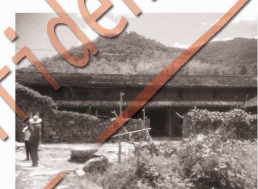


China/ Chongqing

The Survival Guide to China Chongqing

Stephen J Christophers

Published by Propaganda Free Press



Confidential

Index

Preface.....	3
Introduction.....	4
Chongqing.....	6
Tourist Trends.....	9
Location and Geography.....	10
CPC Urbanization Scheme.....	11
Economics.....	12
The Culture of Business.....	13
The Funny Side of China.....	22
Traffic.....	25
The human Factor.....	27
Expatriates.....	30
Jobs and Education.....	29
Returned Students to China.....	37
Small Business.....	41
Final Thoughts.....	42

To be considered as an appraisal for publishers wishing to secure copyright over the full manuscript.

This document was compiled and written by SJC. Any reproduction of this document other than that intended by the author will breach copyright © 2007 China_incorporated@hotmail.com

China the Economic Guide to Odds and Evens

Preface:

After almost three years living and working in China/Chongqing. With exposure to the steadfast influence of the CPC (Communist Party of China), a myriad of snake oil merchants, snatch and grab business operations; and the ubiquitous Chinese gene pool; the people who bring life and vibrancy to this neon city. I feel the need to release these notes and observations for western interests, as a social commentary, helping those with interests in the region; by means of individual pursuits or that of business venture. I will endeavor to actualize as much data as possible, to help validate areas of key concern and interest. However, I stress, that due to the conflicts in interest between socialist politics and individual activities, transparency is at best hazy. I would advise that further research into those areas which could present your personal efforts with the greatest concerns be thoroughly assessed on a professional basis prior to doing business in the region.

This book is firstly a general caution to those of you with small to medium businesses looking to prosper in the Chinese market place, and for the first time looking specifically at Chongqing; and secondly, an account of cultural norms and localisms, in this, a rapidly changing socio-economic climate, that tests western ideals to their limits. Having knowledge and experience of local politics and social issues, I present China and Chongqing, as never seen before, through the eyes of a westerner; swept up in the local everyday push and pull; its life and breath.

Introduction

James Joyce once said: "One of the things I could never get accustom to in my youth was the difference I found between life and literature". Taking a slice from this truth, and trying to impart an honest portrait - in my own words - of life here; my similar dissatisfaction at the lack of honesty amidst Chinas socialist setting: a politically censored vacuum; a socially conformist vision of what is or isn't ones reality, for me offers up a world of stories, truths and fascination which are seemingly ignored and just swept from view.



I first came to China, Chongqing in 2005. At that time I worked for a brief period in a university middle school and later the same year decided to relocate for love, study and the new experience of China and its culture from the perspective of a then, somewhat socially naïve expatriate. My initial thoughts of Chongqing were of a place emanating life amongst feverish hustle and bustle, a rapidly changing skyline, and all the trappings of a third world economy, with residual beauty in the common people, those who call Chongqing home.

With hindsight, my outlook on the area of China where I now live has matured into a range of mixed emotions, which I'm impelled to share. The paradoxes China faces, for me anyway, are unrivaled.

From the perspective of travel and tourism, it is a sight of wonder and allure. But, for business China can be a relative bear-trap, its fascinating culture and sometimes breath taking scenery is echoed by that of towering concrete monoliths, representative of communism past and present, urban development pollution and poverty. Communism is a force of nature in China; it's a belief system which touches into all arenas of social and political culture. It raises fundamental questions of faith, politics and ethical morality.

With as much wisdom as facts, I base these observations, together with research and individual stories of people and businesses, which have brushed up against the socialist machine; with reflections from detailed sources; books; legal

documentation; websites and related literature, trying my best to have a stab at this most complex Country and City.

In no way is this book looking to defame China or Chongqing, its people or culture. Merely, it posts on the side of caution; its a reflection based on solid experience and factuality; a present day insight into the current socioeconomic environment of the region, and acts as a reference for foreigners wishing to see the area in context by entering with perspective, rather than facing staged ambiguity and/or misleading propaganda, which inherently causes foreign interests to fall into conflict while working and living here.

Doing business in China as a western start-up poses huge problems for capitalist ventures, and over the last few years I have met with failed businesses and broken individuals whom have fallen into the traps which act as an undercurrent; rightly or wrongly, driving both the Chinese domestic economies and the machine of China Corp.; Communism being the fundamental constraint for most foreigners. It marginalizes select areas both economically and socially, and their accessibility by foreign interests, unless those investments have access to huge sums of money and follow government supported industries and initiatives, small project rarely work. Currently, with little support for small to medium business in Chongqing, Chongqing's government sector is at best apathetic to those wishing to engage in business other than that under its direct control, or that of Chinese enterprise working in-line with socialist policies. The following essay will cover in part some of the differing incentives laid out by the government and larger sub-partnership enterprises currently benefiting from western input; these include, regional development, education and government projects. Chongqing city with its estimated four million residents is currently regarded as one of the world's fastest developing metropolises, if not the biggest. Chongqing city, the capital of Chongqing province, is said to contain a population of sum, thirty three million, inhabitation; city estimates are between three and seven million. Rapidly, this area is undergoing turbulent development; with the Three Gorges Project influencing regional population density and central government polices giving the area special administrative zoning; efforts being placed on developing infrastructure, residential and commercial properties, over that of social needs and services is currently toping the addenda. The conflicts associated with its construction based economic



development, has seen corruption, departmental complacency, inadequate social services and population displacement, together with environmental degradation, air and water pollution all becoming key topics of discussion among the locals and international inhabitants of the province and her cities. Furthermore, raising alarm among those international countries that now see the area as a threat to the global environment. Today, these issues are at the core of most conflicts concerning foreign interests in the region, and to an extent greater China, these issues cause not only huge concern to market orientated companies; both western and Chinese international interests, but also the local people, looking to kick-start their business activities. We must acknowledge the presence of these problems before setting up shop in the region. With little market incentives; low bench marks in safety, low quality standards, poor education and training, adding to a situation which directly influences international investments. Chongqing, for small investors primarily should be treated with absolute caution.

