

political economy of the cross-Strait relations to understand the hybrids' strategic commitments to China? Moreover, as Fuller demonstrates, the hybrids that have outperformed MNCs in technology upgrading are small start-ups and established hybrids coming from Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau, which are much smaller and less technology intensive than their major MNC competitors. What gives them leverage against the MNCs? Can a simple strategic commitment to China account for their success in technological upgrading?

Paper Tigers, Hidden Dragons makes several key contributions. By emphasizing the foreign financial institutions embedded in a certain type of transnational ethnic network, Fuller provides a refreshing and fine-tuned account of the current research on transnational networks and technology communities in certain locales, and by specifying the mechanisms of how such growth occurs, he moves beyond cultural arguments that blood is thicker than water or that the presence of the transnational ethnic network alone will lead to development. At the same time, Fuller's global hybrid model is a nuanced thesis that specifies the conditions under which exogenous market-sounding institutions can be conducive to development and solve the problems of weak domestic institutions that plague many developing countries.

This book gives a rich and vivid account of the origins and development of China's high technology entrepreneurship based on the author's extensive fieldwork and longitudinal data over the course of 12 years. Fuller's justification for choosing the IT industry is compelling: IT is an epitome of a globalized industry in which increasingly fragmented and modularized production chains in different locales allow many late industrializers to tap into the opportunities by focusing on one segment of the value chain. Moreover, the IT industry is considered China's pillar industry in the country's current technology quest. The result of Fuller's research is a meticulous, theoretically insightful book on the political economy of China's high technology development. It is an essential text for those who are interested in development in East Asia and the political economy of development for late industrializers.

MICHELLE F. HSIEH

mhsieh17@gate.sinica.edu.tw

Goodbye iSlave: A Manifesto for Digital Abolition

JACK LINCHUAN QIU

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Readers from media and information studies, sociology, history and many other social sciences disciplines will find *Goodbye iSlave* illuminating. The introductory chapter of the book sets the scene of the geopolitics of information and the contested terrains of labour, capital and the state in global capitalism. Travelling through time and space, chapter two traces the development of the transatlantic slave trade since the 17th century and its evolution into modern slavery in the digital economy. Chapter three links the past to the present by focusing on the lives of the "iSlaves" – a derogatory label for the million-strong, slave-like Chinese workers at Taiwanese-owned Foxconn, the world's largest electronics contract manufacturer. Turning from production to consumption, chapter four portrays the current enslavement and addiction of consumers to digital devices: "global iSlavery" is propelled by *our*

desire for faster and newer iPhones. Taking aim at the tech multinationals Foxconn and its largest buyer Apple (the “Appconn” model), chapter five documents how workers and their grassroots allies protest against extreme labour exploitation. In conclusion, chapter six charts an alternative path to a new brave world where the relationship between people and new technology is fundamentally redefined.

Jack Qiu draws on archival research in order to examine the interdependence of Apple and Foxconn in transnational manufacturing, and he portrays a global supply-chain of labour that extends “backward” to children working in Congo mines in raw material extraction. Until 2010, Foxconn was the exclusive final-assembler of iPhones in the world. In the 30-plus Foxconn megafactories across China, “unfreedom of labor” (p. 34) is the product of capitalist domination *and* state intervention in the realms of law and the labour market. The collusion between local education bureaus, schools and enterprises – at times mediated by private labour agencies in the form of labour dispatch – has prevented the exit of teenage student workers.

Amid a slowing economy (as evident from the Guangdong provincial government’s freeze of minimum wages for three consecutive years since 2015), employers will likely reach out to *more* students in the name of internships, apprenticeships or in-service learning. Qiu reveals that interning students were paid below the minimum wage, as legally institutionalized by the Chinese government. Co-supervised by teachers-in-charge and corporate management, such interning students worked for eight to 12 hours a day, six to seven days a week, during the peak production months at Foxconn. Worse yet, 150,000 Foxconn’s “interns” did not acquire any useful work skills relevant to their studies during their internships, which lasted for three months to a year.

