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COVER: Illustration for TIME by Nilanjan Das and Dennis Wong



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Kim Jong II has agreed to halt his nuclear buildup, but full disarmament may be an unrealistic goal



The economy is reviving, yet the Japanese are depressed. They sense that their country is drifting in the wrong direction—from the widening gap between rich and poor to the graying of the workforce to the threat of a rising China. Trouble is, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is unable to offer a vision to assuage their fears about the future



China's interior is emerging as a key consumer market for foreign corporations

38 Jim Carrey now sounds more like an advice guru than a comedian



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