Chongqing

Chongqing is the biggest municipality in terms of area and population in China and comes under Central Government control. It is the largest industrial and commercial center in south west China, and a hub for land and water transportation in the upper reaches of the Yangtze River valley, with an total population of approximately 31.3 million, among which the urban population is currently 7 million. Chongqing municipality is made up of 15 districts, 4 county-level cities and 21 counties.

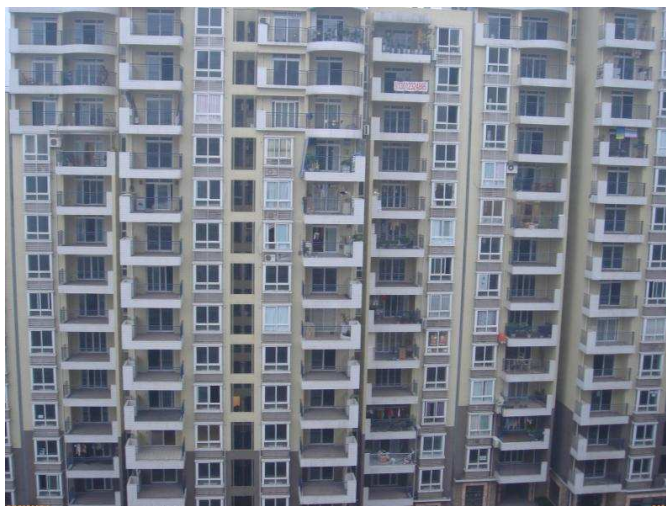
Chongqing is a comprehensive industrial city, with advanced iron and steel, chemicals, electric power, automobile manufacturing, machine-building, shipbuilding, construction materials, textiles, foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals industries

Chongqing was originally the capital of the State of Ba over three thousand years ago. During the time of the Western Han Dynasty Chongqing was called Jiangzhou. Later on, its name was changed to Yuzhou during the Sui, Tang, Wudai and Northern Song Dynasties. -- CTS

On visiting Chongqing for the first time, one can be forgiven for making parallels between the lawlessness nature of the old American west or London's urban filth at the turn of the century. Society goes about its daily routines on fetid and cluttered streets; street merchants, bike taxis and the help-help men dominate local life, surrounded by huge concrete structures in various stages of growth and dilapidation. These huge structures possess an almost otherworldly quality when viewed in contrast, and from the vantage point of urban dwellers, otherwise seen as the heart and soul of this city. Continuous construction sheds blankets of dust over the landscape, coating everything like post apocalyptic fallout. The dirt; the

pungent odors; the sights and sounds, bombard your senses and imagination. In some ways its vistas reflect the commonness of many modern Chinese cities, but for its undulating geography, Chongqing is a unique place.

The old style "classic" Chongqing architecture - black and white nested building perched upon the banks of the Jialing River and Yangtze River - are a shadow of their former glory. Nevertheless, an effort has been made to conserve some of the more outstanding heritage structures.



Due in part to Japanese air raids on the city during the time of the Second World War, lots of the old buildings were lost. Its war time history is of notable interest however, as Chongqing became the Capital of China during this period of Japanese mainland occupation.

Dilapidated and old areas of the city are now being removed on mass, in an epic remodeling scheme, creating huge amounts of solid waste, old is making way for new, multi-story building complexes and security apartments, shops and office space are literally crumbling and re-growing from the hills that surround the city. Chongqing Tenghui Diwei Cement Co., Ltd and co-venture Ruian Construction Co., Ltd. a Hong Kong based Construction Company are some of the big players profiting from the urban redevelopment, reaching a production capacity of 3.5 million tons annually, providing high quality cement which feeds city projects in the mass urban development scheme which is presently hammering out the new cityscape. Covanta has also quaired a 40 Percent stake in Chongqing Sanfeng Environmental Industry Co., Ltd. a subsidiary of Chongqing Iron & Steel – one of Chongqing top ten companies - which recycles solid waste, created by the huge ongoing demolition and reconstruction.

The big players in the Chongqing's construction industry are presently shaping the new environment, while onlookers, wonder at the development and its impact on their lives.

Lafarge Cement, a French industry powerhouse, has also set up shop in Chongqing to taking advantage of China's development strategies, comments in China Daily are worth noting, "as Lafarge gears up production in line with China's 5 year plan: "Our cement production capacity in China should reach at least 40

million tons, if we follow China's 11th Five-Year Plan," Bruno Lafont told reporters during his first visit to Beijing after he took over as CEO in January" – China Daily.

Lafarge's takeover of a plant in Chongqing saw demonstrations by cement works workers, eventually coming under control when a large contingent of police moved into the area; this brought a peaceful end to the protests. The demonstration was a result of a suicide by a former employee who plunged to his death from the roof of the factory complex. The motivation for his actions were unknown, although, talking to locals in town at the time, comments about the incident hinted that it was the result of internal politics and corruption. Incidents like this one are not a rare occurrence in Chongqing, as purges on corruption and power struggles play themselves out.



Mass urban development and modernization of Chongqing's physicality is a reality, but you get the feeling that the general populous have no great part to play in the cities plan, and go about their business as per the hours of day permit. Scraping together a few hundred Yuan per month, they sell all types of goods and services; otherwise seen as dated or outlawed by political correctness and public-liability, in more developed countries.



They are also forced to live in those spaces untouched by the developers, adapting to the environment around them as it rapidly changes shape. Transient worker live and sleep in make shift homes on the streets adjacent to new development sites, bringing with them, hometown habits, bamboo poles and a deck of cards.

Street sellers offer crafts, food stuffs and goods



brought in from the country side, cheap reproduction goods are also available; fakes and copies, T-shirts to pottery. Even cars and motorbikes are sold with fake and forged papers. It was happily pointed out to me one day that a bag of candy I was eating was a fake product. Such is the extent of the Chinese willingness to capitalize on sound goods and brands from the west or otherwise.

Nevertheless, when amongst the cities urban sprawl which is overrun by humanity, we can be fooled into thinking that basic living and lack of education, supports a simplistic happiness and contentment. The Innocent nature of the inhabitants at work, rest and play seems, unveiled of any pretension or ego that would be otherwise be found in more developed countries around the world. The hustle and bustle here even though manic, retains a manageable pace. That, I think, is attributed to the lack of seriousness in common life.

