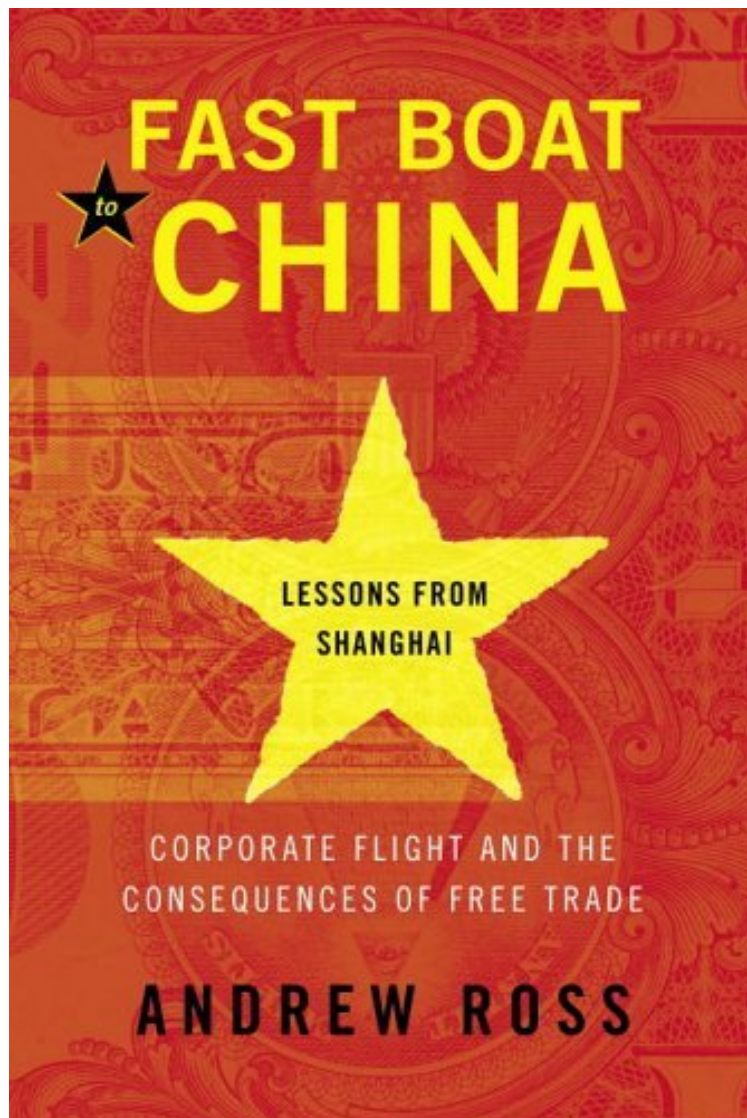


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Fast Boat to China: Corporate Flight and the Consequences of Free Trade; Lessons from Shanghai

Andrew Ross

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Andrew Ross : Fast Boat to China: Corporate Flight and the Consequences of Free Trade; Lessons from Shanghai before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fast Boat to China: Corporate Flight and the Consequences of Free Trade; Lessons from Shanghai:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Horrible book...would not recommend itBy Jonathan TallmanThis is a dreadful book. This is a guy who writes a book about economics, but tries to claim it isn't about economics. He has

