

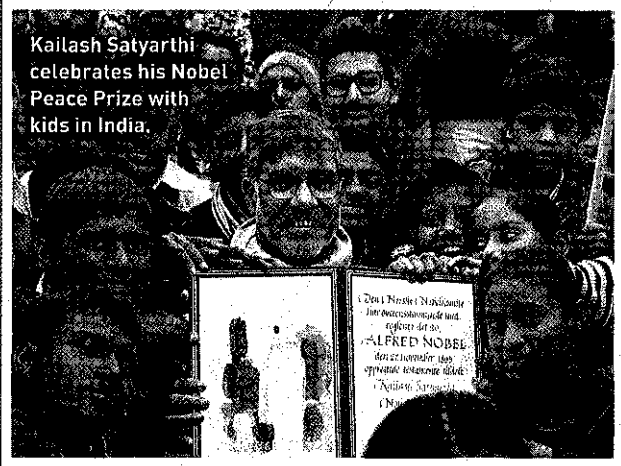
**INTERNATIONAL**

# 21st CE

The owner of a garment factory in Bangladesh threatens a 12-year-old worker.

# MODERN-DAY SLAVES

Millions of people around the world are living as modern-day slaves



Kailash Satyarthi celebrates his Nobel Peace Prize with kids in India.

Last fall, Kailash Satyarthi's team of activists stormed a workshop in New Delhi, the capital of India. Their mission: to rescue dozens of kids being held captive in sweltering, windowless rooms. The kids—some as young as 7 years old—were being forced to stitch shoes, bags, or clothing until their fingers were raw. They worked up to 17 hours a day, 7 days a week, for little food and no pay.

Within minutes, police had arrested the owners of the workshop, and the kids were shuttled to Satyarthi's shelter for former child slaves. Soon they'd receive a hot meal—their first in months—and be reunited with their families.

For more than 30 years, Satyarthi (sat-YAR-thee) has worked tirelessly to end modern-day slavery in India, where more people are enslaved than in any other country—14 million by one estimate. In 1980, he founded Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), Hindi for Save the Childhood Movement. The group conducts raids on factories, workshops,

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S.M.B. AKASH/PANOS PICTURES (CHILD SLAVES); TESEBING TOPICAL/AP PHOTO (KAILASH SATYARTHI)



Girls pick cotton in India.

## Made by Slaves

Many products sold worldwide are made with slave labor



### ELECTRONICS

Many minerals used in high-tech electronics, including coltan, tin, and tungsten, are mined by child slaves in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a poor nation in Africa.



### CLOTHES

Uzbekistan, a country in central Asia, is one of the top exporters of cotton. Every year, the government forces kids as young as 10 to pick cotton, which is used to make clothes.



### FISH

The U.S. imports most of its shrimp—and other types of fish—from Southeast Asia, where slaves are forced to work up to 20 hours a day, 7 days a week on fishing boats.

employers charge them for meals and fine them if they don't work fast enough. The workers' debts increase, keeping them enslaved to employers they can never pay off.

"Traffickers look for people who are vulnerable," says Terry FitzPatrick of Free the Slaves.

Sometimes, poverty-stricken parents in India, Pakistan, and other countries are tricked into selling their own kids.

"Children are often sold into

slavery because poor parents can't afford to take care of [them]," he tells *JS*. "Traffickers often promise these children will get an education and earn money to send back home. But very often that doesn't happen. It's a trick and a trap."

Instead, the children are forced to work day and night in factories, mines, homes, fields, restaurants, and hotels. They aren't allowed to go to school, see their families, or play outside.

In West Africa, kids are forced to get up at six in the morning to harvest cocoa beans in the scorching heat. In Southeast Asia, they weave rugs in dark rooms with no fresh air, their tiny fingers working feverishly to stitch the intricate designs. In Latin America, they work on farms, picking crops until their hands bleed.

"I worked night and day, and if I fell asleep, they would beat me," said one former child slave Satyarthi recently saved from a carpet factory in India.

### Stopping Slave Labor

Modern-day slavery is driven, in part, by an increasing demand for cheap labor, which helps companies produce inexpensive goods. Those products—clothes, rugs, and sneakers, for example—are then sold throughout the world, including in the U.S. (See "Made by Slaves," above.)

