



Global Matters

The newsletter of the Office of International Affairs

Volume 17, Summer 2011

Please Join Us!

OIA Summer Film Series



**12:00 Noon
CST
ACB 250**

**Thursday
August 4**

feature film:

The Wall: A World Divided

The rise and fall of the Berlin Wall.

Attendees are welcome to bring their own lunch.

Free snacks will be provided!

Please contact OIA at 806-743-2900 or cima@ttuhsc.edu if you have any questions.

See page 3 for the Fall 2011 OIA Film Series dates.

The Girl in the Picture

It's one of the most iconic images of the 20th century—a young girl, naked and crying, running from her Vietnam-



ese village as it burns in the background. The image, taken in June of 1972 after an aerial napalm attack near Trang Bang, testified to the horrors of the Vietnam War. The young girl was 9-year-old Kim Phuc. Just before the bombs fell, Kim had finished lunch and gone outside to play with her cousins. When villagers realized the temple was the target of an aerial attack, they told the children to run. But it was too late. Kim heard four loud thuds. The bombs hit the ground, and she was surrounded by fire. Her dress disintegrated in the flames. Her neck, shoulders, back, and left arm were severely burned. When Nick Ut, the photographer who took the image, saw Kim, he dropped his camera, scooped her up, and rushed her to the nearest hospital. Three days later, her parents found her in the morgue, left for dead.

Despite the severity of her injuries, Kim survived. She was transferred to a hospital in Saigon where she began an extensive recovery process. The pain from her burns was so intense she would often lose consciousness. The only place she found comfort from the pain was in the shower. She would stand under the showerhead, letting the cool water wash over her scarred body. Kim remained in the hospital for 14 months and endured 17 surgical procedures. The severity of her scars limited her mobility and caused constant pain. As a result of her disfigured body, Kim struggled to accept herself. She experienced moments of doubt and depression that were only eased by the love and support of her family.

As a young adult, Kim's dream was to study medicine. So much had been given to her throughout her recovery, and she wanted to give something back. At 19 she was accepted into medical school in Saigon. Attending was a challenge because the Vietnamese government had grown accustomed to using Kim as propaganda. For them, she was a symbol of war and a reminder of its high cost. She was watched closely and never allowed to leave the

country. Surprisingly in 1986, the Vietnamese government granted Kim permission to continue her studies in Havana. She moved to Cuba to pursue her dream. Because of health problems, Kim eventually gave up the study of medicine and elected to study English and Spanish.

It was while attending the University of Havana that Kim met her future husband, Bui Huy Toan. The couple married in 1992; and while returning from their honeymoon in Russia, they made a decision that forever changed their lives. During a layover in Canada, the couple chose not to board the plane. Instead, they requested political asylum. Scared but determined, Kim knew this was possibly their only chance for freedom.

Today, Kim tells her story at venues across the world. She is a small woman with a quiet voice and a surprising sense of humor. When she speaks about the lessons she learned from her experience, lessons about compassion, love, forgiveness, and how to be strong in the face of pain, she exudes confidence and a gentle empowerment that can only come from surviving such an unimaginable experience. She has never forgotten the girl in the picture. She remembers that girl every time she glances down at her arms or sees the scars across her back. She is reminded every time the pain resurfaces. Because she still carries that 9-year old girl within her, Kim understands the importance of providing support to child victims in war-torn countries. In 1997, the Kim Foundation was established. The foundation is dedicated to providing medical and psychological assistance to child victims of war. That same year, Kim was named a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador.



The photo taken of a little girl running from her burning Village may be a symbol of the horrors and

destruction of war, but Kim's life is a picture of the power of love, hope, and forgiveness. Kim says that now when she sees the photo that has become so famous, she doesn't see a little girl crying out in fear and pain; she sees a little girl crying out for peace.

To learn more about Kim Phuc and her story of survival and forgiveness, you can visit [The Kim Foundation International](http://www.thekimfoundation.org) website.