The reality though is very different, to be Chinese and speak out against the system results in subtle alienation. The repercussions of non conformity can be devastating. This has lead to huge conformity on a massive scale, where being Chinese means just that, adopting cultural norms and ideals without question of politics or social morality. Good success in China under communism comes from conformity. This is a systemic society, defined by social ranking, and herein lies most of the issues westerns face in China today.

“Democracy makes us articulate our views, defend them, and refine them.” -- Lee H. Hamilton

When living here for long periods of time, as apposed to short trip tourism, which inevitably gives you a false reading or perspective. You become aware of a fundamental difference in not only our skin color but the processes of mind.

Tourist Trends

There are parts of the old city left, and covering large areas. SiQiKou is the main destination for travelers and locals; with great shopping, arts and crafts etc; Interesting people and vistas. By traveling out of the city you can find both

Buddhist and Communist relics of days past, forested areas and mountain villages, where time in some respects seems to have stood still. The surrounding countryside of Chongqing is famed for its bamboo forests. Other draw cards for tourism can be found on the cities outskirts. Chongqing's famed hot springs draw many Chinese to bathe in their waters. Western tourist however, seem to spend little time in and around the city. Package tour operators favor Chongqing as the departure point for the Three Gorges Yangtze River tours, deals for the Yangtze River Cruise tending to allocate little time on visitors itineraries for seriously exploring the area. Although, it is quite often the case, package tours frequently allow one day rest bites in the city. On the odd occasion, groups of Baby Boomers can be sighted perusing JieFangBei or YangGuanCheng shopping districts, strategically maneuvered by tour guides in the direction of those shop offering sales commissions.

Location and geography.

Chongqing is located at the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, at 105°11'-110°11' east longitude and 28°10'- 32°13' north latitude. It is 470 kilometers from east to west and 450 kilometers from north to south. Chongqing neighbors Hubei and Hunan in the east, and Guizhou in the south, it neighbors Sichuan in the west and Shanxi to the north. The terrain slopes down to the Yangtze River valley from south to north, and is therefore quite undulating. In the northwest and



central parts are mainly hills. Chongqing's eastern is lower than the western, lots of hills in the northwest and middle area, with Daba Mountain and Wuling Mountain to the southeast. The main rivers are Yangtze River, Jialing River, Wujiang River, Fujiang River, Qijiang River and Daning River.

Because of its hillside and mountain building that surround the city, Chongqing has become renowned as a "mountain city". Moreover, since the subtropical climate with an average annual precipitation of 1000 millimeters, the land is evergreen all the year round.

Chongqing has a sub-tropical humid monsoon climate zone with four distinct seasons. Summer is hot and winter is warm, with long frost-free period. The annual average temperature is approximately 18.4°C with 6-8°C as average temperature in winter and 27-29°C in summer.

The four seasons in Chongqing are characterized as a warm winter, a hot summer, a nearly spring and a short autumn. With plentiful rainfall, the annual precipitation is 1000-1400 m. with frequent rain at night when spring is changing into summer. [1].

The CPC Urbanization Scheme

Long term strategies for the region put forward by the CPC - Communist Party of China – high-light plans of urbanization to achieve balance in Chongqing’s economy and driving future economic growth. The scheme know as the “One-Circle, Two-Wings” is geared to reach a per capita GDP of 43,000 Yuan by 2020.

The plans for urbanization under the one-circle two-wings scheme will see mass population relocation and special regional incentives for those areas now in separation. An article in China Daily reflects on these measures;

“Urbanization will be accelerated in the process , with urban population accounting for 80 percent of the 22 million people in the one-circle area.

The northeastern region , as one of the two wings , is to be built into an ecological shield along the upper reaches of the Yangtze River , with its economy focusing on forestry, agriculture, tourism and industries with local characteristics.

By 2020, the region’s total GDP will reach 300 billion Yuan, with per capita GDP hitting 43,000 Yuan, while the major economic and social development indices in the region will catch up with the national average.

As is about 2.3 million residents are to be relocated to the one-circle area. The total population of the northeastern region will come down to 7 million. The southeastern region, located in the Wuling Mountain area, will focus on the development of ecological tourism. It is predicted that the region’s GDP will reach 90 billion Yuan and per capita GDP will hit 45,000 Yuan by 2020. With about 400,000 residents



moving to the one-circle area. the population of the region will be reduced to about 2 million. In addition, the forest coverage in the region is expected to surpass 50 percent by 2020” Further,” According to Wang Yang, secretary of the Chongqing Committee of the Communist Party of China, the implementation of the “one-circle” and “two wings” strategy aims to promote harmonious development by enhancing urbanization.

“At present, the imbalance between urban and rural economies is one of the biggest problems that Chongqing has to tackle for its rapid and healthy development”

Chongqing city has the largest urban area in West China and the largest rural area among the nation’s four municipalities. The central government proposed that Chongqing should further expand the scale of its urban economy and drive rural economic development through urbanization.

The one-hour economic circle strategy is a positive echo of the central government’s proposal, the Chongqing committee secretary said.”

With positively on their side the work can continue at a momentum pace. As I watched from my window the army of construction worker on RMB20 a day, have now neared completion of a new ten story shopping centre in little less than three months, using nothing but ply wood, bamboo scaffold and cement reinforced by steel courtesy of Chongqing Iron & Steel - one would assume, the ring of new urban development is in full flight.

Economics

“In the 'Nike Economy,' there are no standards, no borders and no rules. Clearly, the global economy isn't working for workers in China and Indonesia and Burma any more than it is for workers here in the United States.” -- John J. Sweeney

Chongqing’s economy is directly governed by CPC and central governments regional economic policies. These are forged by the CPC in an attempt to make the region work as an integrated part of the Chinese socialist mechanism. This directs local government under the communist parties’ strict control, funding projects in-line with regional development initiatives.

The local governments control over private business and/or state owned enterprises sees social development projects are directed under the close supervision of the CPC. New enterprises and developments become dependent on funding or co-operation with local government departments; spear heading regional development projects under strict guidance, setting up and managing cash flow channels. Finance then filters down through different departments and

private sector business under the control of local government and sub-partnerships to contractors and individuals who take on projects.