In addition to the transfer of labouring bodies to the point of production, Qiu finds that the historic disposal of African slaves is mirrored in the contemporary dismissal of injured factory workers. In 2010, 18 young Chinese migrant workers of Foxconn attempted suicide, resulting in 14 deaths and four survivors with crippling injuries. The plight of workers in the Appconn-ized digital age is no exception: “The ‘normalcy’ of exploitation in many global sectors,” in the words of Alessandra Mezzadri, “should also concern us deeply as it is incompatible with progressive struggles in supportive of decent work” (26 July 2016 post on OpenDemocracy’s *Beyond Trafficking and Slavery*). Four years after the collapse of the Rana Plaza in Bangladesh in April 2013, and 165 years after the publication of Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (1852), the call for an end to “digital abolition” is more urgent than ever.

Research and practice, from Qiu’s perspective, are closely integrated. He envisions a better society “where human dignity and sustainable development are prioritized over corporate profit” (p. 183). Corporate control will inevitably confront labour resistance, big and small, as evidenced by Qiu’s interviews and field research. In Spring 2012, for example, protestors at Foxconn Wuhan in Hubei bypassed the company-dominated trade union to negotiate collectively with managers for higher wages and better benefits. The posting of photos, open letters, poems and other “worker-generated content” (WGC) on major social media platforms had garnered media attention at home and abroad. “Different strands of WGC converge,” in Qiu’s observation, “into working-class public spheres,” where multiple nodes of workers’ networks are emerging (p. 186). Digital activism and labour mobilization, therefore, turns high-tech production on its head.

iPhone, emblematic of the American empire, is making the highest double-digit gross profits in the smartphone sector. Can Fairphone, a Dutch social enterprise company dedicated to making smartphones in a worker-friendly and environmentally-

friendly way, become a strong competitor? The personal is political. Qiu supports the building of an alliance between workers and consumers to enhance workers' social and economic rights in a digitally connected environment. Amid a shrinking world of compressed time and space, the struggles of Apple labour in China and the world remain highly contested. What is certain is that activists and academics alike will be inspired by Qiu's "manifesto" to rethink our relationship with digital technologies.

JENNY CHAN

jenny.wl.chan@polyu.edu.hk

Globalization and Security Relations across the Taiwan Strait: In the Shadow of China

Edited by MING-CHIN MONIQUE CHU and SCOTT L. KASTNER

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The Ma Ying-jeou presidency in Taiwan (2008–2016) is often heralded as an era of détente in relations across the Taiwan Strait. Long-standing political tensions were eased through the joint promulgation of over 20 economic agreements and people-to-people interactions. But warmer ties were replaced by a comparative cooling in the cross-Strait relationship after Tsai Ing-wen took office in May 2016, returning Taiwan to its place as one of Asia's most volatile flashpoints. The essays in this edited volume seek to explore the security and/or globalization dimensions of cross-Strait ties, highlighting new or emerging dynamics which continue to impact the relationship in the Taiwan Strait.

The introduction, by editors Monique Chu and Scott Kastner, sets out the book's multidisciplinary approach to understanding the complexities of the China–Taiwan relationship. With a thematic focus on the shifting military balance of power in the Taiwan Strait and the globalization of cross-Strait ties, each subsequent essay seeks to address issues which often remain overlooked in studies of cross-Strait relations. Globalization, which references both the increased economic and social interactions in the Strait as well as broader global patterns, is juxtaposed alongside traditional and non-traditional threats to Taiwan's security. The text is made immediately accessible to the non-Sinophile with a historical background of cross-Strait relations. But rather than rehashing age-old arguments on various facets of the Taiwan Strait security dilemma, the chapters which follow explore issues ranging from the prospects for conflict in the Taiwan Strait to cyber power and transnational criminal networks, all of which tend to be neglected in existing scholarship. Taken in sum, the volume offers an important contribution to the existing field of cross-Strait political and security studies.

Chu and Kastner divided the volume into three parts, focusing on the security relationship in the Taiwan Strait, the effects of economic globalization, and the interaction between security and globalization. Each part is further divided into theoretically-oriented and policy-oriented chapters, an intentional pairing which honours the volume's multidisciplinary approach and applicability. Yu-Shan Wu begins by employing alliance and strategic triangle theories of international relations to assess Taiwan's adoption of a hedging strategy. Taipei has sought to benefit from close economic ties with Beijing, but must also balance against the People's