Available from the OIA Library

The following resources are available for check-out:

Book

The Life You Can Save
by Peter Singer

For the first time in history, eradicating world poverty is within our reach. Yet around the world, a billion people struggle to live each day on less than many of us pay for bottled water. In *The Life You Can Save*, Peter Singer uses ethical arguments, illuminating examples, and case studies of charitable giving to show that our current response to world poverty is not only insufficient but morally indefensible. *The Life You Can Save* teaches us to be a part of the solution, helping others as we help ourselves.

Movie

Gandhi
Winner of 8 Academy Awards including Best Picture

Sir Ben Kingsley stars as Mohandas Gandhi in Richard Attenborough's riveting biography of the man who rose from simple lawyer to worldwide symbol of peace and understanding. A critical masterpiece, *Gandhi* is an intriguing story about activism, politics, religious tolerance and freedom. But at the center of it all is an extraordinary man who fought for a nonviolent, peaceful existence, and set an entire nation free.

To view a complete selection of books and movies available, visit our website at ttuhsc.edu/cima/library

The 99: Superheroes Inspired by Islam

Naif Al-Mutawa is a Kuwaiti clinical psychologist with an impressive list of credentials. He received a PhD from Long Island University, both a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology and an MBA from Columbia University, and an undergraduate degree from Tufts University, where he triple majored in clinical psychology, English literature, and history. He was recently named one of the "500 Most Influential Muslims in the World," not because of his extensive clinical experience working with former prisoners of war in Kuwait and the Survivors of Political Torture unit of Bellevue Hospital in New York, but because he is the creator of *The 99*, the comic book series that focuses on peace and acceptance featuring superheroes inspired by Islam.

As the father of five sons, Al-Mutawa worried about who his sons would look to as role models. He also feared that religion, especially Islam, was being manipulated. Concerned about the future his sons would inherit and about the media portrayal of his religion, Al-Mutawa took it upon himself to change people's perceptions of Islam by creating *The 99*.

The 99, recently named "One of the Top 20 Trends Sweeping the Globe" by Forbes magazine, was created in much the same way the heroes of the *Justice League of America* were created—out of a need to reinforce stories of morality and ethics and reclaim important symbols during trying times. In the 1930s while fascism was sweeping Europe, two Jewish young men, one from America and one from Canada, created Batman and Superman. The creation of these two well known superheroes was in response to the negative images created by fascism and the desire to reassure, in such a dark time of history, that good will triumph over evil.

In the same way that people in the 1930s hungered for stories about the triumph of basic virtues; like goodness, honesty, loyalty, and hope, people still hunger for these stories in 2011. It's because of this hunger that Al-Mutawa's comic book has been so successful. Al-Mutawa believes that when positive images are linked to what is being portrayed in a negative light, the negative can then be addressed. He is using *The 99* to do just that.

The 99 references the ninety-nine attributes of Allah cited in the Holy Quran; like generosity, mercy, wisdom, and foresight. The backdrop of the story of *The 99* takes place in 1258, when Mongols invaded Baghdad, destroying the city, the culture, and its

knowledge. According to tradition, all the books were thrown into the Tigris River, changing the river's color with the ink.

This story has been passed down by Arab and Muslim families for generations. Al-Mutawa uses the familiarity of the story to lay the foundation of *The 99*. In his version, the librarians learn of the Mongol raid and create a chemical solution called "King's Water" that, when mixed with ninety-nine stones, will save the culture and history contained in the books. Unfortunately, the Mongols arrive before the librarians can complete their task, and the books and the chemical solution are thrown into the Tigris.

Later, the librarians who escape manage to dip stones into the Tigris to absorb the collective wisdom, feared to be lost permanently. The stones, called Noor Stones (Noor is Arabic for light), are smuggled into Spain where they are safely hidden for 200 years. In 1492, the stones are discovered and spread throughout the world, eventually finding their way to those who can unlock their power.



The superheroes created by Al-Mutawa include Mumita, The Destroyer, from Portugal; Jabban, The Powerful, from Saudi Arabia; Musawwira, The Organizer, from Ghana; Noora, The Light, from United Arab Emirates; and Bari, The Healer, from South Africa. Working in teams of three, the superheroes overcome their own shortcomings to dodge danger and vanquish evil, making a twisted world whole and right once more.

