China—Current Life and Traditional Culture

中国当前的生活和传统文化

Orna Taub
Hello

My name is Orna Taub. My main occupation is to provide valuable material for the worldwide Mandarin students based on their special requirements and my own learning experience. This e-book reveals the main issues which occupy the current Chinese society and some interesting topics concerning the Chinese traditional vast culture. All is written in Chinese characters followed by pinyin and English.

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Part one – China current life

China is a very special country which attracts the interest of many western people. Due to the many years of being a closed country, China became a mysterious country in the eyes of the western world. Following the opening of China, the vast Chinese culture was revealed to the western world. The huge Chinese traditional culture on one hand and the special Chinese society today make China an especially interesting country.

The Chinese society is undergoing big changes in a relatively very short period. This causes many serious problems to emerge. In addition, the big Chinese population places great challenges before the Chinese government. To list a few of them:

The rise of the middle classes, The imbalance of wealth, urbanisation, ageing population, Environmental pollution, sexes imbalance.

To this part attached audio links.
China's youth are more focused on iPods, designer jeans and buying their first car than political reform. Most of all they are worried about getting well paid jobs and a share of the new-found wealth that many Chinese professionals are enjoying as the economy surges ahead with double-digit growth. In today's competitive economy, the number of college graduates is keeping entry-level office salaries low, leaving many to worry about how they will ever be able to afford a home.
It is easier said than done. Last summer, China had to provide jobs for nearly 5 million college graduates. This summer, 5.6 million more are getting ready to move out of dormitories and into the job market. Often the first in their family to get higher education, these graduates of colleges and vocational schools have high expectations that are not being met despite soaring economic growth as there are more graduates than jobs in China. The average employment rate of recent graduates was 73 percent in autumn 2007, the China Daily said, citing Ministry of Education figures.
bú guò，shuō lái róng yì zuò qǐ lái nán。qù nián xià jì，zhōng guó yǒu jīn 500 wàn dō xué yīng jiè bì yè shēng yào zhǎo gōng zuò。ér jīn nián xià jì，yòu jiāng yǒu 560 wàn bì yè shēng zǒu chū xiào yuán。zhè xiě pǔ tōng gào xiào huò yè xué xiào bì yè shēng zhōng，yōu bù shǎo shì jiào lǐ dì yī gè jié shòu Le gào dēng jiào yu de，yīn cǐ bǎo zhe hěn gāo de qī wàng。dān jīn guǎn jīng jì péng bó fā zhǎn，jiù yè shì chǎng hái shì sēng duō zhōu shāo tā men de qī wàng wǎng wǎng nán yǐ shí xiàn。

《zhōng guó rì bào》yuán yīn jiào yù bù de shù jù chèn，2007 nián qiū jī，yīng jiè bì yè shēng de píng jūn jiù yè lǜ wéi73%。
Incremental reform is the code of China's reform. To carry out such economic reform in a large country with 1.3 billion people is unprecedented and China has no model to follow. It must move forward inch by inch, paving the way as it goes.

渐进式改革是中国改革的代码。在一个拥有13亿人口的大国进行这样的经济改革是史无前例的，而且中国也没有可以模仿的先例。必须一寸一寸地向前推进，随着它的进行而铺平道路。
Looking back on 20 years of reform (1978-1998), we can see how it has gone from rural households to townships, from enterprises to cities, from coastal areas to hinterland and from micro-actions to macro-policies. It has been characterized by "pilot projects being tried before nationwide implementation" and "economics reform first, political reform second".

回顾20年的改革(1978 - 1998)，我们可以看到改革已经从乡镇农村家庭、从企业到城市、从沿海到内陆、从小政策到大政策。它一直以“试点项目正在全国范围内实现”和“经济改革第一、政治改革第二”为特点。

The most prominent feature of China's economics growth over the past few years since 1998 is that the growth rate has been maintained at a 7-8 percent level for four successive years. This shows, on the one hand, that the Chinese government has been successful in its expansionary fiscal policy and prudent monetary policy while resisting the impact of international economic slowdowns and financial turmoil, and that it has overcome the inadequacy in domestic demand.
过去的几年中国经济增长最显著的特征是，自 1998 年以来连续四年增长速度一直保持在 7 - 8 的水平。由此可见，一方面，中国政府已经成功利用扩张性的财政政策和稳健的货币政策抵制了国际经济放缓和金融动荡的影响并克服了国内需求的不足。

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3. Chinese Style Of Crossing Road (zhōng guó shì guò mǎ lù)

Chinese style of crossing the road, that is "crossing the road when there are a handful of people, regardless of the traffic lights", is a kind of a teasing by net friends on the phenomenon of some Chinese run the red light collectively. The reason of this phenomenon is that people are affected by the thought of "following the herd", so they are regardless of the traffic safety.

