

Expatriate Americans in Asia

Note: Figures are for 1996 and exclude U.S. government employees and military personnel and their families.

Philippines	118,000
Japan	73,300
Hong Kong	40,800
Taiwan	36,600
S. Korea	35,500

Source: U.S. government

To Get Rich is Glorious

Percentage of China's urban households owning:

Color television	90.8
Refrigerator	88.7
Washing machine	87.3
Private housing	32.6
Video camera	28.6
Air-conditioner	28.3

Source: China: *The Consumer Revolution* by Li Conghua (1997)

China's exports of manufactured goods (in \$ billion)

1985	13.5
1991	55.7
1992	67.9
1993	75.1
1994	101.3
1995	127.3

Source: *China Statistical Yearbook*, 1996

Evidence for growing Chinese beliefs in capitalism and individual rights

In a 1993 poll of 5,455 respondents in six provinces, 78 percent agreed with the statement, "Private property is sacred and must not be violated," and 77 percent disagreed with the statement, "In a lawsuit involving an individual and a collective entity, the judgment should favor the latter." When asked "whether the police could continue to detain a person for the sake of public safety even though they were unable to determine his guilt," 47 percent opposed detention, and only 28 percent supported it.

As reported in Minxin Pei's "Is China Democratizing?," *Foreign Affairs*, Jan/Feb, 1998.

"In Buddha We Trust"

Tricycle is the first American Buddhist magazine to bluntly target a general readership. Readership has surged from an expected 5,000 when it debuted in 1991 to some 55,000 today. Firm figures are difficult to find, but University of Washington scholar Peter Moran, who is preparing a doctoral thesis on Western Buddhism, estimates that at least a million native-born Americans have converted to Buddhism, most of them in the last ten years.

The Pluralism Project, a Harvard-based group that studies religious diversity in the United States, cites strong anecdotal evidence that ordinary Americans from all walks of life are embracing the Buddhist truth, or dharma. "Our database shows over 1,000 Buddhist centers in the United States, and that's not even a complete list," says project manager Ellie Pierce.

Source: *Far Eastern Review*, October 30, 1997



Women in Japanese Business

Women account for only 0.18 percent of executives at major Japanese companies, according to the results of a recent survey by Tokyo-based publishing company Toyo Keiza Shinposha. The company polled 44,925 executives at 2,413 major companies, including 2,356 listed ones. A total of eighty-two female executives worked in seventy-six of the companies at the end of July, a rate of one woman for every 550 executives, the survey found. The number of female executives doubled from 1988 when the publishing company conducted its first survey. The average age of the women was 56.4, the survey found. Female executives worked mainly in such industries as retailing, services, textiles, and wholesaling, it added. About half were relatives or family members of a founder or major shareholder. The survey found four female presidents, but all were related to founders of the companies. Only twenty-nine women were promoted from the rank-and-file, the survey found.

Source: *Japan Times*, September 22-28, 1997

Heritage Foundation-Wall Street Journal ranking of economic freedom in selected Asian nations.

COUNTRY	WORLD RANK	ASIA-PACIFIC RANK
Hong Kong	1	1
Singapore	2	2
Australia	12	5
Japan	12	5
Thailand	28	8
Indonesia	62	13

Source: 1998 *Index of Economic Freedom*

Editor's Note:

EAA readers are invited to send material for this column. Please include a source for your "Factoid."

Birds in a tree, after a Yi dynasty painting by Cho Sok (1594-1668)

From *Traditional Korean Designs* by Madeleine Orban-Szontagh
Dover Publications, Inc. 1991