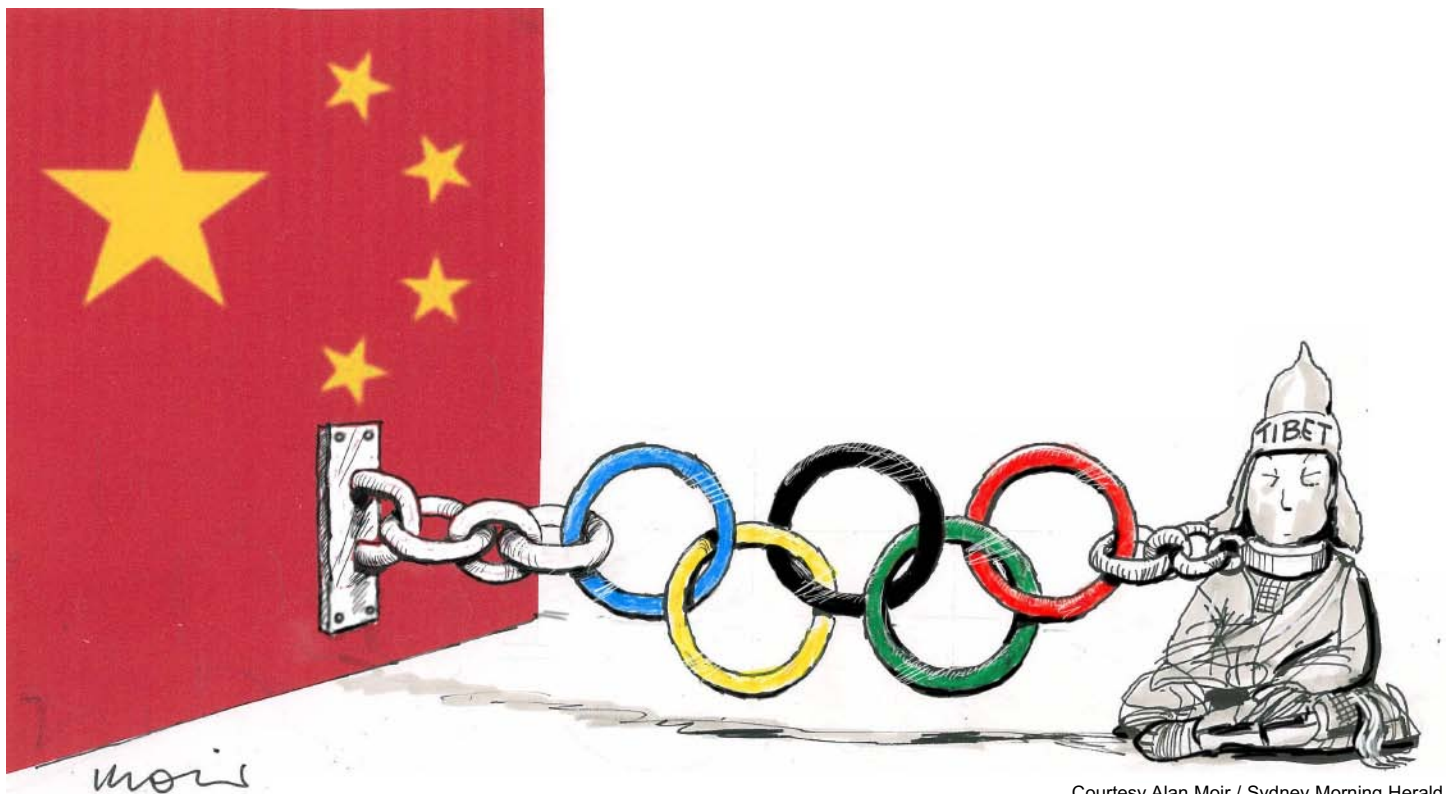


Cartoons for the Classroom

Presented by NIEonline.com and the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)



Courtesy Alan Moir / Sydney Morning Herald

Deciphering symbols

China, Tibet and the Olympics

Between the lines

Three months after violent anti-Chinese protests in the region, China paraded the Olympic Torch through Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, Saturday June 22, 2008, without incident..

Tibetan regions of western China have remained under virtual lockdown since March, when violent protests by Tibetan monks seeking autonomy for their region broke out in Lhasa and spread.

As a political issue, Tibet has largely disappeared as China prepares for the start of the Games on Aug. 8, 2008.

Talking points

1. Australian cartoonist Alan Moir uses a series of symbols to get across a point about the plight of Tibet. Olympic rings form a chain, binding a Tibetan monk to the Chinese flag. In order to decipher the message you need to decipher the symbols. What other symbols could stand for China, Olympics and Tibet?
2. How do you interpret the cartoon's message? Why are the Olympic Games binding Tibet to China?
3. The New York Times indicates that Tibet has largely disappeared as a political issue for China. What role can political cartoons play to keep a political issue alive? Would critical political cartoons be allowed in a country like China?

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper dealing with the Olympics. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the issues addressed.

Additional resources

More by Alan Moir
<http://www.smh.com.au/cartoons/>
Association of American Editorial Cartoonists
<http://editorialcartoonists.com/>