Although, the fundamentals for a market economy exist in China, there is currently only slow paced change, while the market is disproportionately government controlled. It will yield little dividend in private sectors and markets for those wishing to go-it-alone or work out of step against the communist vision.

There is talk of mix ownership of the economy during the next five year period with a rise from 30% up to 50% but it will still be under strict supervision from the CPC growing in-line with party policies. How this will stimulate mainland business opportunities for foreign companies is yet to be determined.

The lack of incentives for short-term and long-term business growth for foreign investment outside cities like Beijing, Shanghai and southern Guangdong province, remain few if not aligned with CPC expectations. Cities like Shenzhen and Guangzhou which border Xiang Gang (Hong Kong) under the current system are even so suffering from the slow pace of macro economic reforms. Reform in the banking and finance sector, is well overdue, where preference is still given to government financing through predominantly state owned banking institutions, the risks of preferential treatment is just one of the obstacle that are faced.

“China's idea of fair trade is government subsidies of its textile and apparel exports to the United States, currency manipulation, and forgiveness of loans by its government banks.” -- Virginia Foxx

The culture of business

Elizabethan writers like Shakespeare associated the Cathayan (Chinese) with wealth, greed, courtesy, rationality, brutishness and drunkenness over four hundred years ago – little has change...

When we take a look at the culture of business in China, you will soon find that social and business relationships are far from mutually exclusive; this is one of the fundamental differences between the western democratic approach and the business of socialism, setting rules of engagement based on Chinese social and cultural norms rather than that of legislation and democracy; relationships which value the culture of personal recommendations and social ladder climbing (guanxi); over values such as, equal opportunity, quality of workmanship, and professionalism, offers inherent problems for those foreigners wishing to do business here. A Chinese business is driven by relationships, in turn fueled by personal gain, not that different from the west at first glance... On reflection though, this type of thought process has created a vacuum whereby the educated have lost the ability to affect change and bring about valued added dividend to regions like Chongqing, essentially paralyzing efforts to improve the

way business is done. Furthermore, this type of social climbing has offered preference to older generations of Chinese. This is no more obvious than in the business environment around Chongqing, where it would be safe to say factions of power and authority are basking in the glow of dementia.

The root of this ethic seems to directly contradict the philosophy of the government's push for higher education as a social value, paradoxically, stripping it of any worth other than an immediate tool for financial gain. In this model the intellectual abilities of one individual is discriminated to a greater extent by age and status; with social status at odds with society's intellectual development, China has managed to form a bubble of anti evolutionary practices.

At the heart of this problem we will find not only the inability for social economic growth, but also a devaluation of intellectual productivity by the young intelligent. Resulting in a reliance on external invention to address the vacuum it creates.



For those of you who might see opportunity in this crisis think again. I would stress that you turn your attention to the micro and macro-economic strategies which currently embrace this region and their preferences towards favoring Chinese, then take a close look at China's record of intellectual property right violations. The continued issues that face westerners doing business

in Chongqing are enormous and ever present under government control. Opportunities otherwise found under market conditions do not apply here, leaving little room for foreign individuals and small to medium business to prosper. In direct contrast, the current environment is largely based on export and manufacture for export over the profitability of intellectualism as a valued service. This is reflected in the pay scales offered to foreign interests who have such high level skills in Chongqing. Exceptions are found in Cities like Shanghai, where large concentrations of international businesses are found. These businesses offer western pay scales rather than looking for the cheapest employee deal, with the understanding in China you get what you pay.

Government departments in Chongqing however thrive under the old system, making it extremely difficult to determine accountability. Also, we find the tendency to opt out of systems that promote professionalism, intellectualism and

accountability in favor of indirect senior departmental interference, personal interests, and conflicts of interest, all greasing the wheels.

Not only do we see these age old issues, also we find messages between foreign investors, professionals and visitors become muddled, by using young multi-lingual proxies as buffers between senior staff and foreigners, we encounter a management style which uses the young as nothing more than puppets, with little power to make effective decisions. At best, miscommunication leads to sloppy business practices at worse corruption and individuals becoming totally ineffective. Furthermore, it becomes apparent that the lack of co-operation between departments and personal interest only adds to the confusion. Unfortunately, this gives the impression to foreign enterprise that Chongqing is far from a stable business environment.

Being young and educated in Chongqing is a recipe for disaster. Personal experience has led me to several observations which enforce this argument. One example is that of a young Chinese working in an organization where encouragement was given by senior staff to use dishonest behavior, to lie and cheat foreign employees; enabling the manager to keep a reign over both the subordinate and foreigner, promoting an air of distrust between both parties, and stunting the growth of healthy alliances. Another is that of a young intermediary asked to make friends and spy on foreigners as an incentive. Favors were then offered from senior staff members in the form of finance and quick promotion.

As Chinese turn their attention to those westerner most suitable for exploitation, it looks as if middle China favors young foreigners as its soup and noodles, while on the other hand government and Chinese big business are turning their attention to multi million dollar companies with investment strength. Rupert Murdoch was one such unfortunate capitalist to cop it from the communist front, with his investment in Star TV, unfortunately the Chinese neglected to mention that most of the users of the network were hacking the signal. Murdoch's business dealings in China have uncovering a lot of dirty truths. Ventures like his are suffering in Chongqing, although, as awareness grows in the ranks of western companies and individuals here, their assertiveness in dealing with and directing confrontation on issues escalate, the initial positively that was first taken up is rapidly running out of steam. As a result, it is less likely that strong economic ties with the region will be solidified easily.

One example of internal wrangling which highlights clearly the government's stance on foreign ventures in Chongqing is that of the need to lie to gain access to key departmental staff. In one instance a foreign product supplier was introduced as an investor by government officials, to get the attention of the department in question. The reasons explained to him were simple, "we aren't interested in buying foreign products, only selling our own. If I don't introduce you as an investor then the bureau will want nothing to do with you." The employee went on to say; "the key is to build a relationship before you propose your

product,” in the meantime the now investor was treated like a king, by department heads who wined and dined him in true Chinese fashion by drinking themselves to oblivion by two o'clock in the afternoon, while the government foots the bill.

