

The Anthropology of China's Metropolis: Unveiling the Secrets of Asia

When one thinks of China, the image of bustling cities filled with skyscrapers and millions of people immediately comes to mind. The rapid urbanization and transformation of Chinese cities have left anthropologists intrigued. The Chinese metropolis presents an opportunity to study the social, cultural, and economic changes that are taking place in the heart of Asia.

In this collection of anthropological essays, we delve deep into the intricacies of China's metropolis, examining these cities as vibrant social ecosystems and attempting to understand the people who inhabit them.

The Emergence of Chinese Metropolises: A Historical Perspective

The history of Chinese metropolises is rich and diverse. From ancient capitals like Beijing and Xi'an to modern powerhouses like Shanghai and Shenzhen, these cities have witnessed significant transformations over the centuries. This essay explores the factors behind the rise of Chinese metropolises, highlighting the role of politics, economics, and cultural shifts in shaping these urban landscapes.



Hong Kong: Anthropological Essays on a Chinese Metropolis (Anthropology of Asia)

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Urban Development and Social Dynamics

China's rapid urbanization has brought about tremendous changes in its social fabric. In this essay, we delve into the impact of urban development on communities, including issues of displacement, inequality, and social cohesion. We also examine how migration patterns shape the dynamics of Chinese metropolises and explore the challenges faced by rural migrants as they navigate the urban jungle.

Consumption and Identity in the Chinese Metropolis

The metropolis is not only a physical space but also a realm of consumption and identity formation. Here, we uncover the distinct features of consumer culture in Chinese metropolises, analyzing the rise of shopping malls, luxury brands, and the emergence of consumer communities. We delve into the ways in which consumption practices contribute to the construction of individual and group identities within these urban landscapes.

Politics and Power in Chinese Metropolises

Chinese metropolises are hotbeds of political activity and power dynamics. In this essay, we examine the intersection of politics and urban spaces, exploring the role of the state in shaping urban development, governance structures, and spatial planning. We also dive into the political activism that takes place within the metropolis and its impact on the broader sociopolitical climate.

Technological Innovation and the Chinese Metropolis

China's metropolises are at the forefront of technological innovation. From smart cities to e-commerce giants, these urban hubs serve as laboratories for

technological advancements. This essay delves into the impact of technology on urban life, exploring topics such as surveillance, digital divide, and the integration of technology into everyday routines.

Preserving Cultural Heritage in the Face of Urbanization

Amidst the rapid urbanization, the preservation of cultural heritage becomes a pressing concern. Chinese metropolises face the challenge of balancing modernization and the conservation of their rich historical and cultural assets. In this essay, we explore the tensions between urban development and cultural preservation, highlighting the efforts made to protect and showcase China's rich heritage within the metropolis.

The study of Chinese metropolises is a fascinating journey that allows anthropologists to unravel the complexities of contemporary Asian society. From cultural transformations to power dynamics, these urban landscapes serve as microcosms of Asia's past, present, and future. Through these anthropological essays, we hope to shed light on the intricacies of Chinese metropolis, offering valuable insights into the anthropology of Asia.



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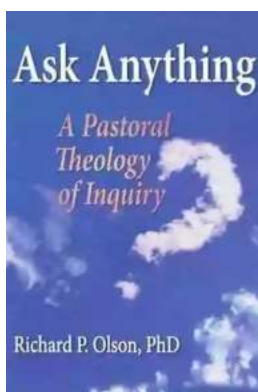
Hong Kong has become a by-word for all that is modern and sparkling in Asia today.

Yet tourist brochures still play with the old cliché of Hong Kong as a place where 'East meets West'. Images of so-called 'traditional' China, junks sailing Victoria Harbour or old women praying to gods in smoky temples, mingle with those portraying Hong Kong as a consumer and business paradise.

This collection of essays attempts to transcend the old polarities. It looks at modern Hong Kong in all its splendour and diversity in the run-up to its re-absorption into Greater China in mid-97, through the mediums of film, food, architecture, rumours and slang.

It explores the question of a distinct, modern Chinese identity in Hong Kong, and even when it explores the traditional stamping ground of the older anthropology in the New Territories it finds a dramatically changed context, in particular for women.

This collection presents an intriguing insight into the process of transition from 'tradition' to 'modernity' in this Modern Chinese Metropolis.



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