

CURRENT HISTORY

September 2019

Vol. 118, No. 809

CONTENTS

- 203 The Lose-Lose Trade War** *Xiangfeng Yang*
Trump's tariffs took Chinese leaders by surprise, but they are the sharp end of growing US disillusionment with the old policy of engagement and fears of a technologically potent new rival.
- 209 China's Social Credit System: Data-Driven Governance for a 'New Era'** *Larry Catá Backer*
Scoring citizens, businesses, and officials on their compliance with the party-state's values is at the core of an emerging Chinese alternative to the rule of law. *First in a series on ways of governing.*
- 215 Japan's Model of Immigration Without Immigrants** *Erin Aeran Chung*
Japan for the first time has officially opened its doors to unskilled workers from abroad, but its policies remain designed to ensure that foreigners have no path to citizenship.
- 222 Australia's Refugee Detention Regime: Offshore and Unaccountable** *Amy Nethery*
Despite revelations of abuse, a broad political consensus supports a hard-line policy that leaves refugees and asylum seekers marooned for years in harsh detention centers.
- 229 Are Malaysia's Reformers Up to the Task?** *Gaik Cheng Khoo*
Citizen activists propelled a reformist coalition to a victory over a long-entrenched ruling party in 2018. Since then, progress has been slowed by infighting and ethnic divisions.
- 235 Escape from Jakarta?** *Abidin Kusno*
Lack of planning has long been a hallmark of the capital city's development. Now the specter of ungovernability has renewed old visions of building a replacement somewhere else.
- PERSPECTIVE**
- 241 Gay Marriage in Taiwan and the Struggle for Recognition** *Howard Chiang*
Advances for minority rights in Taiwan may help make the case for independence at a time when China has increased pressure for reunification and faces protests in Hong Kong.
- BOOKS**
- 244 Japanese Ingredients for a Good Old Age** *Jason Danely*
Convivial meeting places that cultivate a sense of purpose and belonging are a key to happiness among the rapidly growing cohort of elderly people in Japan.
- FOUR MONTHS IN REVIEW**
- 247 April–July 2019**
An international chronology of events from April through July, country by country, day by day.