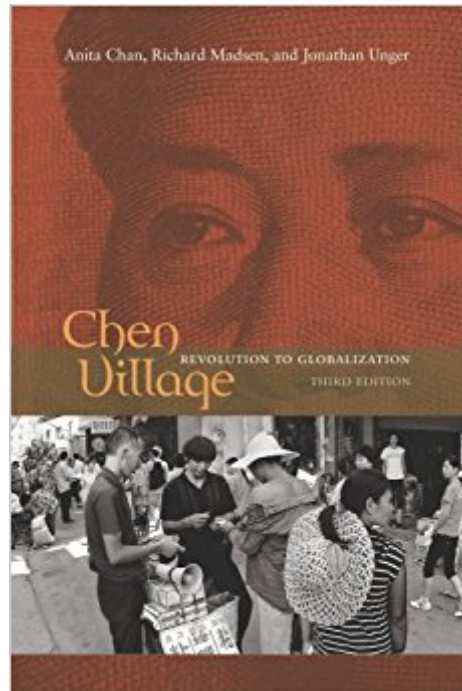




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Chen Village: Revolution To Globalization



Synopsis

The first two editions of *Chen Village* presented an enthralling account of a Chinese village in the throes of Maoist revolution followed by dramatic changes in village life and local politics during the Deng Xiaoping period. Now, more than a decade and a half later, the authors have returned to Chen Village, and in three new chapters they explore astonishing developments. The once-backwater village is today a center of China's export industry, where more than 50,000 workers labor in modern factories, ruled by the village government. This new edition of *Chen Village* illuminates, in microcosm, the recent history of rural China up to the present time.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is a longitudinal study of social, economic, and political change of a rural village in South China in order to illuminate how village residents, local cadres, and sent-down youths have responded to a blizzard of political winds since the 1960s. It also reveals the impact of industrialization and globalization on social and economic life of village residents and migrant workers during the 90s and the first decade of the twentieth-first century. This book is unique in three key aspects as compared with other works on China. First, the authors (three sociologists from US and Australia) have undertaken more than 300 qualitative interviews (P.5) of village residents and sent-down youths who have intimate knowledge and experience of what has occurred in their village. Moreover, the authors have paid several visits to the village between 1987 and 1990 and between 2006 and 2007 (P.8) in order to fill in the mental images of how local customs, social stratification, and social life of the village were affected by the forces of urbanization and

industrialization. Data collected in this book are first hand which are relatively more authentic and reliable than secondary data (i.e. newspapers, magazines, and statistics) widely employed by other works on China. Second, this book does not focus on key political figures such as Mao and Deng who have significantly transformed political and economic landscapes of China since 1949. Key actors under study are a group of uneducated, poor, and powerless Chinese domiciling in a very backward village who have to tack with different political winds and external forces. Most of the village residents cared more about their livelihoods than politics but they were forced to participate in tumultuous political campaigns.

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