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What We're Reading Today

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There are a few themes we’ve been tracking lately at *China Beat*, including growing Chinese nationalism, middle class protest, and India-China comparisons. Here are a few stories we’ve noticed around the web this week that address some of these issues:

1. For a thoughtful take on the *fenqing* phenomenon, check out Evan Osnos’s recent *New Yorker* piece, “Angry Youth: The New Generation’s Neocon Nationalists.”

2. *Financial Times* ran a recent piece on the efforts to stop construction of a nuclear power station in Rushan (southeast of Beijing)—see “China Pressure Groups Learn to Tread Carefully.”

3. Earlier this week, Danwei.org ran an excerpt from the book *Smoke and Mirrors: An Experience of China* by Pallavi Aiyar. The excerpt considers the differences between development in China and India.

4. In May, we ran a piece by Steve Smith on disaster rumors in the wake of the Sichuan earthquake. In the weeks to follow, some Chinese began to speculate that the cute little Olympic mascots, the *fuwa* (the Friendlies), were actually harbingers of doom, each one predicting an Olympic year debacle. Today, Shanghaiist reports that their own creator has disowned the *fuwas*. Look here for the piece, along with links to spoofs on the *fuwa* and further explanation of their role as harbingers of the apocolypse.

5. And, for a little lighter reading for those of you carefully packing and repacking your Beijing Olympic wardrobes, check out this *Sartorialist*-inspired blog of Beijing street-style, *Stylites in Beijing*. 