

CURRENT HISTORY

March 2006

Vol. 105, No. 689

CONTENTS

- 99 **Feminists and Fundamentalists** *Kavita Ramdas*
In the face of fierce fundamentalist challenges, women's movements around the globe are taking care not to mock traditional values or exacerbate men's insecurities.
- 100 **Will Women Show a New Way?** *Trudy Rubin*
In Chile, Liberia, Germany, and elsewhere, disgust with male-dominated politics is convincing more and more voters to give women leaders a chance.
- 105 **Is Globalization Our Friend?
Women's Allies in the Developing World** *Nandini Deo*
Feminists in developing countries struggle to disassociate from "Westernizers." But they should embrace reforms that create women's jobs by globalizing markets.
- 112 **Does Lower Fertility Threaten Feminism?** *Leonard Schoppa*
The hard-won option—increasingly exercised—to delay or forgo motherhood is creating a labor crisis in Europe and Japan. It may also be enervating equal-rights movements.
- 121 **Digital Scheherazades in the Arab World** *Fatema Mernissi*
The successors to the storyteller in *1,001 Nights* are Arab women who are taking advantage of new communications strategies to save themselves and their countries.
- 127 **Educating Girls, Unlocking Development** *Ruth Levine*
Schooling more girls for longer periods in improved settings would undoubtedly boost their prospects in life. It might also help lift entire populations out of poverty.
- 132 **Poland Provoked:
How Women Artists En-Gender Democracy** *Elzbieta Matynia*
Elections are nice, vigorous discourse even better. In Poland, artists are showing the way, challenging the dominant national culture and pulling women off their pedestals.
- 139 **From Victims to Saviors?
Women, Power, and Corruption** *Hung-En Sung*
A World Bank report concludes that females are the fairer sex: put more of them in government and public corruption will decline. A closer look at the data raises doubts.
- 144 **The Month in Review**
An international chronology of events in January, country by country, day by day.