



Dimensions

❖ JOYCE S. ANDERSON Special to the Jewish Times

China Diary: 2008. Part I

It's been a big year for the country with the world's largest population of 1.3 billion people. The Summer Olympic games in August in Beijing were the high point. The massive earthquake on May 12 that claimed the lives of 80,000 people in western China was the nadir. These were the dramatic human-interest stories that brought intense television and media coverage.

Yet – away from the excitement of the Olympic games and the devastating tragedy of the earthquake – what were the major social, political and economic events in China during 2008? How much do we know about the other Super Power and the lives of the people? Here's Part I. Next week, Part II.

• **January 14, 2008. Taipei, Taiwan.** The parliamentary elections resulted in a landslide victory for the opposition Kuomintang (KMT) party that aims at closer relations with mainland China. The KMT once waged a civil war against the Communists on the mainland, but

now KMT advocates keeping the status quo between China and Taiwan and supports closer economic and cultural ties. It does not rule out reunification in the future. The presidential election that followed on March 22 solidified the KMT control of the country when Ma Ying-jeou

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won 58 percent of the vote. The final vote turnout was about 75 percent of eligible voters. Improved trade relations with China are predicted in the near future.

• **January 16, 2008. Beijing.** Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India on a three-day first visit to China stressed common interests and a desire to overcome historic hostilities. He told the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, "Our systems are different, but people in both countries are united in their aspirations for a better future." China and India (1.1 billion people) are the world's fastest growing major economies, with China far more dominant. Beneath the proclamations of good will on both sides, a range of disputes remain between the two Asian giants, including long-standing disagreement over their Himalayan border and India's concern over trade imbalance. At present, China's annual trade with India is a fraction of its trade with Europe, Japan and the United States.

Economic competition between China and India grows as India builds its manufacturing base – China's strength – and China tries to move its economy toward the service and high-tech industries at the core of India's expansion. During Mr. Singh's visit, he and China's prime minister, Wen Jiabao, did sign a joint statement that focused on broad themes but also dealt with some specific issues. One was a call for negotiations to begin a regional trade agreement. Another dealt with India's aspiration to permanent membership on the United Nations Security Council. In this document, China said it understood and supported that goal. Some political observers are skeptical of China's support. Michael Green, former director of Asian affairs at the National Security Council, said, "Beneath the surface, the Indians are very strategically wary of China." Han Hua, a university professor in Beijing, said China and India want to defy an old Chinese proverb that two tigers cannot share the same mountain. "The two countries want to show the world that they can get along."

• **January 16, 2008. Beijing.** The United States commander in the Pacific, Admiral Timothy Keating, was on a four-day visit following a diplomatic dispute last year when China denied the U.S. aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk a scheduled Thanksgiving port call in Hong Kong. This occurred several days after China blocked two American minesweepers from docking in Hong Kong during bad weather. American officials said that refusing the minesweepers safe harbor violated international naval custom and law. "We were unhappy that the visit was canceled; we have discussed it." Keating said at a news briefing at the American Embassy.

China has given different explanations for the incidents and suggested they were in response to the United States government

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A View of the Absurd

❖ JACK ENGELHARD Special to the Jewish Times

Spare the Pieties on Gaza

Frankly, given a choice, I prefer the skinheads and other brutes who express their anti-Semitism openly. In such places, we know the enemy.

But please spare me the pieties and the righteous indignation of those "good people" protesting throughout Europe against Israel's defensive operation in Gaza. True, thousands have taken up banners in support of Israel. At the same time, however, the streets of Europe (and even some in America) are in an uproar. These are the "humanitarians" – the good, the noble, the refined who chant "Peace."

Now you're up and about? Now you speak? Where were you when, throughout the years, thousands of Jihadist bombs fell on Israel? The streets of Europe were empty. There were no pictures in the newspapers of grieving Jewish mothers and fathers. You called it "peace" as long as the Arabs were doing the killing and the Jews were doing the dying. All was well with the world.

Suddenly, as Israel answered back, you found your CAUSE – and how self-righteous you are in your CAUSE.

You are the best and the brightest of Europe. You are educated. You attended the finest schools. You care for the birds, the bees, the bears, the trees. You favor free speech and freedom of religion. Strange it is, that the one and only place in the Middle East that shares your world-view, is Israel, and it is Israel that you slander.

Israel is a Jewish State. Is that your problem? At the first hint of Jewish self-defense, how quickly you show your true colors.

I've seen the photos of your candlelight vigils along the streets and boulevards of

Europe, all of it, all these tears, in the service of those terrorists whom you call your brothers. Indeed you are related to Hamas (and Fatah) as once before, a mere generation ago, you were related to Hitler's storm troopers. Your angelic faces are touching – and disgusting. Your hypocrisy is transparent and nauseating.

You speak of disproportion. You want proportion? Give Israel a population of 300 million residing in 22 countries, similar to the Arab Muslims who surround and ambush Israel – instead of five and a half million Jews in one single country. There's plenty of "proportion" coming from your BBC, which delights in presenting one side of the story and picks up where Der Sturmer left off. Now, with this type of "news," we know how Europe was conditioned for a Holocaust.

Already we see nights of broken glass. Thank you, Europe, for reminding us why America was discovered just in time (and why Israel was redeemed many generations too late). You dare judge Israel? In your deportations, your expulsions, your forced conversions, your inquisitions, your pogroms, you have no moral authority over Israel or even within your own borders. You gave all that up from 1492 to 1942.

To those on the Left who sought Peace, well dear Peace Lovers – Peace brought this on. "Land for Peace" made this happen as Land for Peace became Land for Jihad. "Painful Concessions" backfired. Want more "peace?" Give up the Golan Heights. Give up the entire West Bank. Give up Jerusalem. Imagine the "peace." As for those "innocent civilians" in Gaza, they

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