more than four hours before being brought under control, it said, giving no other information on damage or injuries. Tea farmers in the city of Yingde have complained for years that authorities have not provided them with required medical insurance, social pensions and unemployment compensation, the paper said.

Village officials jailed for China quake aid graft (May 26, 2009, AFP)

A court in southwestern China's quake zone sentenced three village officials to jail terms of seven years each for taking bribes to distribute earthquake relief funds, state media said. The officials had organised a lottery for victims of last year's devastating Sichuan earthquake in which the winners would get government funds intended to help quake-hit families get back on their feet, the Beijing News said. The officials in Jinya village near the city of Mianyang then accepted bribes from households to influence the results, it said.

China to move 330,000 people for water project (May 24, 2009, AFP)

About 330,000 people in central China are to be evicted from their homes to make way for a reservoir that will form part of a massive water diversion project, state media said Sunday. More than two-thirds of the people in Hubei and Henan provinces would be relocated to about 50 nearby counties and cities, the official Xinhua news agency quoted Zhang Jiyao, head of the project, as saying. According to the project's website, the relocation of the 330,000 people is expected to be completed by the end of 2013.

Passer-by pushes suicide jumper in south China (May 24, 2009, AP)

Chen Fuchao, a man heavily in debt, had been contemplating suicide on a bridge in southern China for hours when a passer-by came up, shook his hand — and pushed him off the ledge. Chen fell 26 feet (8 meters) onto a partially inflated emergency air cushion laid out by authorities and survived, suffering spine and elbow injuries, the official Xinhua News Agency said Saturday. The passer-by, 66-year-old Lai Jiansheng, had been fed up with what he called Chen's "selfish activity," Xinhua said. Traffic around the Haizhu bridge in the city of Guangzhou had been backed up for five hours and police had cordoned off the area. "I pushed him off because jumpers like Chen are very selfish. Their action violates a lot of public interest," Lai was quoted as saying by Xinhua. "They do not really dare to kill themselves. Instead, they just want to raise the relevant government authorities' attention to their appeals." Xinhua said Lai was "taken away by police" but did not elaborate.

Report: Sichuan quake sites to open to tourists (May 23, 2009, AP)

Sections of streets, schools and bridges destroyed during last year's massive earthquake in southwestern China will soon be open to tourists, state media said Saturday. Ruins from the May 12 quake centered in Sichuan province that left almost 90,000 people dead or missing have become a draw for visitors, especially during national holidays, the Xinhua News Agency reported. "There is a huge tourism market in the ruins," Wu Mian, deputy director of the Sichuan provincial tourism department, was quoted as saying. "We cannot block the tourists out," he said. "We also hope the tourists watch their behavior and not hurt the quake survivors' feelings."

10 arrested in east China over brick kiln slavery (May 22, 2009, AP)

Police in eastern China have arrested 10 men for allegedly enslaving mentally handicapped people who were forced to work at brick kilns and endure beatings, an officer said Friday. A total of 32 people were freed in an April 28 raid on the kilns located on the outskirts of the city of Jiesshou in Anhui province, the police officer said, confirming a report by the official Xinhua News Agency. The victims were all mentally handicapped people between the ages of 25 and 45, said the officer, who declined to give her

name as is common with Chinese officials. The boss of the operation told police he bought the laborers from a taxi driver in neighboring Shandong province who had picked them up off the street, the officer said. The victims were forced to work up to 10 hours per day with no pay and beaten if they refused.

Flu scare chills China's holiday tourism (May 27, 2009, Xinhua)

Chinese tour companies are promoting short, domestic trips for the upcoming three-day holiday as the A/H1N1 flu casts a shadow over travel. The traditional Dragon Boat Festival begins Thursday, when the Chinese eat sticky rice cakes wrapped in bamboo leaves and watch dragon boat matches to mark the death of Qu Yuan, one of China's most famous poets. But the three-day holiday has prompted fewer people this year to travel abroad as more than 12,000 cases of A/H1N1 flu have been reported around the world. China International Travel Service (CITS) cancelled trips to Europe and Japan after the flu broke out overseas. Bookings for tours to some countries where the flu was reported dropped by more than 50 percent against the same period last year, it said.

