

China Reflections



In China, an ongoing ecological disaster of Biblical proportions, the compressed coal tablets ubiquitously used in small heating and cooking stoves are still delivered by bicycle.



The coal fueled economy's smokestack and chimney emissions combine with the world's fastest rate of growth in vehicle petroleum use to create a toxic soup of an atmosphere that is literally impenetrable anywhere downwind of a major city.



The countryside has become a vast economic concentration camp where millions of laborers are “warehoused” in crop segments awaiting mechanization, which, when it finally comes, will instantly free them for utilization in factories.

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Where crops are still delivered as they have been for millennia. By ox-cart.



And by hand cart.

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Hand picked. Hand shucked. Hand stacked for drying.



The scale is beyond description and easy understanding.

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When hand shelled and spread along the roads to dry, the ironic contrast between old and new is especially apparent.

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That irony and contrast is repeated often. Between the cities...



And the countryside.

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China has chosen the Los Angeles Uncontrolled Sprawl model of urban planning and has abandoned the bicycle, which once packed the dedicated lanes built parallel to the streets,...

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...and fallen head over heels in love with the automobile.



With construction cranes spread like a forest to the horizon, China is, for all intents and purposes, Communist in name only. Unbridled, Oklahoma Land Rush Capitalism rules the economy.



But the omniscient and omnipresent Communist Party still controls a population of over 1.3 billion people.

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China remains an intriguing anachronism, a strange brew of old and new.



Where the future will not be determined by the old...



...or the in-between...



...but by the new.