

The Epoch Times

'A FRESH LOOK AT OUR CHANGING WORLD'

PUBLISHER: Cindy Gu

BUSINESS MANAGER: Helen Li

ISSN: 1712-6487

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4 PUZZLES PEACE

Suggested Solution

Spill the beans

Presented By
FREE THE CHILDREN
Children helping children through education
PUZZLE ON P3



KEROSENE: Indian men light up a kerosene petromax lamp in their home in the tribal hamlet of Wada, in Thane, on the outskirts of Mumbai on Nov. 18, 2007. An estimated 400 million Indians live in a world outside electricity. PAL PILLAI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A brighter path to development

By CHRIS MALLINOS

And Dave said, "Let there be light."

Trekking among snow-capped mountains in Nepal's Thorung La pass, Dr. Dave Irvine-Halliday remembers being struck by the poverty there as much as he was by the natural beauty.

The villagers lived very basic, antiquated lives. People were overworked, underfed, and had few opportunities. Perhaps not surprisingly, many of them looked old for their age.

Being a professor of electrical engineering, he noticed something else, too.

"I looked into the window of a schoolhouse, and it was just so dark," Irvine-Halliday explains from his home in Calgary. "I wondered how kids could read and study."

In a remote area of the country and with little money, the villagers there had no electricity. They relied on dim kerosene lamps that were expensive to refill and gave off toxic fumes.

So Irvine-Halliday set off to help, eager to find a safe and affordable lighting alternative for those Nepalese villagers. What he didn't realize is that he'd soon be embarking down a much larger path, one of development and empowerment.

After two years of tinkering, Irvine-Halliday was back in Nepal to test a solar-powered white LED lighting system, one he developed to fit the needs of impoverished communities. The trial run was an immediate success. Before long, locals were basking in something they had never seen before—indoor light.

"The response was incredible," Irvine-Halliday says. "People were in tears, begging us not to take the light away."

For the first time, children could study at night without getting sick from dangerous kerosene fumes. Parents could work full days knowing they didn't have to cook and do chores before sundown. Disposable income could go toward food, instead of refilling those dirty kerosene lamps.

Literally with the flick of a switch, lives changed.

So began Light Up the World, an organization started by Irvine-Halliday and dedicated to illuminating the lives of the 1.6 billion people who have no electricity. In the decade since those first tests in Nepal, 17,000 homes in 51 countries have been lit.

In fact, Irvine-Halliday's white LED lights can now be found from Afghanistan to Zambia.

It's difficult to imagine just what this means. For most of us, simple indoor lighting is something we take for granted. But for someone who has never had it, light opens up a whole new world.

Light Up the World's projects are often greeted

by singing and dancing villagers, people who are overjoyed to finally "have eyes," as one put it. At an orphanage in Tibet, organizers had to turn off their new lights because the children were so excited they didn't want to sleep.

"It's so emotional," Irvine-Halliday explains. "On almost every trip, you're rubbing your eyes, your heart rate goes up."

But Light Up the World is no charity. Instead, it prescribes to an increasingly innovative form of development where recipients are not given handouts. Instead, they are expected to be active participants.

Villagers purchase their lights for as little as \$150. That may seem expensive, but when you consider that families in developing countries can spend one-third or more of their income on kerosene for their lamps, solar-powered white LEDs are a welcome financial relief.

In two years or less, most villagers are able to pay off their lights just from the money they save on kerosene. And with no further fuel purchases needed, the savings continue long after the lights are paid in full.

What's more, Light Up the World trains locals to install and repair the lights, creating jobs where there were few before.

"We have to get these villages to light themselves," Irvine-Halliday says. "Ultimately, it has to be a market-driven solution."

That approach, pioneered by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, is now being duplicated around the world. Partnerships like these give impoverished villagers a sense of pride, empowerment, and ownership over their own future—something mere aid cannot do.

Most importantly, it shows that global poverty is not simply a lack of income. It's a lack of opportunity.

These days, Irvine-Halliday has turned his attention to improving his white LED technology. He's even founded a company in India, where a staggering 400 million people live without electricity, which he hopes will produce even better lights at half the cost.

Despite his success, Irvine-Halliday sounds more like a man who's just getting started.

"I hope I do this until the day I die," he says. "Once you start thinking about this, as human beings, it gets to you. For a few dollars, spent in the right place and in the right way, you can change peoples' lives."