To date, the comic book has been licensed in eight languages. In October 2010, *The Justice League of America* teamed up with *The 99* to fight an array of evil forces in a twenty-six episode animated series. The series was animated and produced by the creative vision behind *Ben 10*, *Spider-Man*, and *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*. It's the story of what Al-Mutawa refers to as "intercultural intersections", and what better group to have this conversation than those same superheroes who grew out of fighting fascism.

The success of Al-Mutawa's comic book has even caught the attention of President Obama. At last year's Presidential Summit on Entrepreneurship, the President praised the efforts of entrepreneurs, educators, and leaders of faith and science who had reached out to promote diversity and understanding. He said, "...perhaps the most innovative response was from Dr. Naif Al-Mutawa... In his comic book, Superman and Batman reached out to their Muslim counterparts. And I hear they're making progress, too."

The Responsible, Green Traveler

When visiting a resource-poor country, you may find yourself overwhelmed by the poverty conditions in which the people of the country live. Here are just a few tips for being responsibly generous:

- Create a budget – this will help you structure your spending.
- Splurge on gifts – buying gifts made by indigenous people supports their economy and gives you something to take home to help you relive your experience or share it with friends who weren't able to join you.
- Bargain respectfully – when negotiating, leave the vendor with a real wage (you'll both be winners); instead of bargaining to lower the price, bargain for additional items for the asking price.
- Appreciate the indigenous people and their culture – take an interest in how they live, work, and relate to one another; ask permission before snapping their picture and pay if they request compensation.
- Graciously receive assistance – if someone offers to help carry your luggage, thank them and tip them generously; this may be the only way they are able to feed their families.
- Don't reward panhandling – offering compensation for a service is a much better alternative than giving to a beggar; handouts encourage begging and discourage work (and acquiring an education).
- Purchase items from street vendors – buying items from street vendors supports small businesses; it costs little to purchase small items, and if you think you'll never use the item, give it away.



It is important that you respect the environment of any country to which you are a visitor. To motivate you to travel **green**, calculate your carbon footprint left by your trip to and from the country you are visiting at carbonfootprint.com.

The tips below will help you be a **green** traveler:

- Take short showers and turn the water off while brushing your teeth.
- Before leaving your lodging, unplug electrical devices and shut off the cooling and heating.
- Reuse sheets and towels.
- Take your own toiletries, drinking cup, and reusable bottle.
 - Find out about the local recycling processes and participate in them.
 - Walk whenever you can ...take a train ... use public transportation ...rent a small car, preferably a hybrid.

Adapted from [the Independent Traveler web site](#).

Additional Resources:

- Travelpledge.org was established in response to the growing requests from travelers to be able to contribute financially to charitable social and environmental projects in the destination they visit. They retain 2% of all donations to cover credit / debit card fees and international bank transfer fees.
- [The Center for Responsible Travel](#)
- [Green.travel](#) connects environmentally, socially, and economically responsible travelers with sustainable travel companies.
- [Eco-Friendly Lodging](#)
- [Go Green Travel Green](#) is a web site that offers travel trips for the eco-conscious traveler.
- Consider a [volunteer vacation](#).
- [Top 10 volunteer vacations](#) as ranked by National Geographic
- [100 Best Volunteer Vacations to Enrich Your Life](#)
- Learn more about ecotourism at ecotourism.org.

[Adapted from an article in the New York Times, retrieved March 16, 2010](#)

Mark Your Calendar:

OIA Film Series Fall 2011



ACB 250 Noon CST

- Thursday September 8
The Longoria Affair
- Thursday October 6
TBA
- Thursday November 10
Geronimo and the Apache Resistance
- Thursday December 1
Occupied Minds

Attendees are welcome to bring their own lunch.

Free snacks will be provided!

All films featured as part of the OIA Film Series are available for check out through the [OIA library](#).

Answers for Can you name that flag?

