

Westernization of World Cultures

7.3.3

e

I'm Chen Ran, and I'm the lead singer in a rock band, Red Flag Flying. Our parents weren't supposed to dance or listen to Western music—not even classical music. My uncle was a journalist. A co-worker reported him to the Communist party for listening to the Voice of America radio station and he lost his job. He spent the Cultural Revolution working in the fields in Gansu province. He died there. We never saw him again.

Now we've all got radios and CD players. I got a cellular phone last year. I want to get a computer so I can find out more about Western bands and make lots of contacts on the Internet. We like British music from the late 1960s, but we play mostly Chinese pop music. I think we could sell millions of CDs outside China.

The Changing Face of China, Stephen Keeler, Austin, TX: Raintree Steck-Vaughn Publishers, 2003, page 9.

I'm Padmanabh Goshwami and I am the priest of a Hindu temple. Fourteen generations of my family have been priests here, and my eldest son has been training all his life to take over from me.

Needless to say, Hinduism is very important to me and my family. We are all worried that the foreign TV programs are damaging the Hindu religion and Indian society. You only have to look at how young people behave in Europe and America to realize how bad things could be in India.

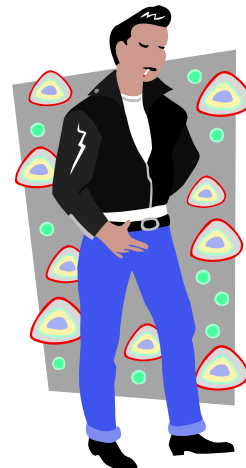
If our children turn away from Hinduism, everyone in India will be harmed. Hinduism teaches us to behave with respect to each other. Without that respect, mistrust will increase and, with it, crime and violence.

The Changing Face of India, David Cumming, Austin, TX: Raintree Steck-Vaughn Publishers, 2003, page 31.



Some of the young people [in India] have started questioning age-old family values and customs. They would like the freedom that is given to foreigners of the same age. For example, they want to wear Western-style clothes such as jeans, perhaps even to eat meat, drink alcohol, and smoke (all frowned upon in Hinduism). They also want to be able to marry for love, irrespective of social and religious barriers, and to live apart from their parents.

The Changing Face of India, David Cumming, Austin, TX: Raintree Steck-Vaughn Publishers, 2003, page 31.



*William Zhang, a journalist based in Beijing:
The greatest threat to our environment is from changes in lifestyle. Giant shopping malls and superstores are springing up everywhere,. Families are becoming more middle-class. They leave these places with armfuls of over-packaged goods. Imagine one and a quarter billion people leaving the supermarket with a couple of plastic bags each!*

The Changing Face of China, Stephen Keeler, Austin, TX: Raintree Steck-Vaughn Publishers, 2003, page 19.