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# COUNTRIES WITH THE MOST SLAVES

The top 10 countries are numbered

## HAITI

Slavery is more widespread in Haiti than in any other country in the Americas. About 2 percent of the population—nearly 240,000 people—are slaves. Many are kids who work as maids in private homes.

## NUMBER OF SLAVES

- More than 500,000
- 100,000 to 500,000
- 25,000 to 99,999
- Fewer than 25,000
- Data not available

SOURCE: Walk Free Foundation; Global Slavery Index, 2014

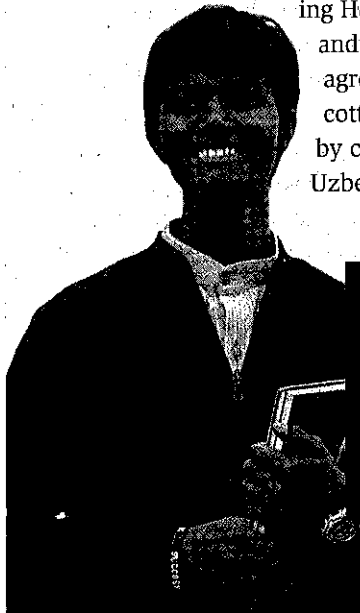
In recent years, governments, humanitarian groups, and other organizations have increased funding to help end slavery worldwide. Many countries have also strengthened antislavery laws.

In 2012, President Obama declared that the U.S. government wouldn't purchase goods that had been made with slave labor.

"American tax dollars must never, ever be used to support the trafficking of human beings," he said.

Several companies have also promised to end the use of slave labor in the production of their products. Hershey's, Mars, and other chocolate manufacturers recently pledged to end child labor in the cocoa industry by 2020. And more than 160 retailers—including

H&M, Gap, and Nike—have agreed not to use cotton harvested by child slaves in Uzbekistan.



Manan Ansari started working in a mine in India when he was 6 years old. Now, he's an 18-year-old college student.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- **Make a donation to an antislavery organization.**
- **Refuse to buy products made by slaves.**
- **Raise awareness about slavery so people know that it still exists.**

"Undoubtedly, progress has been made in the last couple of decades," says Satyarthi. "[But] great challenges still remain."

He says governments need to do more to enforce antislavery laws and ensure that all children are enrolled in school, not working at construction sites or in factories. Individuals can help too, says Satyarthi,

by not buying clothes, food, or electronics made by slaves.

"In our lifetime, we can end child labor," he says.

## A New Life

Manan Ansari (*left*) knows firsthand the contribution Satyarthi has made toward that goal.

Manan was forced to start working in a mine in India when he was just 6 years old. For two years, he collected mica, a mineral used in electronics and makeup. When Manan was 7, his friend was crushed to death by falling rocks in one of the mine's tunnels. Then one day, BBA workers raided the mine and saved him.

Today, he is an 18-year-old college student in India studying to be a doctor. He says that he's grateful to Satyarthi for saving his life and for raising awareness about modern-day slavery.

"He means everything to me," says Manan. "If it was not for him, I may [not be] alive today."

—Rebecca Zissou

## YOUR TURN

Terry FitzPatrick of Free the Slaves says that "traffickers look for people who are vulnerable." What factors might make a person vulnerable?