See page 8

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. Grenada | 6. Andorra | 11. Timor-Leste |
| 2. Solomon Islands | 7. Djibouti | 12. Iceland |
| 3. Vanuatu | 8. Senegal | 13. Barbados |
| 4. Moldova | 9. Nauru | 14. Bangladesh |
| 5. Serbia | 10. Kuwait | 15. Dominica |

Change to Visa Validity for Iranian Student Applicants in F, J, and M Visa Categories

In May, the Department of State (DOS) released a media note regarding changes to visa validity for Iranian students. According to the media note, qualified Iranian applicants for visas in the F, J, and M categories for non-sensitive, non-technical fields of study and research and their dependents will be eligible to receive two-year, multiple-entry visas. This is an increase in the previous visa validity of three months, single entry. The DOS has stated that this change will allow Iranian students and exchange visitors to travel more easily, furthering the goal of promoting the free flow of information and ideas. Iranians currently in the U.S. on a three-month, single-entry visa in one of the applicable categories must reapply outside the U.S. at a consular post in order to obtain two-year, multiple-entry visas. It's important to note that the validity of a visa refers to the time period the visa holder has to enter the U.S. It has no bearing on the length of stay permitted. Iranian students and exchange visitors in good standing in the U.S. do not need to apply for a new visa until after they depart the U.S.

The Way We Choose: Challenging Perceptions of Choice

Sheena Inyegar is challenging America's assumptions regarding choice. I first read about Inyegar's research in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* in March 2010. I thought it was fascinating that a few jars of jam and a market near Stanford University could reshape the way we typically perceive choice. After all, we live in a society where a fast food restaurant tells us we can and should "have it your way" (Burger King) and the corner coffee shop reminds us that "happiness is choice" (Starbucks.) The freedom to choose and our insatiable appetite for as many choices as possible has become the driving narrative of the American Dream.

Since her initial jam-tasting research in the mid-1990s, Inyegar has expanded her research to more thoroughly observe people's beliefs about choice. The results suggest that choice is more cross-culturally variable than we realize. Quoting Inyegar: "Americans tend to believe that they've reached some sort of pinnacle in the way they practice choice. They think that choice, as seen through the American lens, best fulfills an innate and universal desire for choice in all humans. Unfortunately, these beliefs are based on assumptions that don't always hold true in many countries and many cultures..."

Inyegar's research is challenging three assumptions Americans typically hold regarding choice: 1) if a choice affects you, then you should be the one to make it, 2) the more choices you have, the more likely you are to make the best choice, and 3) you must never say "no" to choice.

If a choice affects you, then you should be the one to make it.

For Americans, the primary locus of choice is the individual. The ability to choose for ourselves is a way in which we define ourselves as individuals. In fact, in her research Inyegar discovered that most American children perform at higher rates when they are allowed to choose for themselves; however, she also discovered this wasn't true for all American children. In contrast, Asian American children from first generation immigrant families performed at higher rates when they were told their mothers had been involved in the decision making regarding the task at hand.

This discovery led Inyegar to challenge the notion that being true to oneself means choosing for one-

self. Perhaps "oneself" is viewed by some as a collective image and not an individual image. And if that is the case, then the American idea that individuality is rooted in choosing for oneself only holds true when the self is clearly divided from others. As Inyegar states, "Choice is not just a way of asserting and defining individuality, but a way to create community and harmony by deferring to the choices of people whom they (the children in the study) trusted and respected." To insist that all people make choices individually may compromise not only performance, but also relationships.

The more choices you have, the more likely you are to make the best choice.

Intrigued by how the perception of choice might differ in Eastern European countries that were formerly communist states, Inyegar traveled to Europe to interview people about the growing commercialism and the new freedom of choice. What she found most fascinating was not the answers to her questions, but the reaction of interviewees to a simple act of hospitality—the offer of a beverage.

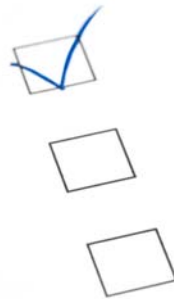
When interviewees arrived, Inyegar offered 7 different varieties of carbonated beverages. Again and again she was struck by the responses. She received replies similar to "Oh it doesn't matter. It's just soda." The variety of carbonated beverages was actually perceived by many of the individuals as one choice, not seven.

