NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Torpekai, 12, is one of Afghanistan's Hazara people. During Taliban rule her grandfather and 70 other men in her village were killed. Today the constitution guarantees the Hazaras equal rights. Though she has yet to go to school, Torpekai hopes to become a doctor. Story on page 114. **Features** For 75 years Nubian kings ruled over ancient Egypt, reunifying 34 **Black Pharaohs** the country and building an empire. Until recently, theirs was a chapter of history lost in the shadows. BY ROBERT DRAPER PHOTOGRAPHS BY KENNETH GARRETT Central American immigrants heading north face many hazards— Mexico's Other Border 60 and many crossings—in their risky trek to the "land of marvels." BY CYNTHIA GORNEY PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEX WEBB With sensors that activate as soon as you pick up the source of the source of the soon as you pick up the source of the soon as you pick up the source of th With sensors that activate as soon as you pick up the camera, 11-point autofocus, and five focus and specific focus and specifi Runaway logging threatens to wipe out one of the world's largest Philippine Eagles shutter speed, Alpha allows you to focus and shoot with amazing precision. And with an HDTV.* To logge raptors. Now people are waking up to its plight. you can view your high-quality photos on your HDTV.* To learn more, visit sony.com/dslr. BY MEL WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS BY KLAUS NIGGE The region's burgeoning population and intensifying droughts Drying of the West 90 mean there may not be enough water to go around. BY ROBERT KUNZIG PHOTOGRAPHS BY VINCENT LAFORET The Hazaras cherish education and hard work, but their Shiite utsiders in Afghanistan 114 Muslim faith and Asian features have long made them a target. Will they find a better life in the post-Taliban era? BY PHIL ZABRISKIE PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVE McCURRY Travels along the path of Matsuo Basho, Japan's 17th-century On the Poet's Trail 136 haiku master, help bring his words to life. BY HOWARD NORMAN PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL YAMASHITA COVER Taharqa was the greatest of Egypt's Nubian kings.

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