China vows to press ahead
AUG 5 2010  5:00PM

From *NPQ*, a special section on China. From *Portal*, a special issue on *Post-Mao, Post-Bourdieu: Class and Taste in Contemporary China.* From the *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs*, Baohui Zhang (Lingnan): *Chinese Foreign Policy in Transition: Trends and Implications*; and Arjan de Haan (Erasmus): *The Financial Crisis and China’s “Harmonious Society”*; and a special issue on *Taiwan*. From *FT*, a review essay on China.

In its range and depth, *physics in China* is much like physics in other big, technologically advanced countries; the historical, political, and social contexts, however, are China’s own. A review of *The Party: the Secret World of China’s Communist Rulers* by Richard McGregor. A review of *When a Billion Chinese Jump: How China Will Save Mankind — Or Destroy It* by Jonathan Watts (and more and more and more). What's best for the west:


A method that could help
AUG 5 2010  3:00PM

From HistoryNet.com, here is a short history of the filibuster. From *Essays in Philosophy*, a review of *Information: A Very Short Introduction* by Luciano Floridi; a review of *Evolution and the Big Questions: Sex, Race, Religion, and Other Matters* by David N. Stamos; and a review of *Consuming Life* by Zygmunt Bauman. A review of *Cultivating an Ecological Conscience: Essays from a Farmer Philosopher* by Fred Kirschenmann. Telling fact
from fiction isn’t always easy on the Web; now researchers have discovered a method that could help automate the process. There are signs that underground shelters, almost-forgotten relics of the Cold War era, are making a comeback. Christine Kenneally reviews *The Rational Optimist* by Matt Ridley. A question for Barbara Fister: How do you decide what to read next? Under Pressure: Johan Lehrer on the search for a stress vaccine. Why, in this modern world of ours, has piracy managed to stage such an impressive comeback? Don’t be afraid of the snark: *Snark* is a great online tool — but don’t mistake it for real power. The statistical disconnect between money and happiness raises a fascinating question: Why doesn’t money make us happy? The end is near, no? Two-thousand years and we’re still here. No more vodka jokes: Russian comics have a new, funny side. Why doesn’t job retraining work? Despite billions spent and the best of intentions, the American workforce resists reinvention.

Animals live on

AUG 5 2010  1:00PM


The opposite of what you think

AUG 5 2010  11:00AM

From the *International Journal of Baudrillard Studies*, Gerry Coulter (Bishop’s): J. G. Ballard: Philosopher of the Future Present; and Harold Pinter: Forgetting What Art Knows. From the Mises Institute, Jeff Riggenbach on the brilliant but

Historians in public

AUG 5 2010  9:00AM

From EH.net, a review of Violence and Social Orders: A Conceptual Framework for Interpreting Recorded Human History by Douglass C. North, John Joseph Wallis, and Barry R. Weingast. Albert Mobilio reviews Cartographies of Time: A History of the Timeline by Daniel Rosenberg and Anthony Grafton. Saving the planet with postmodernist history: A review of Is History Fiction? by Ann Curthoys and John Docker. From the SSRC's Transformations of the Public Sphere, Thomas Bender on historians in public. From New Left Review, an interview with Eric Hobsbawm. A review of Hugh Trevor-Roper: The Biography by Adam Sisman (and more and more and more and more and more). Historian Michael A. Bellesiles tries to put an earlier scholarly scandal behind him with a new book (and more at The Chronicle of Higher Education). "Do you enjoy your high profile as a historian?": An interview with Niall Ferguson. Simon Schama talks about his new book and defends himself against the accusation of dumbing down. The first chapter from Twentieth Century History for Dummies by Sean Lang. From Cracked, a look at 5 world changing decisions (made for ridiculous reasons); 6 acts of propaganda that backfired hilariously; and 6 things from history everyone pictures incorrectly. Take cover when you hear a political leader talking about economic affairs: John S. Chamberlain on ten economic blunders from history.