China to crack down on Internet bars: state media (May 28, 2009, AFP)

China will launch a four-month crackdown on unapproved Internet cafes, state media said Thursday, signalling heightened vigilance ahead of two politically sensitive anniversaries. The crackdown, lasting from June 1 to September 30, is aimed at preventing youths from gaining access to obscene and violent Web content, the China Daily said.

China's sports stars score political points (May 23, 2009, Singapore Straits Times)

Table tennis gold medallists Deng Ya-ping and Wang Nan have swapped their bats and balls for the suits and ties of officialdom in recent months. While athletes used to go into sports-related jobs in the government, the pair are believed to be the first to join the Communist Youth League - the power base of Chinese President Hu Jintao. Analyst Xu Guoqi, who wrote *Olympic Dreams: China And Sports*, said that it is a 'new trend' for retired athletes to enter politics directly. In the past, the closest prominent Chinese athletes get to the halls of politics was through avenues like the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the top advisory body to China's Parliament. But such delegates to the CPPCC are not full-time politicians, and appear for meetings as 'advisers' once or twice a year.

ENVIRONMENT / SCIENCE / TECHNOLOGY

China ready to cooperate with US on climate change: report (May 27, 2009, AFP)

China is ready to strengthen its cooperation with the United States to combat climate change, Premier Wen Jiabao told US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Wednesday, state media reported. China, the third-largest economy in the world, is one of the biggest polluters but as a developing country is not bound by the Kyoto Protocol.

China to build world's largest quake simulator (May 26, 2009, AFP)

A Chinese university said Tuesday it had started to build the world's largest quake simulator, a week after the first anniversary of the deadly earthquake in southwest China. It will be used to accurately test the designs of bridges, tunnels, subways, stadiums and skyscrapers, Shanghai's Tongji University said in an emailed statement. The four vibrating platforms, capable of carrying 200 tonnes, will generate a simulated quake to test a model's capacity to withstand the destructive power generated by the movement of the Earth's crust. Currently the world's largest quake simulator is at the University of Nevada in the United States, but it can only handle about half the capacity of the Tongji simulator, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

BUSINESS / ECONOMICS / TRADE

China unveils new measures to boost exports (May 27, 2009, AFP)

China on Wednesday unveiled new measures to help exporters, which have been hard hit by falling overseas demand due to the global economic crisis, state media reported. At a meeting presided over by Premier Wen Jiabao, for 2009 the government decided to increase export credit insurance to 84 billion dollars and export credit to 10 billion dollars, according to CCTV television. It also said it would keep the yuan currency "basically stable" at a "reasonable and balanced" level to support export firms.

China looking at boosting private role in industry (May 26, 2009, AP)

China says it may encourage private investment in state-controlled industries such as railways, oil and power generation in an effort to boost the efficiency of the world's third-largest economy. The announcement Monday by China's top planning agency comes as Beijing tries to boost growth and combat the impact of the global downturn. It would affect areas deemed strategically important and key to national security.

China still buying record amounts of U.S. bonds: report (May 25, 2009, Reuters)

China's official foreign exchange manager is still buying record amounts of U.S. government bonds, in spite of Beijing's increasingly vocal fear of a dollar collapse, the Financial Times reported. In a story on its website, the FT quoted Chinese and western officials in Beijing as saying China was caught in a "dollar trap." The newspaper said China had little choice but to keep pouring the bulk of its growing reserves into U.S. Treasuries, which remains the only market big enough and liquid enough to support its huge purchases.

Lenovo reports losses as sales plummet (May 21, 2009, AFP)

China's Lenovo, the world's fourth largest maker of personal computers, Thursday reported a net loss of 226.4 million US dollars in the 2008-09 fiscal year citing structural changes and weak sales. The company also reported a fourth quarter net loss of 264 million US dollars compared with a net profit of 140 million in the same period a year earlier, and a 484.3 million profit for the whole of 2007-08. Lenovo said demand for its personal computers slumped amid the global economic downturn, notably in the US and India, with revenue falling to 14.90 billion dollars for 2008-09, down from 16.35 billion dollars the previous year.