Not bound by culture, westerners see personal exploitation in China as a direct by-product of the old school communist system, an inferiority complex which drives reaction through fear of change. Currently, the Chinese are trying to put a modern spin on things but the grassroots system still operates much as it has always, leading to the same problems.

The communist system though beautiful idealism, in its present form promotes rather less of the idealism by individuals, making way for right wing ethics, bordering on fascism, as a means of control by misuse of power. Currently, human rights issues in China come second to the overall socialist plan. In the process of achieving the unachievable; in the pursuit of a harmonious society, we find one of the most economically divide countries exploit not only their people but its environment.

“No matter how hard we might wish, we will not be able to transform China's behavior overnight.” -- Madeleine Albright

Getting back to management tact the Chinese have their eyes on a more manageable demographic, the Chongqing government is now turning its attention to the older expiate community and families, in the hope of employing less resistance. In the case of education, more extreme measures have been taken where Indians and other nationalities are being adopted to fill the role of the young westerner in the classroom.

To be honest, there are few positive avenues for young western professionals in big business as manufacturing moves to Chongqing, if indeed it ever does on the scale intended. Those willing to wait out the lull in poor salaries, and bad management practices may be on the side-line for an indefinite period.

Chongqing has gained several large multi-national motor vehicle corporations, having all somewhat successfully entered the region; In the case of Ford, imposed constraints have seen the Chinese with a majority stake holding, and other measures taken to curb foreign control. The CPC's argument for the management of the auto industry is that of its conflicts and incompatibility with urban development.

Nevertheless, foreign joint-venture Companies like Ford Chongqing, employ foreign professionals, paying healthy salaries. Foreign professionals working in the automotive industry in Chongqing can earn around RMB100K per month with benefits. The Chinese habitually utilize their core skills and learn from their experience, but, unlike their western counterparts Chinese companies are even

so suffering from quality issues and lack of professionalism, fallout from the shadow of “commonism” is still present. The slow rise in western input on the Chinese mainland is positively affecting quality of workmanship. Now, homegrown engineers and technicians are making their way up through the ranks, willing to work for less in pursuit of better performing job placements. Although under the communist system this can only lead to more conflicts of interest, a shot in the foot, one could argue.

Personally, I have doubts, but in the meantime can't help draw from the wisdom of the second law of thermodynamics, when looking at the relationship between Chinese and western labor.

“There are now hundreds of thousands of new engineers that are being trained in China. If people start finding themselves losing their jobs, not to the Chinese here but because China has become such a dominant force - then there could very well be a backlash.” -- Iris Chang



With an eye on these current trends and the continued unwillingness to bring about reform, Chongqing, powerbrokers could very well suffer problems in the future. By systematically driving people out when no longer of use, they run the risk of bad press and even stricter international sanctions. The lack of standards in Quality Assurance and skilled labor, also hamper moves to solidify international acceptance of premium goods.

The lack of apathy towards foreign business ventures not directly under Chinese control has seen pressures placed on international individuals and companies wanting to enter local markets, selling directly to Chinese and profiting from Chinese mainland residents is something the Chinese government is fighting very hard against, labeled as a case of round peg square hole. Thus, is sighting long-term criticism, by international countries affected by China's dumping of cheap goods and services into their market place, tension and animosity towards



China is growing internationally as we see business after business fail in the mainland.

Current, economic incentives are geared towards bringing big business into the region, along with big bucks. When planning a successful business it seems the core strategy is that of co-operative arrangement, handing control to Chinese partners and/or providing incentives at key levels – a buy in strategy; a plug and play approach to handling foreign ventures. Handing over control to Chinese can come with huge risks: Recently in Hangzhou, “Danone, the French beverage and yogurt giant, became aware of their closest Chinese partner, Wahaha's longtime chairman, Zong Qinghou, operating secret companies outside the joint venture cooperative that were mimicking their current joint venture, resulting in the siphoning off of millions of dollars.” -- David Barboza and James Kanter; published: June 12, 2007. This is not an isolated incident.

Reform in China is well over due, merely, to look at the existing international trends in business ethics; on social and environmental issues, begs the question: when will change be effected?



In Chongqing on December 6th 2004 Chi Fulin delivered a speech based in part on non governmental economic reform, with relation to current and future policies. The contents of his speech outlined the social and economic implementations need in helping speed along reform. This speech also acknowledged China's 11th five year plan and implementation of measures to boost the development of private

business, and also addressing issues of corruption that are present in today's climate. The initiation of face value reform may be underway. But, is this giving rise to more positive views of Chongqing from its international residents? And if so is this felt by the vast majority of Chinese, also? In effect almost certainly not, elements of the 11th 5 year plan are influencing the wider community. However, in 2008 we are seeing little in respects to these changes in Chongqing. On the ground, Chongqing's construction based development is gearing up in 2008; this face changing development, does little to address social needs and is a far cry from that which creates a stable market environment, one which helps business to prosper and jobs to be created. Men on RMB20 a day don't invest in RMB500K apartments, only build them.

In the midst of such economic turmoil, land reallocation, and the win fall it brings local government, and its sub partners, developers and big business, is contributing to the explosion in over development. According to the bigger socialist plan, there is room for this to have long-term positive repercussions as the city braces for the influx in people relocated under one-circle two-wings, to districts in and around the city. Although, explaining these positives to those people who loose their lively hoods and homes due to such development isn't a simple task.

In Chongqing alone, large amounts of up rooted Chinese citizens have failed to receive compensation for their relocation, because of corrupt officials. And those who settle into new housing projects "mansions for the poor" soon find lack of work; a pressing concern in the areas they have been forced to resettle, bringing about poverty and hardship. Chongqing's march, 2007 "Nail House" incident, highlighted in somewhat humorous fashion the plight of one such resident sectioned for removal. Where the refusal of the homeowner to move from his property, eventually brought about the implementation of, "laws guaranteeing private property rights to China's swelling ranks of urban middle-class homeowners" – Howard W French: March 27, 2007

Chongqing's environment is unstable, not only at ground level, where the injection of large sums of capital by central government and foreign aid companies garners positive response, while suffering and hardship is seen as too politically sensitive. Nevertheless, capital injection is seeing some benefit. Although, little funding makes its way to the larger proportion of the population. Which reside in and around the areas of conflict: A recent injection of RMB150 million by AusAID, set aside to benefit Vocational Education and Training in the regions most troubled by The Three Gorges Project, is one such example. Although, under some conjecture...

