

Delve Deeper into *Last Train Home*

A Film by Lixin Fan

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Gina Blume of the Monroe Township Public Library, includes books, films and other materials related to the issues presented in the film *Last Train Home*.

Every spring, China's cities are plunged into chaos as 130 million migrant workers journey to their home villages for the New Year in the world's largest human migration. *Last Train Home* takes viewers on a heart-stopping journey with the Zhangs, a couple who left infant children behind for factory jobs 16 years ago, hoping their wages would lift their children to a better life. They return to a family growing distant and a daughter longing to leave school for unskilled work. As the Zhangs navigate their new world, *Last Train Home* paints a rich, human portrait of China's rush to economic development.

ADULT NONFICTION

Migrant Workers in China

Chang, Leslie T. *Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China*. New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2009. Former correspondent for *The Wall Street Journal* explores the largest migration in human history, of China's 130 million workers migrating from rural villages to urban factories, through the narrative of two teenage girls working on a factory assembly line.

Constable, Nicole. *Maid to Order in Hong Kong: Stories of Migrant Workers*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2007. Constable tells the story of Filipina maids in Hong Kong with a focus on the major changes that have taken place in Hong Kong's reunification with mainland China in 1997, the Asian financial crisis of the late 1990s, and the outbreak of SARS in 2002-2003. Interweaving her analysis with the women's individual stories, she shows how power is expressed in the day-to-day lives of Filipina domestic workers.

Han, Changfu. *Migrant Workers in China*. Singapore: Cengage Learning Asia, 2011. The Minister of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China presents a comprehensive picture of the issue of migrant workers that has emerged due to China's urbanization.

Nielsen, Ingrid, and Russell Smyth. *Migration and Social Protection in China*. Hackensack: World Scientific Publishing Company, 2008. Nielsen and Smyth examine the key issues involved in establishing social protection for migrant workers in China including a critical examination of deficiencies in existing arrangements and an in-depth study of proposals that have been offered for extending social security coverage.

Shifting of Traditional Confucian Values

Wang, Zhengxu. *Democratization in Confucian East Asia: Citizen Politics in China, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and Vietnam*. Amherst: Cambria Press, 2008. Examining the forces of economic growth and social modernization and their impact on democratization provides the basis of this timely study. Using China, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and Vietnam as case studies, this book delves into these nations' Confucian cultural heritage and how that heritage allows for careful comparison of variables which affect societal values.

Yao, Souchou. *Confucian Capitalism: Discourse, practice and the myth of Chinese enterprise*. London: RoutledgeCurzon, 2002. This book examines the subject of "Chinese enterprise" and exposes the enduring myth about the determining effects of values and practices supposedly derived from Confucianism.

China's Economy

Breznitz, Dan, and Michael Murphree. *Run of the Red Queen: Government, Innovation, Globalization, and Economic Growth in China*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2011. This meticulously researched book closely examines the strengths and weaknesses of the Chinese economic system to discover where the nation may be headed and what the Chinese experience reveals about emerging market economies.

Chow, Gregory C. *China's Economic Transformation, 2nd edition*. Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell, 2007. In this second edition of the successful book *China's Economic Transformation*, Gregory Chow uses insights gained from over twenty years of teaching and traveling, as well as his work with government officials and academics, to address the reasons behind China's economic success.

Zhong, Yangsheng. *The Economic Theory of Developing Countries' Rise: Explaining the Myth of Rapid Economic Growth in China*. Lanham: University Press of America, 2010.

Executive vice governor of Guangdong Province offers insight into the rapid economic development of China.

Globalization and China

Bowles, Paul, ed., and John Harris, ed. *Globalization and Labour in China and India: Impacts and Responses*. Hampshire (UK): Palgrave Macmillan, 2010. Globalization has pushed China and India to the center of the stage but what has been the impact on workers in these countries? This book analyzes this question and demonstrates the complexity of the processes and responses at play. Bringing together expert analyzes of both rural and urban areas, the book highlights the ways in which local and national policies as well as global actors have an impact on labor.

Pun, Ngai. *Made in China: Women Factory Workers in a Global Workplace*. Durham: Duke University Press Books, 2005. Pun Ngai conducted ethnographic work at an electronics factory in southern China's Guangdong province, in the Shenzhen special economic zone where foreign-owned factories are proliferating.



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Confucianism

Bell, Daniel A. *China's new Confucianism: politics and everyday life in a changing society*. Princeton University Press, 2009. Bell provides an insider's account of Chinese culture and presents the argument that Confucian social hierarchy can actually *contribute* to economic equality in China. He covers such diverse social topics as sex, sports, and the treatment of domestic workers.

Confucius. *The Analects of Confucius*. Seven Treasures Publications, 2009.

The Analects of Confucius, are a record of the words and acts of the central Chinese thinker and philosopher Confucius and his disciples, as well as the discussions they held. The Chinese title literally means "discussion over [Confucius'] words."

FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

***China Inside Out: Bob Woodruff Reports*. A film by Bob Woodruff. ABC News, 2009. TRT: 42 min.** This documentary explores the dramatic transformation of China and how its rise is affecting the U.S.

***The People's Republic of Capitalism with Ted Koppel*. A film by Robert Goldsborough. Acorn Media, 2008. TRT: 176 min.** Veteran journalist Koppel chronicles increasing economic interdependence between the U.S. and China profiling American furniture maker Ethan Allen. This iconic company manufactures its furniture bases in China and sends them back to the U.S. for finishing.

***Up the Yangtze*. A film by Yung Change. Eye Steel Productions, 2007. TRT: 93 min.**

A POV selection in 2008, *Up the Yangtze* explores lives transformed by the Three Gorges Dam, the biggest hydroelectric dam in history, a hotly contested symbol of the Chinese economic miracle.

***Zhan Tai (Platform)*. A film by Jia Zhangke. TRT: 155 min.**

Both Lixin Fan and Jia Zhangke have a calm, meticulous, sensitive and abstract way of looking at changing China from a humanist point of view in a greater historical context. Fan has been inspired by Zhangke's use of landscape and

environment and the way he explores the relationships between plain individuals against the greater backdrop of contemporary Chinese society.

ARTICLES

City of Guangzhou

Bradsher, Keith. (2010, February 26). *Defying Global Slump, China Has Labor Shortage*. *New York Times*. Retrieved May 22, 2011, from <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/27/business/global/27yuan.html>. Due to a government stimulus program, China's rural workers are finding work in interior villages rather than returning to Pearl River Delta factories in Guangzhou, China. In response to worker shortage, factories are shutting down production, driving up prices and inflation, which will ultimately affect prices of Chinese made goods imported to the U.S.

Migrant Worker Exodus in History

Pai, Hsiao-Hung. (2010, July 8). *China's migrant workers want rights, not handshakes*. *Guardian*. Retrieved May 22, 2011, from <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/jul/08/china-migrant-worker-strike-action>. Millions of migrant factory workers comprise over half of the Chinese workforce and yet they are marginalized and exploited. Workers are rising up against unfair labor practices in hopes the Chinese government will create tangible system-wide change.