When she questioned interviewees about the growing commercialism and the new and varied choices now available in their formerly communist country, many reported that there wasn't enough difference between the products or that the differences were "artificial."

Having too much variety or too many options can become overwhelming, confusing, and even suffocating—the very opposite of what choice represents to Americans. According to Inyegar, "The value of choice depends on our ability to perceive differences between the options... Though all humans share a basic need and desire for choice, we don't all see choice in the same places or to the same extent."

You must never say "no" to choice.

In America, we believe the right to choose for ourselves is the foundation of our freedom, even if this choice has negative aftereffects. We rarely consider that not choosing for ourselves, leaving the choice to someone else, is a viable and valuable option.



Celebrating Bloomsday

Few fictional characters have a holiday named in their honor, but Leopold Bloom, the central character of the 1922 classic *Ulysses* does.

Bloomsday, observed annually on June 16 in Dublin and elsewhere, commemorates the life of Irish writer James Joyce, possibly Ireland's most beloved author. Joyce's *Ulysses* follows the thoughts and events of a single day in Leopold Bloom's life. On this particular day (June 16, 1904), Bloom walks round Dublin, meets a friend, ventures to a pub, and returns home to his wife Molly. The title alludes to Odysseus, the hero of Homer's *Odyssey*, and establishes a series of parallels between characters and events in Homer's poem and Joyce's novel.

The term Bloomsday was invented in 1954, thirteen years after Joyce's death and half a century after the date on which the events of *Ulysses* take place. The first Bloomsday was celebrated that same year in Dublin with an organized daylong pilgrimage to visit the scenes of the novel.



Bloomsday celebrations include a range of cultural events such as music and marathon readings and dramatizations of *Ulysses*, and participants typically dress in Edwardian attire.

Of course, no celebration is complete without food and drink, and Bloomsday offers some fine choices; including pints of Guinness, glasses of Burgundy, Gorgonzola sandwiches, and one of Bloom's favorite dishes, fried kidney.

This year marks the 107th anniversary of a day in the life of Leopold Bloom as chronicled by James Joyce's epic novel.

All in all, Bloomsday is a celebration of life, love, language, and literature.

You can listen to one of the more popular sections of the novel, a portion of the final chapter often referred to as Molly's soliloquy, on [YouTube](#). In the text, Molly thinks about God, recalls her childhood in Gibraltar, and relives the moment she accepted her husband's proposal of marriage. And if you'd like a "taste" of Bloomsday, see the recipe in the right hand column adapted from [New York magazine](#) and inspired by Leopold Bloom.

The Way We Choose cont.

Even if we struggle to cope with the result of our choice, demonstrating negative emotions and in some cases clinical depression, we still insist on choosing for ourselves. This differs from other countries and cultures who demonstrate a more positive outcome to loss, grief, and other situations when the choice is left to someone perceived to have more knowledge or be an expert.

It's interesting to note how Inyegar's own personal biography influences her research. You see, Inyegar is visually impaired. In a world in which choice is so often influenced by sight, Inyegar has found that her impairment offers a different vantage point. For instance, after an experience at a nail salon when two manicurists tried unsuccessfully to describe the differences between two very similar shades of pale pink nail polish, Inyegar decided to conduct a study to see if women really could tell the difference between the shades. After removing the labels from the bottles of polish, she asked women which they preferred. Fifty percent of the women accused Inyegar of manufacturing an elaborate trick. It appeared she wanted them to select a favorite from two bottles of the exact same color. So perhaps we aren't persuaded by sight as much as we think? Perhaps more is at play, like the names given to the colors and not the actual colors themselves in this instance.

How can Inyegar's findings impact our beliefs about and practice of healthcare? Maybe this isn't

a question we can fully answer; however, knowing that American's assumptions about choice do not always hold true is a start. Realizing that patients of differing cultural backgrounds may hold different values regarding choice and relating to patients from a values-based perspective could alter outcomes. Understanding how individuals process their options and limiting those options so that they are less confusing and overwhelming could inform best practices. There is also the possibility that patients and families need to re-evaluate their beliefs about choice and healthcare. Perhaps there are times when it is beneficial to say no to choosing, especially if the long term psychological costs are great.