中国式过马路，即“凑够一撮人就可以走了，和红绿灯无关”是网友对部分中国人集体闯红灯现象的一种调侃。出现这种现象是大家受法不责众的“从众”心理影响，从而不顾及交通安全。
Regarding the rapid economic development in China, public facilities are also upgrading such as traffic lights and pedestrian walk. However, many people neglect the red light and cross the road with the crowd regardless of traffic rules, leading to potential safety threat and high possibility in accidents. This is a danger warning sign not only for the public to self-examine the behaviors but also for traffic control department to improve the intensity to penalize those who violate the traffic rules. With more efforts, I believe, this phenomenon could be managed in a better manner.

随着中国经济的快速增长，公共基础设施，比如交通灯和人行道，也正在升级。然而，许多人集体乱闯红灯而不顾交通规则，导致了潜在的安全威胁和高事故可能性。这不仅是公众对自我行为反省的警告，也是交通管理部门提高对违反交通规则的人的处罚力度的警告。我相信通过更多的努力，这个现象可以通过一个更好的方法被治理好。
4. Getting A Driving Licence 考驾照 (kǎo jià zhào)

Driving and car ownership have taken off in China. Last year, the country added nearly 18 million drivers. There is so much demand for licenses that you had to wait a month for the first available testing date sometimes. There were 100 questions drawn from a pool of nearly 1,000. You had to get 90 correct to pass.

买车和开车在中国已经相当普遍了。去年，中国新增了近1800万开车族。由于申请驾照的人太多，有时你要等一个月才有机会参加初试。考试共100题，从1000个题目中抽取而成，满90分才算通过。
The Chinese driver's test is not easy. For one thing, it requires a ton of memorization. Consider this yes or no question, taken verbatim from a test. The other reason the test is difficult is some of the questions are, well, challenging. It is also not easy to pass it and some people tried for many times and some others just choose to give up directly. And if you are foreigners, you must also have a Chinese license to drive in China, but you can imagine, it's even so hard for Chinese, let alone for foreigners!

中国的驾驶考试并不容易。首先，你得死记硬背很多东西，然后选择对错。另一个原因就是，有些问题真是太难琢磨了！考一次就通过也是不容易的。许多人试了很多次而另一些人就直接选择放弃了！而且，如果你是个外国人，你也必须有中国驾照才能在中国开车。不过，你可以想象，对中国人都这么难，更别说对外国人了！
5. Forced Marriage 逼婚 (bī hūn)

Every year around Chinese New Year, many Chinese prepare to head home for China's most important festival. But many of the younger generation dread facing family confrontations about their love life.

For those who are singles, going home means they will either arrange blind dates for you or you get scolded."

每年快到春节的时候，许多华人都在准备回乡过春节，去度过这一中国人最重要的节日。但很多的年轻一代很怕面对家长对自己恋爱生活的质询。对于那些还是单身的人来说，回家就意味着要么被家长安排去相亲，要么就是挨骂。

měi nián kuài dào chūn jiē de shí hou，xǔ duō huá rén dōu zài zhǔn bèi huí xiāng guò chūn jiē，qù dù guò zhè yī zhǒng guó rén zuì zhòng yào de jiē rì。dàn hěn duō de nián qīng yī dài hěn pà miàn duì jiā zhǎng
duì zì jǐ liàn ài shēng huó de zhì xún。duì yú nà xiē hái shì dān shēn
de rén lǎi shuō，huí jiā jiù yǐ wèi zhe yāo me bèi jiā zhōng ān pái qù xià
ng qīn，yāo me jiù shì ài mǎ。

On the online Chinese forum Tianya.cn, a single man asked for advice on
facing his family. There start to come up with a new business method for
those who can't handle the pressure of nagging parents: renting
boyfriends or girlfriends for the day through China's online shopping
giant, Taobao.com. Rental counterfeit boyfriends or girlfriends come
with services such as meeting the parents, shopping and watching
movies. One customer left a satisfied review for her purchase.

在中国的天涯论坛里，一位单身男子发贴寻求面对家人逼婚的对策。
于是对于那些忍受不了家人唠叨的话的人们出现了一种新商业方法：
去中国网购巨头淘宝网上去租个男友回家过年。租借假装男友的服
务包括见家长，陪逛街和看电影。还有一位顾客在租借后给店家留
下了满意的评论。

zài zhōng guó de tiān yá lún tán lǐ，yī wèi dān shēn nán zǐ fā tiē xún qí
ú miàn duì jiā rén bǐ hūn de duì cè。yù shì duì yú nà xiē rén shòu bù
Le jiā rén lǎo dào de huà de rén men chǔ xiān Le yī zhōng xīn shǎng yè f
ēng fā：qù zhōng guó wǎng gòu jū tòu táo bǎo wǎng shǎng qù zú gè nán
yǒu huǐ jiā guò nián。zú jiē jiǎ zhūāng nán yǒu de fù wù bǎo kuò jiān jiā
zhǎng，pèi guǎng jiē hé kàn diàn yǐng。hái yǒu yī wèi gu kě zài zú jiē
hou gěi diǎn jiā liú xià Le mǎn yī de píng lún。
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