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Newsweek

MUSLIM RAGE



HOW I SURVIVED IT HOW WE CAN END IT

BY AYAAN HIRSI ALI



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WHAT DOES ANNA WANT NEXT?

Newsweek



'YOU SAY DOKDO, I SAY TAKESHIMA ... LET'S CALL THE WHOLE THING OFF'

Takashi Yokota's article (Sept. 10) could not be more timely. Even by the unique standards of the unfathomable love-hate relationship between Japan and South Korea, the recent tit for tat over the islets in the East Sea is simply unprecedented. One critical piece that's missing, however, is a sense of neutrality. The article reads almost like a summary of Tokyo's official position. How South Korea came in possession of the islets in 1952, according to Yokota, and Japan came in possession of the islets in 1905 only reflect the Japanese version of the facts. There is no question that Japan's position deserves full attention. But so does South Korea's.

Kaemin Lee
Professor of Law
Hanyang University
Seoul, South Korea

'CAN'T LIVE WITH HIM, CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT HIM'

Contrary to what Peter J. Boyer writes, President Obama has governed as a centrist. At the beginning of his term, the president placed more emphasis on cutting the deficit than creating jobs. His stimulus package was too small. His health-care reform with its mandate requirement was comprised of mostly Republican ideas. A true liberal would have proposed a single-payer system or at least a public option. President Obama was even willing to cut entitlements as part of a grand bargain with House Speaker John Boehner. If the president is reelected, I hope he will govern more like a true liberal and abandon his centrist agenda.

Reba Shimansky
New York, New York

'WHAT DOES ANNA WANT NEXT?'

Robin Givhan's article invokes a comment by Christopher Meyer, the former British ambassador to Washington, to justify ambassadorial appointments for successful campaign bundlers such as Anna Wintour. Being an ambassador, according to Meyer, does not require foreign-policy expertise, as there is a staff that can lend a hand. Instead, he says, one needs a "knack for creating a network of influence. You need a quick mind, hard head, strong stomach, warm smile, and a cool eye." We agree that these qualities are important, but an ambassador's diplomatic skills must be honed to understand the sensitivities, politics, and culture of the host country as well as the policy issues relevant to bilateral relations.

Susan R. Johnson
President
American Foreign Service Association
Washington, D.C.

'GOP GRAND ILLUSIONS'

Simon Schama's article hit the nail on the head. The Republicans like to remember a fictional history consisting of what they wish had happened. How quickly they forget that the recent economic meltdown was caused by the lack of regulation of the financial industry and the housing bubble, which stemmed from unscrupulous lending practices. We have a distinct choice in November.

Ronald L. Hanson
Fayetteville, Arkansas

No matter what people like Simon Schama say or do, the fact remains that the GOP convention stated a bitter truth to millions in America and around the world. Obama is a huge failure.

Aty Adejo
Karu, Nigeria

'CULT OF MAC'

One year after the passing of Steve Jobs, the Apple cult is back. With Samsung licking its wounds and Nokia turning in circles, Apple is clearly still the world's leading iDol.

Elijah Chai
Singapore

Letters to the Editor, with the writer's name and address, should be emailed to letters@newsweek.com. Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity.

Subscription inquiries for readers in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa can be directed to Newsweek, P.O. Box 16666, 1001 NR Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
Tel: +31 20 607 4144 Fax: +31 20 607 4157; newsweek.com
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LETTER OF THE WEEK

'The City: San Diego'

San Diegans and the majority of the 31 million people who visit our city each year would happily and vigorously refute the lion's share of what Rae Armantrout has written. San Diego affords us the ability to do almost anything, any time of the year. Unlike almost any other city in the world, we have unlimited opportunities to embrace life and what it has to offer, which is why so many have come to recognize San Diego as "La Ciudad de Vida."

George Mullen
San Diego, California