Finally, it's important to note that Inyegar is not necessarily saying the American idea of choice is wrong. Not at all. She is asking us to consider additional ways, other "right ways", to choose that differ from America's ideas. She is also asking if Americans might benefit from incorporating new perspectives into our ideas regarding choice, suggesting that instead of replacing our current beliefs, we examine the many other versions, translations, and understandings of choice. Doing so could help us gain a wider array of ideas about what choice can do and what choice can represent so that we can better realize its full potential.

[Watch Sheena Inyegar's TED talk](#)

Read [To Choose or Not To Choose](#) in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, March 2010.

International Flavor

Bloomsday Sandwich

Ingredients:

- 1/2 lb Gouda cheese
- 1 small bunch pencil asparagus, bottoms trimmed
- 1 small red onion, peeled and sliced
- 2 Tbl olive oil
- 2 Tbl sherry vinegar
- 4 basil leaves, roughly chopped
- 8 slices rustic country bread
- 1 garlic clove, peeled
- Pinch of salt and pepper

Instructions:

- Preheat oven to broil.
- Place asparagus and sliced onion in a medium bowl. Season with salt and pepper then toss with olive oil.
- In a hot skillet, cook asparagus and onion 5-10 minutes.
- Return asparagus and onion to mixing bowl; season with vinegar and basil; set aside.
- Toast bread in broiler until golden brown on one side only. Set slices on a plate toasted side up, and rub the garlic lightly on each side.
- Sprinkle 1 ounce of shredded cheese on four slices of bread.
- Layer asparagus & onion over the cheese, then sprinkle with another ounce of cheese.
- Cover with remaining slices of bread, toasted side down.
- Place sandwich on hot press or griddle and cook until cheese is melted.

When in... Turkey

- Greet everyone in the room in descending order of age, with a firm handshake and direct eye contact, and say "Merhaba" ("Hello") and "Nasilsiniz?" ("How are you?"). The usual response will be "Elyiyim teshekur ederim" ("Fine, thank you.") Handshakes are not necessary upon departure.
- Close friends of either sex may use a two-handed handshake and kiss on each cheek.
- It is customary when greeting elders to kiss their hand and touch it to your forehead. You should always stand up when elders enter the room.
- Traditionally, the titles *Bey* (for men) or *Hanim* (for women) are used after the first name, although a more modern form of address uses *Bay* (for men) and *Bayan* (for women) before the surname.
- During Ramazan (Turkish for Ramadan), you shouldn't eat, drink, or smoke in the presence of locals until after sunset.
- Turkish tea is drunk in tapered glasses with sugar, but without milk. Coffee is strong, with or without milk, and often quite sweet, unless you ask for it without sugar.
- In a restaurant, Turks generally order one course at a time. The host will always pay the bill.

Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday ACB 120 Noon CT

September

- 21st

October

- 5th
- 19th

November

- 2nd
- 16th

December

- 7th

Speakers and topics to be announced

Global Health Lecture Series Fall 2011

Country Close-up* *every issue OIA will select another country to feature

Kingdom of Thailand

The Kingdom of Thailand (previously Siam) is equivalent to the size of France, or slightly smaller than Texas. It has a population of 67 million people. The country implemented a government-sponsored family-planning program which has resulted in a dramatic decline in population growth. More than 30% of the population resides in central Thailand, including Bangkok. Another 30% reside in the northeast, with significant Lao and Khmer heritage. The population is mostly rural, concentrated in the rice-growing areas. However, due to industrialization, the urban population is growing. It's a predominantly (93-94%) Buddhist nation although a significant number of ethnic Malay Muslims reside in the three southernmost provinces. Thai is the official language, and English is the second language of the elite.

Archaeological studies suggest evidence of highly functioning civilizations in the Thailand area as early as 4000 BC. The Thai traditionally date the founding of their nation to the 13th century. According to tradition, in 1238, Thai chieftains overthrew their Khmer overlords at Sukhothai and established a Thai Kingdom. Although this kingdom eventually declined, a new kingdom emerged in 1350 on the Chao Praya River at Ayutthaya.