The monological body of modernity

AUG 4 2010  5:00PM

Louis Kaplan (Toronto): Unknowing Susan Sontag's

**The exact value of prizes**

AUG 4 2010  3:00PM

From *Portal: Journal of Multidisciplinary International Studies*, a special issue on Fields of Remembrance. From TED, Naif Al-Mutawa on superheroes inspired by Islam. From The Activist, an interview with Stanislao Pugliese on Italian-American culture and identity and contemporary Italian politics. Abigail Deutsch reviews *Death Is Not an Option* by Suzanne Rivecca. From *Rain Taxi*, a review of *Teaching Critical Thinking: Practical Wisdom* by Bell Hooks; a review of *Modernism After Wagner* by Juliet Koss; a review of *Technologized Desire: Selfhood and the Body in Postcapitalist Science Fiction* by D. Harlan Wilson; and a review of *The Birth and Death of the Cool* by Ted Gioia. In thirty-eight years, The Price is Right never had a contestant guess the exact value of prizes in the Showcase showdown until Terry Kniess outsmarted everyone — and changed everything. In a desertifying world short of water, the utilitarian camel, and the ancient cultures that depend on it, offer a way to use land too poor to sustain anything else. Can the Sunlight Foundation's efforts during the financial-reform battle teach us lessons for the impending regulatory phase? One of the main things you’ll have to learn about in the world of Sovereign Citizenship is the importance of magic, such as the magical qualities of Capital Letters. A review of *No Dig, No Fly, No Go: How Maps Restrict and Control* by Mark Monmonier.
Foods for the end of the world

From Politics and Culture, a special issue on learning to learn from the food crisis, including Max Haiven (McMaster): Food, Finance, Crisis, Catalyst: Global Capitalism and the Revolutionary Value of Food Sovereignty; and an interview with Silvia Federici on capitalism, colonialism, women and food politics. Simon Schama on the language of food. From Oxford American, a special issue on Southern Food. From The New Atlantis, a review essay on the science of food and the culture of cooking. A review of Four Fish: The Future of the Last Wild Food by Paul Greenberg (and more and more and more and more and more and more). Hot on the Trail: Thomas A. P. Van Leeuwen on the culinary genius of Alexis Soyer. Bacon lovers vs. soy huggers: Jonathan Safran Foer, farmer Joel Salatin, and more experts debate the merits of vegetarianism with readers. Is gluttony destroying the world? Why over-consumption is a huge problem — and what we can do to stop it. A review of Stirring the Pot: A History of African Cuisine by James C. McCann. Are we running out of seafood? Convenience foods for the end of the world: From canned sandwiches to sushi popsicles to canned elephant, a tour through the pleasures of food technology. Which Hollywood mega-star ate cockroaches? An interview with Mark Jacob, author of What the Great Ate. Grow and Behold: A new line of kosher chicken launches a conversation around Jewish food ethics. A review of Au Revoir to All That: The Rise and Fall of French Cuisine by Michael Steinberger.

Generosity is boundless

A new issue of the Journal of Social, Evolutionary, and Cultural Psychology is out. Ronald R. Garet (USC): To Secure the Blessings. From Policy Review, Henry Sokolski on the high and hidden costs of nuclear power: An industry hooked on subsidies from governments; and Justin Muzinich on the nuke in the cargo hold: A reconsideration of flag-state sovereignty. From Vanity Fair, Christopher Hitchens on the Topic of Cancer. From Archeology, an interview with Marc Van De Mieroop on a long-neglected cuneiform collection. A review of Brilliant: The Evolution of Artificial Light by Jane Brox (and more and more and more and more and more). Conference of Cool: The TED conferences are billed as a talking shop for the world’s most dynamic thinkers. From Dark Roasted Blend, a look at the world’s strongest drinks and strange liquor. You can download the full standard version of the book Speculations I. A review of The Animal: Prose Poetry by Louis Bourgeois. He made his fortune in Russia and then returned to live in his home village, he is rarely seen but his generosity is boundless — who is the secret Georgian billionaire? People spend lifetimes quietly amassing proud collections of clocks, beer steins, whatever — they die and those collections get dumped in antique shops. Every year is the year everything changed — we just haven’t written a book about each one, yet.
Looking for a thrill on your next vacation? Here are seven resort destinations that are anything but tame.

Still haunted by Angry White Males

AUG 4 2010 9:00AM