



## Faceoff: China / India

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**F**or the better part of three millennia, China and India have developed independently, intersecting only at the rarest of moments across a divide of some of the world's most forbidding geography. Today, they rank as the world's first and second most populous nations, but with political, social, and economic systems that place them sharply at odds. A centrally planned and managed nation controlled by a single political party has seen an economic explosion of activity and growth north of the Himalayas; to the south, a vibrant, if often cacophonous, multi-party democracy has broken out of its long lethargy to assume a leadership role in technology and innovation.

So it is appropriate that in the second of our annual issues spotlighting a different region of the world, we turn our attention to Asia, and especially to China and India—a faceoff of monumental proportions capturing the attention of much of the world. We begin with Big Question, in which a selection of international experts reflect on who might emerge as the dominant power on the Asian continent. From there, we examine one of the least visible, but overwhelmingly vital issues facing these two nations—the dilemma of how to manage or dispose of the world's largest stockpile of fresh water, a subject we explore in our Map Room. No larger contrast exists in these two societies than in their education systems, as our Anatomy further explains. We have asked two extraordinary young women—Nazia Vasi, founder of Mumbai-based *Inchin Closer*, and Li Xin, managing editor of *Caixin*, the noted Beijing-based financial magazine—to examine their nations' views of their neighbor across the Himalayas. We then turn to a new feature, a Timeline depicting the complex and intricate political history that has defined the last 50 years of Sino-Indian relations. From there, we look to the periphery of China and India, in an effort to triangulate on this competition as it is playing out in a trio of nations that have managed to survive in the shadows of these dominant powers. Megha Bahree examines Myanmar; Kunda Dixit weighs in on the state of Nepal; and Sherpem Sherpa looks at her native Bhutan. Finally, for our Conversation, we've talked with Professor Yeliang Xia, who has a unique view of the failings of his own nation. While he longs for a Chinese democratic system of governance, he also recognizes the flagrant flaws inherent in the Indian style of democratic rule.

Our Portfolio returns us to Africa, scene of last year's Winter issue, where the extraordinary Nigerian photojournalist Andrew Esiebo illuminates the shadowy world of pool betting. The money-wagering hobby has become a full-time job for many locals, revealing a dark underside of the Nigerian economy. Two African investigative journalists, Khadija Sharife and John Grobler, then explore the deep holes that illicit business practices have made in the Kimberley Process—designed to purge the international gem trade of blood diamonds but that has instead enriched the unscrupulous to the tune of billions of dollars. Across the Middle East where revolutions struggle to take root, hip-hop has become the voice of the voiceless, as Sam Kimball chronicles from Tunisia, birthplace of the Arab Spring. As Bjørn Stærk explains, Norway is currently torn by a debate over the use and abuse of immigrants and the systems they use to enter the European Union. Brazil, soon to be host to the World Cup and eventually the Olympic Games, is torn by its need for doctors and health care and its hostility toward outsiders who have come to fill these vital needs, as Fernanda Canofre reports. Finally, in his Coda, *World Policy Journal* Editor David A. Andelman completes his year-long exploration of the nature of today's governments and their relations with those they rule, examining the waning days of the Imperial Presidency.

—*The Editors*