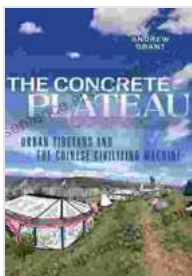


Unveiling the Hidden World of Tibetan Migrants in China's Metropolitan Heart



The Concrete Plateau: Urban Tibetans and the Chinese Civilizing Machine (Studies of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University) by Andrew Grant

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 2352 KB

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Print length : 411 pages

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In the bustling heart of China's sprawling metropolises, amidst the towering skyscrapers and the relentless flow of urban life, there exists a hidden world—that of Tibetan migrants.

Leaving their remote and enigmatic homeland on the Tibetan Plateau, these migrants embark on a transformative journey to the unfamiliar and often overwhelming urban centers of China. Their arrival not only alters the demographic landscape of these cities but also sets in motion a profound encounter between two distinct cultures—Tibetan and Chinese.

Enter 'Urban Tibetans and the Chinese Civilizing Machine'

In her groundbreaking book, 'Urban Tibetans and the Chinese Civilizing Machine', anthropologist Dr. Emily Yeh delves into this fascinating world, shedding light on the experiences, challenges, and resilience of Tibetan migrants in China's urban vortex.

Through extensive fieldwork, Dr. Yeh paints a vivid and nuanced portrait of these migrants' lives, exploring their daily struggles and triumphs, their cultural adaptations, and their evolving sense of identity.

The Challenges of Urban Life

For Tibetan migrants, the transition to urban life is fraught with challenges. They face linguistic barriers, cultural misunderstandings, and the constant pressure to conform to the dominant Chinese culture.

The 'civilizing machine' of the Chinese state, with its emphasis on education, language acquisition, and economic integration, often poses a formidable obstacle to their efforts to maintain their distinct Tibetan identity.

Cultural Preservation and Adaptation

Despite the challenges, Tibetan migrants exhibit remarkable resilience and creativity in adapting to their new environment. They establish vibrant Tibetan communities, maintaining their cultural practices through religious rituals, traditional festivals, and the preservation of their language.

This cultural preservation serves as a vital lifeline, connecting them to their Tibetan heritage and providing a sense of belonging in an often alienating urban landscape.

The Evolving Tibetan Identity

Urbanization has had a profound impact on the Tibetan identity. As migrants navigate the complexities of urban life, their sense of self undergoes a subtle transformation.

They grapple with questions of tradition and modernity, cultural authenticity and assimilation, forging a new and hybrid Tibetan identity that blends elements of both their Tibetan roots and their urban experiences.

A Window into Tibetan Migrant Life

'Urban Tibetans and the Chinese Civilizing Machine' offers an invaluable window into the hidden world of Tibetan migrants in China's urban centers. Through its rich ethnographic data and insightful analysis, the book illuminates the complexities of their experiences, their struggles, and their resilience.

For scholars of migration, urbanization, and cultural change, this book is an indispensable resource, providing a deep understanding of a compelling and understudied population.

About the Author

Dr. Emily Yeh is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the Weatherhead East Asian Institute of Columbia University. Her research focuses on Tibetan migration, urbanization, and cultural change in China.

'Urban Tibetans and the Chinese Civilizing Machine' is her second book, following her acclaimed work on Tibetan women's migration, 'Peasants into Migrants: Tibetan Women in Urban China'.

In the tapestry of urban China, the lives of Tibetan migrants add a vibrant and complex thread. Their stories of migration, adaptation, and cultural negotiation provide a unique perspective on the transformative power of urbanization and the resilience of the human spirit.

Through Dr. Yeh's meticulously researched and elegantly written account, readers are invited to enter this hidden world, gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges, triumphs, and evolving identities of Tibetan migrants in China.



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