With several co-funded projects, run by Chinese interests seen to take advantage of both capital and service input by foreign nationals. Dealings with China are leaving foreign individuals suffering resentment towards those who abused their trust, after helping projects get off the ground. And large company buy-ins cause real question for concern.

When we take a close look at these co-funded projects Chongqing's ICC (Chongqing Construction Commission) is also involved in the re-education process of displaced persons; the push to convert agricultural peasants to modern peasants is on under ACCVETP. One of the first projects to kick-off will be a CBT brick laying course to assist the on going development of the province by human labor...

Construction companies not only invest in Chongqing's redevelopment, they are also funding the present private English school and education boom in the region.

In Chongqing the spate of copy-cat web development projects targeting foreign investors, families and expatriates is also staggering, just another example of the move by the government to control information and media resources in the region, as well as finance and business.

Presently, there has been little response to their efforts. Not surprisingly the lack of quality in content and beefing up by the ministry for propaganda see other sources of on-line free press favored. In botched attempts to win over Chongqing's expatriate community, Chongqing Promotion & Service Center for Foreign Investment, has exploited the good will of foreign labor, renegotiating contracts, and systematically tried to drive out those whom gave assistance, creating an air of mistrust and resentment in the expatriate community.

"In Communism, inequality comes from placing mediocrity on a level with excellence. " -- Pierre-Joseph Proudhon



In the case of one publication and a web site: foreigners, were used as project consultants to oversea and edit English content, then were asked to back substandard workmanship, begging the question why were their efforts necessary in the first instance? Both web site and publication are now considered a laughing stock amongst most expats. Notwithstanding, they are still in publication, sporting poor English and propaganda.

The internet in Chongqing is still very much under censorship, having tested my current web site it is obvious that local networks work independently punching holes in the idea of a unified great firewall. My

current web site has no issues in Shanghai although a yahoo hosted domain continues to be censored in Chongqing and other parts of the country, as do select pages on International news media sites with reference to China for example. Popular sites like Wikipedia also suffer at the hands of Chinas censorship board. Furthermore, Google ad server is also blocked here in Chongqing; as to the extent of knowledge by Google sponsors, whom are or are not aware that their clicks are echoing out in China can only be guessed.

The truth is: discrimination is found in all areas of society in China, and government is only one of them, direct access to the economy is restricted for foreign business; only where the government sees it as an overall benefit to the socialist system do they allow integration by foreign bodies. By providing key knowledge, finance or access to the power of a foreign face directed at winning over key players and/or the masses. There are many areas of discrimination and conflicts of interest in Chongqing: from my understanding and experience, I will highlight some points of discussion on which foreign readers may ponder further, and, relative cultural differences which continue to be raised as issues of trust, professionalism and ethical difference. To get a greater understanding of the areas accessible to foreign interest we need to take a closer look at the present government incentive for foreign business and investment in the region, education, manufacturing for export, with agriculture and tourism in rural sectors, and foreign aid. Industries which utilize labor and provide jobs are important for the growth of the areas economy. Chongqing will be one of the leading provinces in helping China overtake Japan as the leader in purchasing US foreign dept by supply of manufactured goods.

While America chases shadows: eloquently summed up by Zbigniew Brzezinski's quote, "War on terrorism defines the central preoccupation of the United States in the world today, and it does reflect in my view a rather narrow and extremist vision of foreign policy of the world's first superpower, of a great democracy, with genuinely idealistic traditions." The Chinese are banking everything on an equally unobtainable vision, a harmonious society. For me terrorism isn't the most immediate concern America faces today...

"Communism is trying to take the world by force. But God will take the world by love." -- Sun Myung Moon

For western interests we see a glimmer of hope in moves toward growth in international Chinese markets such as, fast food and international food stuff supply. These industries can present some stability to foreign investment nevertheless there is still conflict with China's economic policies and as long as its possible for Chinese to do the job then western interests are fighting an up hill battle.

The top three companies in Chongqing in 2006 were state owned: Chongqing Tobacco Industry Co, Ltd., Chongqing Changan Automobile Company Co, Ltd and Qingling Motors (Group) Co, Ltd. Other companies in the current top ten included private ventures, nevertheless, it would be safe to assume that these are tightly aligned with government economic reform policies. The list includes pharmaceutical and chemical manufacture, motor vehicle manufacture, ceramics manufacture and electrical goods manufacture. These companies are good indicators of where Chongqing would like to position its self in the global market place, a manufacturing hub which primarily manufactures for export. All incentive is directed towards multi-million dollar investment projects which are able to utilize these primary industries and absorb population density.

The Funny Side of China

Doing business here is not only dangerous, it can be bloody hilarious! I would like to share with you some funny events, of which some border on farcical to the western eye, or fill one with joyous laughter as they unfold in the most inappropriate situations. China for me seems to be one huge pyramid selling scheme, where trickery, lying and deception are the bonds in one's investment portfolio. Harvest them wisely and invest in them well, this is the name of the Chinese game.

To a person that's in it for short-term gain, there can be no better vantage point than that of the middleman. The Chinese game is simple, supply human labor to your friends/business partners for a monthly sum, and then pay a percentage of this to the laborer, lets be generous here; lets say 40%. In the event the transaction falls through the only one to suffer any immediate loss is the laborer whom was contracted to see the project to completion.

So fare almost all foreigners here have experienced this at some time or another. Usually, around the time of the last payment things start to fall apart or at any time the money just runs out. Even in the event a contract is signed, there is no guarantee. The average Chinese holds no respect for a contract, only that part which binds the encumbered. Most Chinese use a contract to give you a feeling of security. Insist on cash, weekly if not daily. For those who are buying products from China use LC for all shipping transactions or international freighting of goods, never take risks in China, that's where they see dividend.