In 1767, Burmese armies invaded the Kingdom of Ayutthaya and the Chakri dynasty established Siam in the area of present day Bangkok. The Chakri dynasty remained in place until 1932 when a bloodless coup transformed the nation from an absolute monarchy to a constitutional monarchy. Because of the diplomatic efforts of its monarchs, Siam remained the only country in South and Southeast Asia to avoid European colonization.

After 1932, Thailand was dominated by military governments and the bureaucratic elite. During the mid-1970s civilian political parties began gaining authority. In 1988, the country's first democratically elected prime minister in more than a decade assumed office. A bloodless coup ended his term in 1991. From 1992 until a coup in September 2006, the country was considered a functional democracy although there were reports of anti-democratic actions and corruption allegations surrounding Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's terms. As a result of the 2006 coup, a new constitution was adopted in August 2007 but there has been little political stability since. Numerous instances of violent protests, street battles, and standoffs between government security forces and protestors have become all too common.

Rice is Thailand's most important crop, and the country is the largest exporter of rice in the world. In recent years Thailand's economic growth has been attributed to a diversified manufacturing sector. These manufacturing sectors include computers and electronics, furniture, wood products, canned food, toys, plastic products, gems, and jewelry. Thailand has experienced growth in exports of high-technology products; such as integrated circuits and parts, hard disc drives, electrical appliances, vehicles, and vehicle parts.

Over the past couple of decades, Thailand has increased public health efforts. The result has been a rise in life expectancy. Intervention programs initiated in the 1990s have averted a major AIDS epidemic although HIV/AIDS remains the leading cause of death. Other leading causes of death include ischaemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, diabetes mellitus, and road traffic accidents.



Views of the World: in the news & on the web

- [All Hands on Deck to Turn Historic Ship into Floating Clinic](#)
An ambitious project to turn Malawi's oldest ship into a floating clinic could save thousands of lives around Lake Malawi by bringing medical care to small fishing villages.
- [Arab Revolutions Inspire Afghan Youth](#)
After watching the protests that led to the downfall of regimes in Egypt and Tunisia, Afghan youth are expressing revolutionary sentiments.
- [High End Art in Hong Kong](#)
With a growing international art fair, globally-recognized galleries and a contemporary art museum on the horizon, the city's reputation as a capital of kitsch is fading.
- [Pakistan Transgenders Pin Hopes on New Rights](#)
The BBC's Aleem Maqbool finds out what difficulties transsexuals face in Pakistan.
- [Changes in Cuba, and in U.S. Policy, Open Opportunities for New Academic Ties](#)
As it wrestles with major economic and social reforms, Cuba presents an almost unprecedented opportunity for American scholars and students to experience a country trying to transform itself.
- [In Pakistan, Asher Hasan Brings Innovation to Health-care Cost at \\$1.80 per Month](#)
Wilayat Shah, a security guard at the luxury Avari Towers Hotel in Karachi, Pakistan, was rushed to a hospital last December after experiencing headaches and losing consciousness at work. Unlike the wealthy patrons of the hotel he guarded, the father of four wouldn't ordinarily have had access to top-notch medical treatment.
- [Rappers Raise Voices Against Violence in Venezuela](#)
As a teenager, Wilmer Espinoza carried two handguns and belonged to a gang of hired killers. For as little as \$700, they would stalk and slay people their clients wanted eliminated.
- [Suffering in the Congo 'Seems to be Anonymous'](#)
During the past 15 years, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been ravaged by a series of wars that have left more than 5 million people dead and at least 2 million more displaced.
- [Tree Planting Record Broken in Philippines](#)
Speedy tree planting may be the answer to the world's dwindling forest problem. Recently, over 64,000 trees were planted in 15 minutes, breaking the world record for the most trees planted simultaneously.
- [Turkish Doctors Stop Work to Demand Rights](#)
Doctors walked off the job around Turkey as part of a two-day labor action to protest a full-day work law and performance-based fees, as well as demand the protection of their personal rights.
- [Tweeting 'Ulysses': Fans Put a Twist on Bloomsday](#)
For decades, Joyce-lovers have been commemorating Bloomsday by eating kidney for breakfast and drinking pints of Guinness, as Bloom does. They also hold marathon readings of the novel. This year, the commemorations will also include Twitter.
- [Inge Missmahl Brings Peace to the Minds of Afghanistan](#)
By building psychosocial care into the primary health care system of Afghanistan, Inge Missmahl offers hope to a society traumatized by decades of conflict and insecurity.
- [Dr. Seyi Oyesola Tours a Hospital in Nigeria](#)
Physician Seyi Oyesola co-developed a "Hospital in a Box"—a pop-up, portable, solar-powered OR for off-grid medicine in Africa and elsewhere.
- [Rwanda's Women Remake a Nation](#)
It's been 17 years since more than 500,000 Rwandans were killed in the horrific genocide of 1994. Today, this tiny East African nation has become a poster child for women's rights.
- [Pulitzer-Winning Reporter: I Am An Undocumented Immigrant](#)
Jose Antonio Vargas, a reporter who shared a Pulitzer Prize when he was with the Washington Post, revealed today that he is an "undocumented immigrant" and that he has over the year obtained (with help) a series of false documents to conceal that fact from employers.