HP recalls 15,000 laptop batteries sold in China (May 26, 2009, Reuters)

Hewlett-Packard Co, the world's largest PC maker, is recalling 15,000 laptop batteries distributed in China because of a danger they could overheat, China said on Tuesday on its quality inspections web site. HP China will replace the batteries -- used in HP Pavilion, Compaq Presario and HP Compaq models -- for free because in extreme conditions they can overheat and pose a fire hazard, the government said on its website (www.aqsiq.gov.cn).

LINKS TO DETAILED ARTICLES AND ANALYSIS

China debates its bond with North Korea (May 27, 2009, The Los Angeles Times, by Barbara Demick)

The longtime ties between the communist regimes are enduring some questioning among Chinese, who were rattled by the nuclear test near their border.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-fg-china-korea27-2009may27,0,4005894.story>

Beijing weighs its options (May 27, 2009, Asia Times Online, by Jing-dong Yuan)

North Korea's latest nuclear test again puts China on the spot. The issue, though, is not whether Beijing has the leverage and is willing to use it against Pyongyang; it is the calculation of what impacts on what

specific goals such pressure would generate, given that China's overriding and vital concern is stability on the Korean Peninsula.

<http://www.atimes.com/atimes/China/KE28Ad02.html>

Chinese woman who killed official bailed after online outcry (May 27, 2009, The Guardian, by Tania Branigan)

Chinese police have released on bail a woman who became an unwilling hero to tens of thousands of compatriots after stabbing to death an official who she said tried to rape her

(<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/may/26/china-woman-yujiao-stabs-official-self-defence>) when she rejected his advances.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/may/27/china-bails-deng-yujiao>

Failed Government Policies Sparked Tibet Riots (May 26, 2009, Time, by Austin Ramzy)

The report, which was recently published on a Chinese website, blames the riots not on outsiders but on Beijing's policy toward Tibet, claiming the central government has backed incompetent local officials, created an economy that provides few options for young people, and deprived Tibetans of access to equal justice under the law.

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1900899,00.html>

Commentary: Time to stop talking of renminbi as reserve currency (May 26, 2009, Financial Times, by Arthur Kroeber)

One baleful consequence of the global financial crisis has been a swarm of ill-informed commentary about the decline of the US and the dollar, and the rise of China and the renminbi. Such hyperbolic claims about a tectonic shift in global power relations are bunkum.

<http://blogs.ft.com/dragonbeat/2009/05/26/time-to-stop-talking-of-renminbi-as-reserve-currency/>

China picks core new leaders (May 23, 2009, Asia Times Online, by Willy Lam)

China's Communist Party has set its sights on leadership rejuvenation, with several fifth-generation cadres now under the political spotlight. Among the chosen ones is Zhou Qiang, governor of economic power house Hunan. Like most members of the party clique, though, these 50-something rising stars are not without faults.

<http://www.atimes.com/atimes/China/KE23Ad02.html>

In rural China, a bumper crop of new car owners (May 27, 2009, The Los Angeles Times, by Don Lee)

It's all part of Beijing's "Send Automobiles to the Countryside" campaign, an effort to speed rural development and boost domestic consumption at a time when foreign demand for China's manufacturing exports is slumping. The government is also giving people in the countryside rebates for buying refrigerators and other appliances.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/asia/la-fi-chinacars27-2009may27,0,4327841.story?track=rss>

To Protect an Ancient City, China Moves to Raze It (May 27, 2009, The New York Times, by Michael Wines)

Over the next few years, city officials say, they will demolish at least 85 percent of this warren of picturesque, if run-down homes and shops.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/28/world/asia/28kashgar.html?partner=rss&emc=rss>

New holidays woo Chinese back to tradition (May 28, 2009, AP)

The government's decision to elevate three traditional festivals to national holidays gives Chinese, especially city dwellers, a chance to return to their roots and marks an evolution in the country's leisure time.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090528/ap_on_re_as/as_china_holidays

