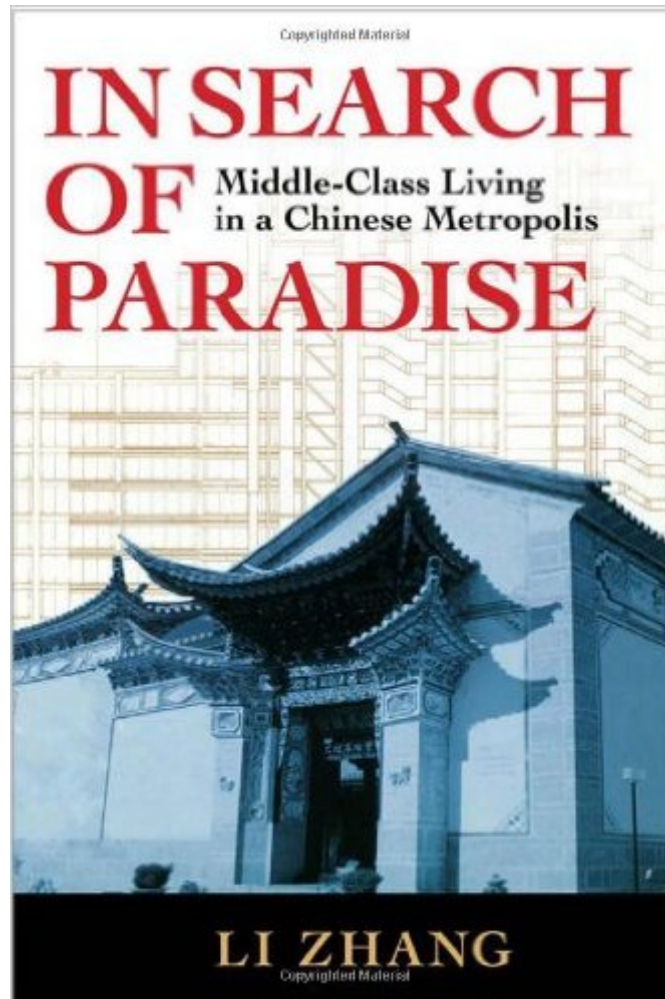


The book was found

In Search Of Paradise: Middle-Class Living In A Chinese Metropolis



Synopsis

A new revolution in homeownership and living has been sweeping the booming cities of China. This time the main actors on the social stage are not peasants, migrants, or working-class proletariats but middle-class professionals and entrepreneurs in search of a private paradise in a society now dominated by consumerism. No longer seeking happiness and fulfillment through collective sacrifice and socialist ideals, they hope to find material comfort and social distinction in newly constructed gated communities. This quest for the good life is profoundly transforming the physical and social landscapes of urban China. Li Zhang, who is from Kunming, the capital of Yunnan province, turns a keen ethnographic eye on her hometown. She combines her analysis of larger political and social issues with fine-grained details about the profound spatial, cultural, and political effects of the shift in the way Chinese urban residents live their lives and think about themselves. *In Search of Paradise* is a deeply informed account of how the rise of private homeownership is reconfiguring urban space, class subjects, gender selfhood, and ways of life in the reform era. New, seemingly individualistic lifestyles mark a dramatic move away from yearning for a social utopia under Maoist socialism. Yet the privatization of property and urban living have engendered a simultaneous movement of public engagement among homeowners as they confront the encroaching power of the developers. This double movement of privatized living and public sphere activism, Zhang finds, is a distinctive feature of the cultural politics of the middle classes in contemporary China. Theoretically sophisticated and highly accessible, Zhang's account will appeal not only to those interested in China but also to anyone interested in spatial politics, middle-class culture, and postsocialist governing in a globalizing world.

Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Cornell University Press; 1 edition (April 22, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0801475627

ISBN-13: 978-0801475627

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.6 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #423,719 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #375 in Â Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Public Affairs & Policy > City Planning & Urban Development