I had dealings with a government department about one year ago; they seemed like friendly and kind people. It was requested that I do some consultancy work for them to which I gracefully agreed. After looking over the contract I was alarmed by the large amount of chinglish in its translation, but understood the contract was really only a formality, and the payment was such that it would be no great loss. I did the work that was requested of me and towards the end of the contract things started to turn pear shaped, new contracts were drawn up and

this time I questioned the poor language translation and other issues which I had previously overlooked. This act made things turn ugly and subsequently I resigned from their project. On examination, in China it is accepted that we don't question or gauge others workmanship, it was in doing so that I put the senior translator into a situation which resulted in loss of face. The face factor is one of the main contributors to the lack of quality in China. Through accepting what is done whether correct or not we show respect to the individual and our devotion to "commonism". Face then can also be used as a tool of manipulation, pressuring people into doing things which they would otherwise not, the Chinese game is fascinating to watch. For me I find it comical as in no way do I feel obliged to participate. My focus is on truths and fact, not in submitting to the game. Previously, I mention that Chinese being anything but Chinese would be marginalized by going against the cultural norm; well this is one such case. In this situation it would be expected that the subordinate submit, accepting the situation without argument. In Chinese culture to stand up and test the roughness of a situation like this is unheard of, and is a measure of ones devotion to the system.

Last year I was introduced to a lady of some age through a friend; she spoke rather well, and had enlightened me on her Canadian university background. She'd lived there for several years studying to acquire her masters' degree in English literature, before returning to Chongqing where she had personally set-up a language school for young children. After exchanging business cards we parted. However, not long after she sent me an email to request I teach part-time at here school. I was impressed by her Masters Degree, not managing to find it in me to study that hard. I was equally impressed with her letter to me that read:

"Dear Sir,

I very honored meet with you at the party the last night. It would be great pleasure you work at my school. My school is for young children from age 4 to 12. I would be interested to meet with you here for an interview. Is this OK? for the time is 10:00 am Sunday, the address is..."

Well what could I say to that? I was there 10:00 am, promptly.

The suited reaper is my nickname for the multitude of Chinese business men which muscle for rank. My pet hate if you will: the lack of Business English skills. My inbox is full of testimonials to these entrepreneurial hopefuls, whom, with a few words of English try to work a trick like a used car salesman on a first time car buyer.

It was not long ago that a friendly positive man rang me to ask me to help teach some private students at his school, not teaching at the time, I was a little hesitant – I know the drill. Nevertheless, I obliged him an interview after reaching a fair hourly rate, when I arrived at the school I was ushered into a full classroom, not the office, and asked to give a speech to the waiting class, thinking for a

moment... I said, so you agree to pay me for my time here today? The amount agreed upon over the telephone. A worried look came over his face and whispering in the class suggested probably not. I decided to revert to Chinese, a language he seemed more accustomed to. I apologized to the class and made my way from the classroom. Following me down the hall and out into the road the man started to beg for me to return, fearing loss of face, but, still refusing to pay for my time. I had no option but to continue. His relentless pursuits saw faces peering out of the classroom window after us, but still he refused. The Chinese will try any way possible to get free services in business, the concept of a fair days work for a fair days pay has no grounds here, even if it mean loss of face in this instance.

In the true spirit of Chinese entrepreneurial ship, I was propositioned to help produce an English language magazine for expatriates and travelers to the city. Write some articles on the city, collect data for the publication on restaurants and shopping, together with marketing and sales. There were high expectation, responsibility and speak of loyalty and devotion to the publication. Fearing the worst I posed the question of payment. The question was simple, although its answer wasn't. Chinese ethics seem to state that your ability to get the job done for nothing is the key to success, no guarantees on behalf of your staffs or their devotion to the cause. Thinking for a moment... I proposed the idea back at him. The rest is history.

"The will to win is worthless if you don't get paid for it." -- Reggie Jackson



You tend to find yourself at odds in China, I feel the utmost empathy towards those less fortunate. But time and time again, it becomes taxing on your soul when people relentlessly try to drag you into their scheme to profiteer from you with little thought of mutual benefit, screaming blue murder, when you fail to cooperate. It's not the poor who try to make a buck, and when they do it's inevitably the odd Yuan or two. No, the schemes are the new rich; the BMWs, the Chongqing made Ford Focus owners and the Mercedes drivers, the corrupt and wealthy of China.

Chinglishism, a mouthful on all accounts but a rather descriptive and appropriate word to describe the Chinese love of incorrect English; Chinglish is in fact attributed to the over use of translation software by yearling English students working for big business. The event that most gratified me or not whichever the

case might be; in a moment of utter disbelief, was that of a huge set of advertisements placed outside Starbucks YangGuanCheng that read, "Chongqing is lacking in eyes of world" I at once encouraged my then secretary to call the development company proudly depicted, to highlight their blunder. Their response was that the translator had passed her CERT4 in English and was therefore well enough qualified to render the copy. Nevertheless, about a week later the posters were corrected, with the removal entirely of the Chinglish slogan. I will hasten to add, replacement, even here in China would have been a costly exercise.

My run in with a senior member of the translation company pin points the problems faced by all wishing to push for a gradual increase in quality and attention to workmanship in the Chinese print advertising industry. He out lined to me that my quality was not something the Chinese are willing to pay for. My services in helping him with polishing Chinglish would be rather lost on a society which; on most accounts, were unable to read the text anyway. However, with a full understanding that this man was probably the proud owner of a BMW and his cutting back on quality copy was increasing the education fund for his only born, I found my argument to be nothing more than a smudge in his calendar of more pressing issues.

Traffic

Traffic in China seems to come under little enforcement banking more on the side of chaos rather than that of structure. Nevertheless, the Chinese system requires new drivers to pass strict written examinations in order to acquire a license. However, once the written test is passed all practical tests are as unruly as most anything else of a practical nature in China.

I would like to paint a picture for you if I may. This almost fictional account of Chinese logic will underscore some of the ludicrous values which hamper day to day living on the Chinese mainland.

Imagine if you will: a fairly wide two lane road passing through a small town centre. The time is rapidly approaching rush hour and what looks to be an unregisters and un road worthy three wheel vehicle, bursting to the seams with its cargo of offal and restaurant leftovers, has careered into the side of a police car attempting to make a hasty dash across on coming traffic. Subsequently, both vehicles colliding, leaving the lesser and its load turned over with both vehicles now stationary and blocking three quarters one lane of traffic. Rapidly, a large crowd of on lookers then begins to grow, and traffic in the same lane as the obstruction starts to bank-up while occasionally individual vehicles make a dash around the incident.