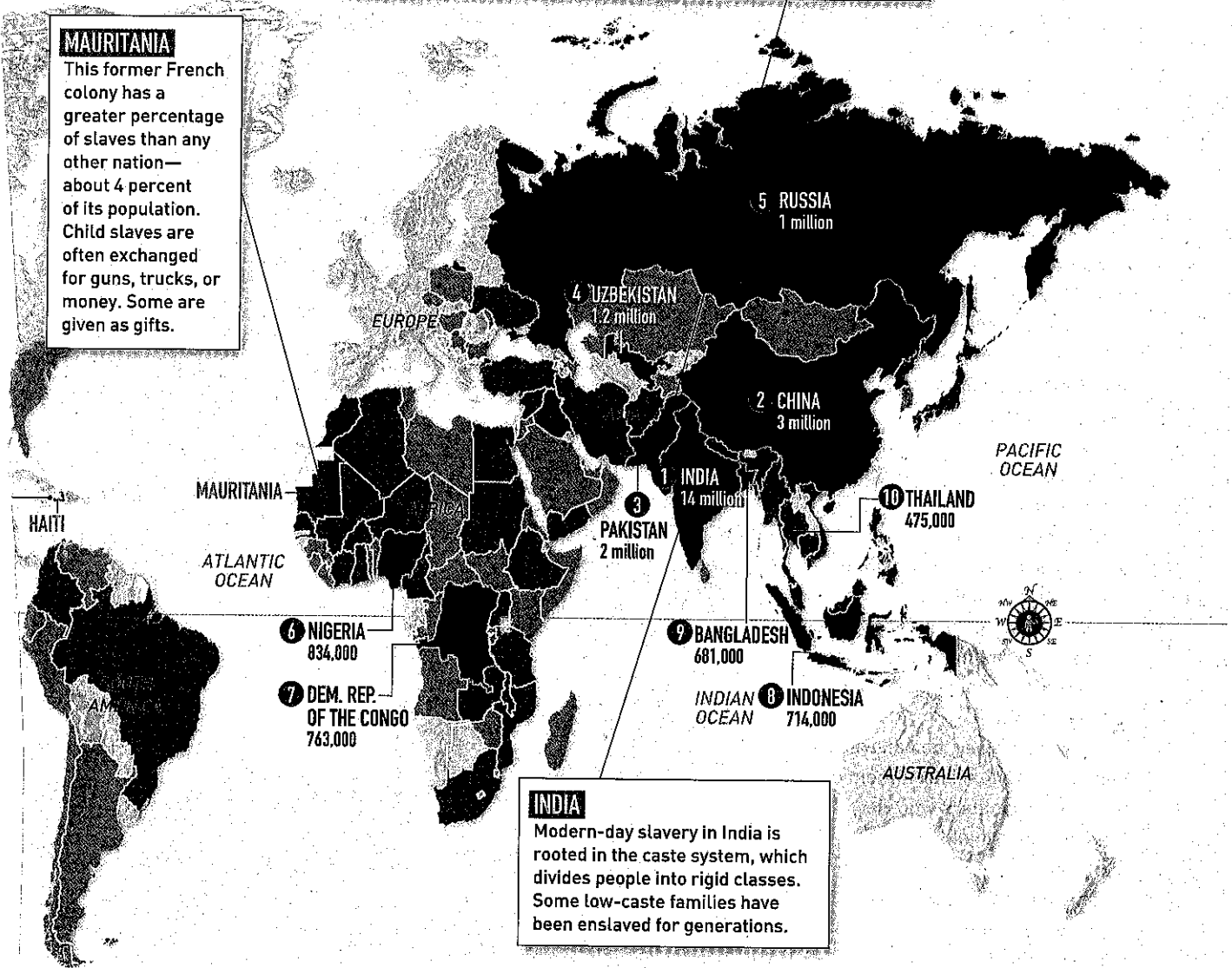
COURTESY OF MICHAŁ BAGIŃSKI (MANAN ANSARI); JIM MCKAY/ONLINE/REUTERS (MAP)

### PAKISTAN

Hundreds of thousands of slaves in Pakistan are bonded laborers—people forced to work to repay a loan. Over time, the employee's debt grows, and the loan becomes impossible to repay.

### MAURITANIA

This former French colony has a greater percentage of slaves than any other nation—about 4 percent of its population. Child slaves are often exchanged for guns, trucks, or money. Some are given as gifts.



### INDIA

Modern-day slavery in India is rooted in the caste system, which divides people into rigid classes. Some low-caste families have been enslaved for generations.

## Questions

1. How many people in China are slaves?
2. Which country in Africa has the highest number of slaves?
3. Which landlocked country has the most slaves?
4. Modern-day slavery in India is rooted in what?
5. The three countries with the most slaves are on which continent?
6. What percent of people in Haiti are enslaved?
7. Which country has about three times as many slaves as Bangladesh?
8. People forced to work to repay a loan are known as what?
9. How many more people are enslaved in Indonesia than in Thailand?
10. Which is greater: the number of slaves in India or the number of slaves in all of the other top 10 countries combined?