Chris Mallinos is a Toronto-based journalist whose work has appeared on six continents and in seven languages. You can reach him at www.chrismallinos.com

Mending a strained alliance: Turkey and Israel

By ALON BEN-MEIER

Earlier this month, what should have been a multinational exhibit of military cooperation between the Turkish Air Force and its counterparts in the United States, Italy, and Israel, has become yet another political snub in the growing public rift between Turkey and Israel.

The joint exercise, which takes place every few years, was canceled indefinitely after Turkey withdrew Israel's participation, causing the United States and Italy to forgo the exercise in response. This public rebuff is one of many in a string of events that has shown Turkey's visceral frustration with Israel's handling of its incursion into Gaza late last year.

While Turkey and Israel continue to enjoy a strong alliance, and their commercial and trade relations remain uninterrupted, the public slights have undoubtedly put a strain on their bilateral relationship, especially after Turkey relied heavily on the Israel lobby to prevent the Armenian genocide bill from being passed in the U.S. Congress only two years ago.

But what is Turkey gaining from these public outcries? Unless Turkey wants to seriously undermine its relations with Israel and its Western allies, it should start to act judiciously as a partner to both Israel and the Arab world.

Turkey's ability to lead in the future will depend on its capacity to balance its relations with the powers in its diverse neighbourhood—Iran, Syria, Israel, Russia, and Greece all being immediate neighbours—without trading one bilateral relation for another.

Turkey views itself as a strategic power with the capacity to maintain regional stability, not only in the Middle East, but also as a bridge between East and West. But after the infamous Davos incident in January, when Prime Minister Recep Erdogan walked out on a panel with Israeli President Shimon Peres after stating, "When it comes to killing, you know well how to kill," Turkey has looked less like a skillful diplomatic mediator and more like an instigator.

At this point, after earning the praise of the international community for its efforts as a member of NATO and the G-20, Turkey has too much at stake to start playing the blaming game in this intractable 61-year-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Much of Turkey's animosity towards Israel is likely out of frustration, after Israel's failure to deliver an initial agreement with Syria from negotiations Turkey so painstakingly mediated throughout 2008. Furthermore, Netanyahu has refused to resume the negotiations from where they were left off.

But Turkey should not underestimate its role as the only strong political ally of Israel, Iran, and the Arab world. Apart from government and diplomatic relations, Turkey has been the No. 1 tourist destination for both Israelis and Iranians, though since January, it has seen a huge downturn in Israeli tourists.

To sabotage its unique standing in this delicate global order at such a crucial time would be a major strategic blunder. Sooner rather than later, Turkey should realize

that this isn't a fight worth having at this particular juncture, especially when Israel has seen an increase in cooperation from its Arab neighbours since the Gaza war.

Many recall January 2008, when Sudan's Omar al-Bashir came to Ankara as a guest of the Turkish government after being accused by the ICC of heinous war crimes in Darfur. Only months later, Turkey participated in joint naval exercises with Israel, a tradition that has continued even after the Gaza war.

The point is that Turkey has chosen a path as an ally to the many feuding nations it sits between, and in recent years, has seen its integrality as an international partner skyrocket. It even made the final step of reconciliation with the Armenians this month, establishing diplomatic ties and reopening their shared border.

So why now should Turkey find it necessary to undermine its historic and valuable ties with Israel, which has considered Turkey a partner of the utmost importance since its foundation as a state? As Turkey found out through the United States and Italy's immediate withdrawal from the military exercise, a rift with Israel can have destructive ramifications in its ties with the West.

At this point in time, in its push for EU membership, and as it seeks to work with the United States over its Kurdish issue, a public schism with Israel will only weaken the Turkish case. And as the international community—including the Arab states—unites around the Iranian nuclear threat, which is just as worrisome to Turkey, it is in Ankara's best interest to cooperate.

To be sure, the importance of Turkish-Israeli relations cannot be overstated enough, as Turkey and Israel share not only critically important strategic relations but a deep affinity that goes back between the Jews and the Ottoman Empire. Although Turkish-Israeli military and trade relations remain uninterrupted, it is not a minute too early to end public condemnations and begin mending the relationship. Any further deterioration will serve neither Turkish nor Israeli interests now or in the future.

Israelis have good reason to feel indignant, but they should not allow a temporary political mishap to obscure Turkey's contribution to regional peace and prosperity. And likewise, Turkey must not allow the significant relations with Israel to be marred by an unfortunate chain of political mishaps.

Ankara must demonstrate that on the occasion of its proud 86th anniversary it can rise to the occasion and stretch its hand to the Israelis in friendship and show publicly that it values and reciprocates its partnership with the Jewish state.

