A Different Type of Crisis

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Abstract
The past 30 years saw China rising from a populous developing country to a formidable world power with an economy second only to the United States. While the economic development is surging ahead, the society’s value system seems to be shaky, if not collapsed. This project examines the reasons why this is happening.

A toddler lying on the street, fatally injured. No one came to her help.

Education expenditure of total GDP: 3.1%

Does Anyone Care?
• A two-year old girl run over twice, lying on the street dying. Eighteen pedestrians walked by and none offered help or called out for help.
• A school bus with nine seats, carrying 62 people, crashed head-on with a truck. Twenty-one people died, mostly preschoolers.
• A cancer patient attacked his doctor with a kitchen knife with 17 stab wounds.

The Other Side of the Picture
• Over two million government-funded vehicles for government officials, a cost of 200 billion yuan ($32 billion) annually.
• Government officials spend 900 billion yuan ($142 billion) on overseas travel, cars, and banquets a year.
• There are about 10 million government service people in China. Less than one percent of the total population, but they consume 10% of the state’s revenue.

Conclusion
• The ugly side of human nature
• Too much emphasis on materialism
• Media glorifying wealth and affluence
• Corruption
• Widening gap between rich and poor
• Helping the poor not government’s priority
• Collapse of the value system
• Inequality