

# Paradise Redefined

## **PARADISE REDEFINED**

Transnational Chinese Students and the Quest for  
Flexible Citizenship in the Developed World



**VANESSA L. FONG**

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In 2004, Vanessa Fong offered a groundbreaking ethnographic exploration of the social, economic, and psychological development of children born since China's one-child policy was introduced in 1979. Her book *Only Hope* left readers with a picture of stressed, ambitious adolescents for whom elite status was the ultimate goal, though relatively few were in a position to achieve it.

In *Paradise Redefined*, Fong tracks the experiences of many in her initial cohort of Chinese only-children—now college-age—as they study abroad in Australia, Europe, Japan, New Zealand, North America, and Singapore. While earning a prestigious college education in China is the main path to elite status, study abroad provides an alternative channel by offering a particularly flexible "developed world" citizenship. This flexible citizenship promises the potential for greater happiness and freedom afforded by transnational mobility, but also brings with it unexpected suffering, ambivalence, and disappointment. *Paradise Redefined* offers insights into China's globalization by examining the expectations and experiences that affect how various Chinese students make decisions about studying abroad, staying abroad, immigration, and returning home.

"Vanessa Fong has made a remarkable contribution by her meticulous following of a generation of Chinese single children through their educational careers, first at home and now abroad. The impact of this generation on the world will be immense, and this is a key window on how their lives are unfolding."—Alan Smart, University of Calgary

"From *Only Hope* to *Paradise Redefined*, Fong's unique, longitudinal research offers an invaluable key to better understand the singleton generation in China who have come of age in the first decade of the 21st century, and will to a great extent determine the future of the most populous country on earth."—Yunxiang Yan, University of California, Los Angeles

"With *Paradise Redefined*, Vanessa Fong has produced another well-researched and innovative account. Those familiar with *Only Hope* will welcome this impressive transnational sequel, and a wider audience of globalization and migration scholars, educators, policy makers, and China scholars will find it a timely, authoritative, and unique source of insight into Chinese students abroad."—Nicole Constable, University of Pittsburgh

作者介绍:

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2. Is the Moon Rounder Abroad? How Chinese Citizens See the World

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## 标签

人类学

社会学

Anthropology

移民

留学生

海外中国研究

教育

社会

## 评论

读得我一把辛酸泪啊。对于作者长期追踪的能力十分佩服，但是对于定性定量方法的结合使用达到的实际效果持保留态度。并且对于写作中理论的应用也不太懂。似乎只讲到了三种公民身份以及新自由主义背景。在后面几章中基本很少涉及理论了。

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也算是一本血泪史了吧。觉得比前一本书好点了，至少点到一些问题。

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华裔美国学者Vanessa Fong凭借中英双语优势，历时十年，对20世纪初留学海外或归国的中国人进行访谈和参与式观察，形成这样一本现实、接地气而又融入深刻的国际视野的民族志笔记。发达国家作为Paradise在旅居者的心目中被重新定义，一些人甚至将中国视为Lost paradise。推荐所有具有留学或移民想法的人看，即使不是，也许几十年后当你的小孩面临这个问题的时候，你可以看一看

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2015年读完的第一本书！不知道10年前大连留学生们no university degree, no developed country permanent residency rights and no good career in China or abroad是否是当时的普遍情况。。虽然作者是用生命在做田野，但好像并没有和留学生们长期共同生活的经历。

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My advisor & professor's book. so shocked that there are people who actually rated it here...

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俺会告诉乃，乃只花了3小时就翻完了嘛？俺会告诉乃，俺觉得这书不和俺的胃口么？

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因为课程，第一次读了ethnography。虽然封面很丑，但长达十多年的longitudinal project还是很厉害。最无法想通的问题是，为啥在大连啊……

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理论介绍部分有启发，后面叙述的部分有点浅，没有超出日常观察的深度。目前中国已经成为了留学生的第一大来源国，可是对student mobility的研究在中国还尚未成型。这些孤独的留学生们漂泊在两个迥然不同的世界之间，如同摇摆不定的天平，其实问题大都来源于对“外国”的想象与现实间的分裂，出国留学也正是跨越与打碎神话的过程，但社会、教育与政治多重因素的扭结让留学生的去留问题看上去更加难以抉择。

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读的时候心情还蛮复杂，留学的前辈们当时过的生活和现在的留学生几乎天差地别了。我们吃的苦少了但没有变的是又自卑又骄傲的爱国情怀和在neoliberal global system想要想上爬的野心。话说巧的是写这本书的教授是我学术指导的哈佛同学，并在我们学校附近的一个文理学院教人类学。立一个小flag在毕业之前一定要上到她的课！

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写的挺好的呀。一开始对Vanessa不感兴趣，后来只读每一章节的conclusion，她的学术直觉是很好的。再去细看材料的铺陈，明朗多了。

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关于filial

nationalism和“外国”的讨论还是挺有意思的，其他部分很难说是出彩吧。另外时效性真的是中国研究的一大问题，这本书出版的时候内容已经明显过时了…

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上海是不是我的需要redefine的paradise?

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写的不错，观点不敢苟同

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## 书评

In this book, Venessa L. Fong discusses stories of a cohort of “less successful” transnational Chinese students. The motivations, experiences, and perspectives of who studied at colleges, universities, and language schools in developed countries with hop...

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