The Israelis must now show magnanimity by accepting this invitation to join their Turkish friends and allies to celebrate the anniversary of the Turkish Republic on Oct. 29 and use the occasion as a symbol of renewed partnership

Alon Ben-Meir is a professor of international relations at the Center for Global Affairs at NYU. He teaches courses on international negotiation and Middle Eastern studies. www.alonben-meir.com

The 'Nine Commentaries' is the book that is disintegrating the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and changing China. This award-winning Epoch Times editorial series discloses the true history and nature of the CCP. Now it is serialized here.

Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party

Commentary Eight (cont.)

On how the Chinese Communist Party is an evil cult

After the CCP seized political power, there were unceasing political campaigns, from inner-party fights to struggles outside the Party. This was the case during the Mao Zedong era, and is still the case in the post-Mao era of "reform and openness."

In the 1980s, when people just began to have a slight bit of freedom in their thinking, the CCP launched the campaign of "Opposition to Bourgeois Liberalization" and proposed the Four Fundamental Principles' in order to maintain its absolute leadership. In 1989, the students who peacefully asked for democracy were bloodily suppressed because the CCP does not allow democratic aspirations.

The 1990s witnessed a rapid in-

crease in Falun Gong practitioners who believe in Truthfulness, Compassion, and Tolerance, but they were met with genocidal persecution beginning in 1999 because the CCP cannot tolerate human nature and benevolent thoughts. It must use violence to destroy people's conscience and ensure its own power.

Since the 21st century, the Internet has connected the world together, but the CCP has spent great sums of money in setting up network blockades to trap online liberals because the CCP greatly fears people freely obtaining information.

VI. THE DEGENERATION OF THE EVIL CULT OF THE CCP

The CCP evil cult essentially rules in opposition to human nature and the principles of heaven. The CCP is known for its arrogance, self-importance, selfishness, and brutal, unrestrained acts. It consistently brings disasters to the country and the people, yet it never admits its mistakes and would never reveal its

true nature to the people.

The CCP has never hesitated to change its slogans and labels, which are regarded by the CCP as the means to maintain its control.

Securing material benefits by means of corruption has become the strongest force for the unity of the CCP.

It will do anything to keep in power with total disregard for morality, justice, and human life.

The institutionalization and socialization of this evil cult are bound to lead to its collapse. As a result of the centralization of power, public opinion has been silenced, and all possible monitoring mechanisms have been destroyed, leaving no force to stop the CCP from sliding into corruption and disintegration

Today's CCP has become the largest ruling party of embezzlement and corruption in the world. According to official statistics in China, among the 20 million officials, officers, or cadres in the Party or government over the past 20 years, 8 million have been found guilty of corruption and disciplined or punished based on Party or government regulations.

If the unidentified corrupt officials are also taken into account, the corrupt Party and government officials are estimated to be at over two-thirds, of whom only a small portion have been investigated and exposed.

Securing material benefits by means of corruption and extortion has become the strongest coherent force for the unity of the CCP today. The corrupt officials know that without the CCP, they would have no opportunity to connive for personal gain. If the CCP

falls, they would not only lose their power and position, but also face investigation.

In "Heaven's Wrath," a novel that exposes the behind-the-scenes machinations of CCP officials, author Chen Fang spelled out the CCP's top secret using the mouth of Hao Xiangshou, a deputy director of a municipal CCP office: "Corruption has stabilized our political power."

The Chinese people see it clearly: "If we fight corruption, the Party will fall; if we do not fight corruption, the nation will perish."

The CCP, however, will not risk its own doom to fight corruption. What it will do is to kill a few corrupt individuals as a token sacrifice for the sake of its image. This prolongs its life for a few more years at the expense of a small number of corrupt elements. Today, the only goals of the CCP evil cult are to keep its power and steer clear of its demise.

The four principles are socialist path, dictatorship of the proletariat, the CCP's leadership, and Marxism-Leninism and Mao Zedong thought.

QUITTING THE CCP



62,704,326

Chinese people have announced their intentions to quit the Chinese Communist Party and its affiliated organizations on a special Web site established by The Epoch Times. Many others, unable to break through the Chinese Internet blockade, have posted their withdrawal statements on poles or buildings. Others have written them on Chinese currency. Read recent statements of Chinese quitting the Party, the latest news on the "Nine Commentaries," and more at <http://www.NineCommentaries.com>

Letters to the Editor



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