Turkey's TV Revolution

"Packaging Islam: Cultural Politics on the Landscape of Turkish Commercial Television"
by Ayse Öncü, in Public Culture (Fall 1995), 124 Wieboldt Hall, Univ. of Chicago, 1010 E. 59th St., Chicago, Ill. 60637.

For most of the 20th century, official Turkey has resolutely kept Islam in the closet. On state-controlled TV, evidence of the faith was seen only in weekly 15-minute homilies delivered by a state official in secular garb, and in limited mosque broadcasts on officially designated holidays. The overall impression from what was shown (and not shown) by the Turkish Television and Radio Authority (TRT), reports Öncü, a sociologist at Bogaziçi University in Istanbul, was that Islam remained “a primordial force” requir-
The Suicide of Cambodian Democracy


After almost two decades of terror, repression, and genocide, Cambodia held United Nations-supervised elections in 1993 that were supposed to be a landmark on the road to democracy. Nearly three years later, that destination still seems very far off, reports Jeldres, an Australian who served on the staff of Prince (now King) Norodom Sihanouk from 1981 to 1991.

In the May 1993 elections, the royalist FUNCINPEC party—founded by Sihanouk in 1981 to fight the country’s Vietnamese conquerors and now led by one of his sons, Prince Norodom Ranariddh—promised national reconciliation and a battle against corruption, and it scored a major victory. The party won 45 percent of the vote and 58 of the 120 Constituent Assembly seats. The Cambodian People’s Party (CPP), successor to the party created by Vietnam’s communist regime to rule as its proxy in Cambodia after the 1978 Vietnamese invasion, finished only a strong second. A new constitution subsequently restored the monarchy.

But the CPP, by threatening civil war, “strong-armed” Ranariddh into a coalition government, with the prince as “first prime minister” and CPP leader Hun Sen as “second prime minister.” Much of FUNC-