The 99: Superheroes Inspired by Islam cont.

There is no doubt *The 99* has offered an alternate perspective of Islam to mainstream media's depictions. While it will take time to reach a place of better understanding, a place where we relate to one another from our common humanity, the simple but timeless message of *The 99* encourages readers to strive for nobler and higher purposes, essential work not only for superheroes, but for us all. As Al-Mutawa concluded during a presentation for TED:

"We live in a world in which the most culturally innocuous symbols...can be misunderstood because of baggage and where religion can be twisted...by others. In a world like that, there will always be a job for Superman. And *The 99*."

[The 99 web site](#)

[Dr. Al-Mutawa's TED presentation](#)

[President Obama Gives Naif Al-Mutawa and The 99](#)

[A Shout Out](#)

[The 99 featured in Newsweek Pakistan](#)

When in... Turkey cont.

- On public transportation, women should not sit next to male strangers. Women also are not allowed in traditional tea or coffee houses.
- Don't blow your nose in public, especially in restaurants.
- Carry identification with you at all times—it is required by law.
- Remove your shoes if you are invited into a Turkish home, and don't show the soles of your feet to anyone. (Sit with your feet flat on the floor.)
- Shaking your head means "I don't understand"; it doesn't mean no. To say no, raise your eyebrows and make a "tsk" sound, or tilt your head backward slightly.
- Nod your head to say yes.
- Attract attention by waving your hand up and down, rather than side to side.
- Don't cross your arms while facing someone; it is considered rude.
- Foreign visitors are allowed to visit any mosque, but you should cover up and avoid prayer times.
- A service charge is not included in the bill, and it is normal to leave a 5 to 10 percent tip. Give money with your right hand. (The left is reserved for unclean uses, such as going to the bathroom.)

taken from **Behave Yourself!** by Michael Powell



Can you name that flag?

Answers at the bottom of page 3



Language Lesson

Afrikaans
Catalan
Croatian
Dutch
Esperanto
Faroese
French
German
Hungarian
Italian
Latvian
Manx
Malay
Maltese
Norwegian
Polish
Portuguese
Romanian
Slovak
Spanish
Swahili
Turkish
Welsh

Entrance

Ingang
Entrada
Ulaz
Ingang
Eniro
Atgongd
Entrée
Eingang
Bejārat
Entrata
leeja
Bollagh stiagh
Masuk
Dhul
Inngang
Wejście
Entrada
Intrare
Vchod
Entrada
Mahali pa Kuingia
Giriş
Mynediad

Exit

Uitgang
Sortida / Eixida
Izlaz
Uitgang
Eliro
Útgangd
Sortie
Ausgang
Kijārat
Uscita
Izeja
Bollagh magh
Keluar
Hrug
Utgang
Wyjście
Saida
leşire
Východ
Salida
Mahali pa Kutoka
Çikış
Allanfa

Volume 17
Summer
2011

TTUHSC
Global
Matters

Global Matters: The newsletter of Office of International Affairs

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