Customer Reviews

In less than two decades, China has changed from a predominantly public-housing regime to one with one of the highest private home ownership rates in the world. Class distinctions are emerging via location, spatial exclusion (gated communities) in the socialist land. The new trends have also spurred public engagement among homeowners confronting the encroaching power of developers. The author primarily focuses on changes in his home town of Kunming, but also has more general material from elsewhere in China. Prior to 1950, private housing had been largely concentrated in the hands of a small number of landlords, with ordinary citizens living in poor, over-crowded conditions on the edge of towns - often made of mud, and self-constructed. In 1950, all private property was taken by the state, and upper-class housing was subdivided, with the original owners given a few rooms (if anything). Conflicts over shared kitchen, courtyard, bathroom space were common, as well as noise and cleanliness. The average living space/capita in urban areas was 3.1 square meters in 1960, rising to 5.2 in 1985. Shanghai and Beijing often had three generations in one room, subdivided by hung sheets. Cooking often took place on portable stoves in the hallways. Restitution for those original seizures has been rare in China because the records were largely destroyed during the Cultural Revolution. Public housing in units of 5 - 15,000 became the rule for 80-90% for those in urban areas, distributed and managed by one's work unit. This was perhaps the most important welfare benefit up to the late 1990s. One's rank, as well as the strength of one's employer, affected rooming assignments. Corruption was also a factor.

This book is an ethnographic study of the emerging urban middle class in China through an in-depth investigation of the emergence and development of commodity housing market in a metropolis in South West China and how the housing market reconfigures cultural, social, and economic characteristics of this social class. Kunming is a tier 2 city in South West China where it is also hometown to the author so that it should be relatively easier for the author to make access to important information and to say closer to informants (i.e. real estate players, real estate agents, government officers, and local residents) for personal interviewing purpose. Undertaking ethnographic study is a mounting challenge to scholars and researchers when the research topic is too sensitive to investigate (i.e. power terrain dynamics in the government, clientele ties between government and real estate players, violent conflicts between developers and the residents). The

author is the Department Chair and Professor of Anthropology of UC Davis and her specialized research interests include urban studies, middle-classes and consumption practices, critique of post-socialism and neo-liberalism, and China. The theoretical premise of this book is that the social, political, and cultural repercussions of market reform and socialist transformations in contemporary China are significant and it does seem to be a relationship between class formation and spatial production (P.14) as the Chinese government has taken measures to substitute the growth of public for private housing market since the 1980s (space making, class makingâ™ hypothesis).

[Download to continue reading...](#)

In Search of Paradise: Middle-Class Living in a Chinese Metropolis Word Search Book for Adults: Word Search Puzzles to Improve Memory and Exercise: word search, word search books, word search books for adults, adult word search books, word search puzzle books Word Search Puzzles Large Print: Large print word search, Word search books, Word search books for adults, Adult word search books, Word search puzzle books, Extra large print word search Chinese Cookbook - 25 Delicious Chinese Recipes to Chinese Food Made Easy: Recipes from Chinese Restaurants The Divine Comedy & Paradise: Paradise v. 3 (Classics) Paradise Lost: An Annotated Bibliography (Paradise series Book 1) Warriors Word Scramble: Word Scramble Games - Word Search, Word Puzzles And Word Scrambles (Word Games, Brain Games, Word Search, Word Search Games, Word ... Scramble, Word Scrabble, Unscramble Word) The Best Large Print Word Search Puzzle Book: A Collection of 50 Themed Word Search Puzzles; Great for Adults and for Kids! (The Best Large Print Word Search Puzzle Books) (Volume 1) Fingerspelling Word Search Games - 36 Word Search Puzzles with the American Sign Language Alphabet: Volume 01 (Fingerspelling Word Search Games for Adults) HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR. Kids Coloring Book.: Children Activity Books with 30 Coloring Pages of Chinese Dragons, Red Lanterns, Fireworks, Firecrackers, ... 3-8 to Celebrate Their Fun Chinese New Year! Chinese Hot Pot Cookbook - Your Favorite Chinese Hot Pot Recipe Book: No Other Chinese Cookbook Can Compare 49 Awesome Chinese Recipes (The Ultimate Chinese Cookbook That Brings an Entire American Chinese Buffet to Your Dinner Table) Chinese Recipes. Delicious Chinese Recipes For All The Family: Easy & Tasty Chinese Cookbook The Chinese Cookbook: 50 Great Recipes from the Chinese Kitchen (Chinese Cooking) Chinese Cooking: No Wok Takeout! 80 Amazingly Delicious 3 Steps Or Less Chinese Recipes Revealed (Chinese Cookbook, Cooking For One) (cookbook for beginners, ... meals cookbook, easy meals for one 2) Integrated Chinese: Level 2, Part 1 (Simplified and Traditional Character) Character Workbook (Cheng & Tsui Chinese Language Series) (Chinese Edition) Integrated Chinese: Level 1, Part 2 Workbook (Traditional Character, 3rd Edition) (Cheng & Tsui Chinese Language Series)

(Chinese Edition) The Transit Metropolis: A Global Inquiry Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West The Next American Metropolis: Ecology, Community, and the American Dream

[Dmca](#)