no training in economics, but tries to prescribe economic solutions to problems. I had to read this for class, and by far is the worst book I have ever had to read for class. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Berglund Center for Internet Studies Review by Jeffrey Barlow By Berglund Center for Internet Studies Despite its Sino-centric title, the book is really a broader study into the politics and economics of globalization, particularly of "off-shoring," the sending of jobs from one country to another. However, like many students of China, Ross was so engaged by it that the work winds up being truly a recent history of the high-tech industry in both China and Taiwan. Indian entrepreneurs too, make their entrance periodically. The work is fascinating in its detail. Ross lived in Shanghai for over a year and conducted hundreds of interviews ranging from American ex-patriate executives to Chinese and Taiwanese engineers in high-tech firms in coastal and inland China, as well as in Taiwan. We are given succinct summaries of the growth of the industry in many local regions of China. Fast Boat to China is not a how-to-succeed-in-doing-business-in-China sort of book. But it should be read by anyone contemplating jobs being moved to China, whether the job is theirs at present, or the factory where the job now is performed. It also should be of interest to anyone who wants to get beyond the screen of stereotyped name-calling that often serves as the dominant conversation in the frequent clashes between Chinese and American interests. For a full review see Interface, Volume 7, Issue 1.4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Amateurish attempt at economic analysis of the PRC economy By Harvy Lind Written in the modish "cultural-studies" fashion by an academic in the humanities with no serious training in economics as a science, this book disappoints in a number of ways. Ross's knee-jerk hostility to what he sweepingly terms in black-and-white fashion "sweatshop" labor overlooks the fact that a country like the PRC that was mired in poverty, famine, and relatively slow growth during the Mao Zedong Era would not likely be able to move directly into a 5-day workweek and 8-hour workday during the early stages of the transition from an autarchic state-planned economy to a globalizing mixed economy. Ross's prescription of protectionist legislation and a "flight tax" for the US are pat answers to problems of much greater complexity than he is capable of understanding. A reader would be better advised to read a book on the Chinese economy by serious economist with academic bona fides and true fluency in Chinese such as Barry Naughton. The lack of a bibliography or works-cited list in a monograph like this is a sign of lightweight scholarship at best on the part of Ross.

Most Americans today are aware that jobs are being outsourced to China, India, and other nations at an alarming rate. From factory jobs to white-collar, high-tech positions, the exporting of labor is one of the most controversial issues in America. Yet few people know much about the other end — about the people who are actually working these jobs and how their own lives have been thrown into tumult by these new economic forces. Andrew Ross spent a year in China, interviewing local employees and their managers in Taiwan, Shanghai, and the far western provinces. In this engaging and informative book, he shows how the Chinese workforce has inherited many of the same worries as American workers, such as job instability, long hours, and awareness of their own expendability. He reports on the daily reality of corporate free trade and explores the growing competition between China and India. This is an eye-opening exploration of an unseen side of our globalized world. From the Trade Paperback edition.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . A cultural critic and frequent commentator on labor issues (No-Collar), NYU professor Ross positions himself in stark opposition to Thomas Friedman's enthusiastic embrace of free trade's extremes, particularly when it comes to American corporations outsourcing jobs to foreign nations. He notes, for example, that there is no evidence to support the assurances of free trade advocates that displaced workers will eventually reap economic benefits from losing their jobs to cheaper markets. China has become one of the key suppliers of cheap labor, leading Ross to wonder what workers there think of their role in the global economic struggle. Wandering around office parks and expatriate social gatherings in Shanghai, a recent magnet for foreign investment, he lays out a compelling ground-level perspective and discovers that workers in China suffer in ways similar to their American counterparts. Management, he writes, follows the same techniques worldwide, playing on employee insecurity to keep wages down. Ross also outlines the history of China's efforts to attract foreign investment, especially in competition with India, and to bring economic development to its remote western provinces. His firsthand reporting is so engaging that even more of it would be welcome, but the economic analysis offers a strong counterpoint to advocates of outsourcing. (Apr. 4) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Highly readable. . . . With his clear ideas about fair trade and internationalized labor rights, [Ross] lays out concrete alternatives to the common wisdom that globalization is unstoppable." —Time Out New York "A fresh look at exactly what we should be making of . . . the increasing number of U.S. and European companies that are relocating their factories and work force in China." —The Asian of Books "A skeptical take on pro-China boosterism, gained through the same participant-observer techniques the author brought to his Celebration Chronicles." —The Atlantic Monthly "Engaging. . . . A compelling ground-level perspective." —The Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette From the Trade Paperback edition. About the Author Andrew Ross is Professor of American Studies and Director of the Metropolitan Studies Program at New York University. He is the author of seven books, including

Nondash;Collar: The Humane Workplace and Its Hidden Costs; The Celebration Chronicles: Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Property Value in Disney's New Town; and Low Pay, High Profile: The Global Push for Fair Labor. He has also edited six books, including No Sweat: Fashion, Free Trade, and the Rights of Garment Workers and, most recently, Antindash;Americanism. He lives in New York City.