Tiananmen protests a distant memory for China youth (May 27, 2009, Reuters, by Ben Blanchard)

Final year Chinese university student Li Teng knows finding a job during the global economic crisis will be tough. Yet he shakes his head at the thought of taking to the streets to protest.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20090528/wl_nm/us_china_tiananmen_youth

Audio: Duration 22 Minutes (May 26, 2009, BBC News)

James Miles, the BBC's China correspondent in 1989 was an eyewitness to the events leading up to the Tiananmen Square protests.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/documentaries/2009/05/090526_lostvoices_tiananmen_audio2.shtml

BLOG POSTS

In today's headlines, an absence speaks a thousand words (May 27, 2009, China Media Project)

It's no secret that coverage of the 20th anniversary of the June 4th crackdown in Beijing (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiananmen_Square_protests_of_1989) is off limits to China's media. But that doesn't exactly mean China is passing the anniversary in silence. If you read China's newspapers closely, in fact, you'll realize a great deal is being said — and more to the point, *done* — about this highly sensitive anniversary.

<http://cmp.hku.hk/2009/05/27/1647/>

Xu Youyu (徐友渔): From 1989 to 2009: 20 Years of Evolution in Chinese Thought (1) (May 25, China Digital Times)

During Mother's Day weekend on May 10th, a number of intellectuals in Beijing organized a seminar discussing 20 years of the democracy movement in China. Xu Youyu (徐友渔), professor and researcher at Philosophy Institute of CASS, presented the following text at the seminar, from peacehall.com, translated by E. Shih:

<http://chinadigitaltimes.net/2009/05/xu-youyu-%E5%BE%90%E5%8F%8B%E6%B8%94-from-1989-to-2009-20-years-of-evolution-in-chinese-thought-1/>

China's Modern Authoritarianism (May 25, 2009, The Wall Street Journal, by Perry Link and Joshua Kurlantzick)

The Party's top priority remains what it has always been: the maintenance of absolute political power. Economic growth has not sparked democratic change, as one-party rule persists. Through a sophisticated adaptation of its system -- including leveraging the market to maintain political control -- China's Communist Party has modernized its authoritarianism to fit the times.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124319304482150525.html>

Can China embrace its history and Zhao Ziyang's memoir? (May 24, 2009, East Asia Forum)

As one whose task it was – together with some excellent colleagues – to report and try to make sense of events as they unfolded in China from 1988 to their tragic denouement on the night of 3-4 June 1989, Zhao's account comes as very welcome confirmation that, basically, we got it right.

<http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2009/05/24/can-china-embrace-its-history-and-zhao-ziyangs-memoir/>

Comparing China, US Internet usage (May 25, 2009, The Tech Dynasty)

A couple of days ago Silicon Alley Insider posted a chart displaying the differences and similarities between Chinese and US Web usership. The chart mines and melds data from the Pew Research Center and China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC, why isn't it CINIC?). There were no huge surprises, but it does give a pretty good overview of how the world's top two Netizen bases use this fandangled thing we call the World Wide Web.

<http://asia.cnet.com/blogs/thetechdynasty/post.htm?id=63010988>

Why China Won't Do More With North Korea (May 27, 2009, Pomfret's China)

First, there's a silly assumption in Washington that our interests (no nukes in North Korea) are the same as China's. But they're not. China's first interest in North Korea is making sure the Kim regime doesn't collapse. China's second interest? Making sure the Kim regime doesn't collapse. From Beijing's perspective, nukes in North Korea rank somewhere around 10th.

http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/postglobal/pomfretschina/2009/05/can_china_really_do_more_with.html

LINKS FOR RESEARCHERS

Beyond the Strait: PLA Missions other than Taiwan (a 2009 free download E-book)

Strategic Studies Institute (SSI), U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, PA, US

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124319304482150525.html>

RESOURCES

The China Analyst (ChinaSourcing Blog)

<http://www.chinasourcingblog.org/The%20China%20Analyst%20-%20May%202009.pdf>

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