

INTRODUCTION

The Top Stories Series presents thought-provoking overviews of the key news events that have dominated world headlines—stories that not only captured the world’s attention, but continue to impact the world today. Profusely illustrated with compelling photographs, timelines and illustrations, the issues are presented clearly and within their complex, global context.

Selecting the stories was not an easy task. Many recent stories fascinated and disturbed, haunted and inspired. From among them, ten were selected for 2010 because of their importance to the global community and because of the lessons we can learn from them. Each one lends perspective to critical concepts like community, security and responsibility.

Many are not pretty. Indeed, some are ugly, often bloody. Some illustrations will be hard to look at and some descriptions hard to read. Many images are provocative, but none are gratuitous. Each image was selected to help readers come to grips with and unravel confusing, difficult, even frightening issues.

Every effort has been made to be objective and include viewpoints from around the world. Today, we live in a world tied together economically, electronically, and environmentally. Hopefully, these stories will encourage readers to develop a larger global perspective and a deeper appreciation of wide-ranging global viewpoints.

The Editors