If your wondering, what is so different in regards to western and Chinese logic in situations such as these, then what I have to say next will interest you immensely:

the policeman is out of the car, and being almost naked; with his shirt and trouser legs rolled half way up his chest and shins - as a cooling aid lest we forget it's summer - he begins to exchange heated debate with the three wheel vehicle owner/driver/rider whom now out of his contraption is furiously tapping out numbers on his mobile phone, while proceeding to light a cigarette. Both men, having exchanged verbally their discourse retire to the vicinity of their vehicle to call for assistance; assistance being the insurance agent with a camera and/or wife, to whom the first call is made, I'm still unsure.

In the meantime, the traffic behind the incident is banking up slowly; with the echo of horns in the distance; which is giving some indication of road chaos. Nevertheless, at this point the unaffected lane is moving past the site slowly enough to give every passing driver a formal view of the crash site; until, this lane also comes to a sudden grinding halt. What on earth could be the issue here my companion and I wondered? ...Maybe, a driver too busy taking in the view at ground zero has run up the rear of another, that's it, of cause! On closer inspection however that idea was short lived, the reality couldn't have been further from the truth. How could we be so stupid? For in fact, it was no less than a maneuver by a truck driver, whose brilliance and quick thinking unfittingly saw him take on the oncoming lane of traffic, for an astonishing 15 meters, before causing this to also choke up in grid lock! Apparently out of his vehicle now, he was sure enough puffing away on a cigarette in recline, door open, going nowhere; happily taking a mouthful from the driver whose lane it rightly was.

Hang on! The policeman; now if he had a little up stairs, would he not have taken control of this situation and managed just a little road control of sorts, while assistance arrived. Then I think to myself, you stupid fool, he'd just loose face if he did that! Meanwhile, back at the scene, nothing seems to have changed. The three wheel motor vehicle and its cargo still on its side, with its putrid contents ejected across the pavement and both drivers still shouting down their mobile phones.

Stopping for a moment to taking in the 360 degree peripheral, it is quite evident everything at this point is now stationary, even those pedestrians who seem to have gravitated towards the site. One would assume this will later include the insurance man with his camera, without which the movement of both vehicles and subsequent log-jam is very unlikely. Everyone now smoking and talking at fever pitch, with horns in both directions sounding off into the distance like the start of the Sydney to Hobart. Having vacated our stationary bus, we proceeded to leave the site on foot, in utter disbelief. While locals in the background shout, hello! And look it's a white man - the foremost in English and latter in Chinese.

I can't begin to tell you how incompetent the Chinese seem in times of chaos, when lateral thinking and charge is needed to resolve a situation, things just fall into total disorder.

The Human Factor

Charles Darwin made some immensely fascinating observations of local tribesmen when he arrived in Tierra del Fuego (1835) on the Beagle. Darwin saw that in tribes with no key power brokers or stable ownership system, it seemed rather impossible for the natives to step out of their primitive state of savagery. On trading with the natives it was noted: a Fuegian which possessed anything of foreignness would be subject to thievery, hounding resulting in the ultimate destruction of objects. Traded items like cloth were systematically shredded and distributed amongst the people, in a useless state. At the heart of his observations lay some of the fundamental issues “communism” faces today. If we for a moment think of the issues relating to intellectual property in China for example, we are able to draw complex parallels between the property of the mind and that of poor Jeremy Button’s physical belongings, after returning with Darwin to his native country. Where by his systematic striping of all that seemed foreign was to be the only way of the tribe accepting him again as one of their own, thus, in a sense limiting their own abilities to evolve from savages. In the case of the Fuegians and Darwin it would be safe to say that his experience was one that has roots in Chinas communist system even though far more complex an evolution. China through agriculture eventually saw the formation of a Master/serve culture. Nevertheless, we see the residuals of these primitive ethics at work in society.

Furthermore, with Chinas current nine hundred million peasants living not much more than an evolutionary step up from Darwin’s poor Fuegians one must wonder if Chinas current and progressive model is little more than a tether to a subsistence lifestyle for the peasants, or it is that in fact the rich of China intend to take a few steps back down the evolutionary path to achieve a more harmonious society? Darwin’s master/serve society is now looking for ways in which to evolve once again, and here in China it is a matter of how this evolution will affect not just China but the world. For Chongqing however, it looking like one of the current mile stones is urbanization. And in the long run who will benefit this time?

It might be worth noting that since the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976) China ranks among the top four countries with the larges social income gap, the pursuit of cultural harmony in China has realized little of its ideals. Chongqing province is no exception; in this vast area the size of Wales, people can earn as little RMB5 per day with the average City salary approximating RMB2K per month.

Population redistribution of inhabitants in the province is one of the CPC’s long-term goals under its urbanization program. Population density is expected to

more than double in the city of Chongqing over the next 10 years. This will contribute to the rise in unemployment, crime, traffic congestion, with more pressing human waste management and health issues to follow. Chongqing city currently off loads 1 billion tons of untreated waste into the Yangtze River annually. Along with poor air quality from its coal fired power stations, it will be inevitable the influx in urban population that's set to drive pollution higher.

The human factor in Chongqing's economic drive is one of affordable labor to enforce large industrial and manufacturing projects under its regional growth strategy, a statistical account of economic needs rather than that of quality of life.

Chongqing's community will see an influx of predominately unskilled relocates whose current annual salaries are marginal in comparison to the new rich. The movement of the poor uneducated under class into the urban environment is set to cause monumental issues with out reform towards a service based economy resulting in urban unrest.

Few will benefit from this mass migration, as most strive to make a living, buy or rent over inflated new properties and resettle in areas with high unemployment. One can't help but feel life for Chongqing's people will strike major hurdles. Pierre-Joseph Proudhon said, "Communism is inequality, but not as property is. Property is exploitation of the weak by the strong. Communism is exploitation of the strong by the weak." For me this comment resonates most strongly now, for who is it that suffers at the hand of new Communist China, who are the exploited? Is it the Chinese people who are having to buy back their own soil, or the drive for communism to own our personal dept, issues here are enormous, with questions resonating not only from the locals but those foreigners seeing the transition first hand?

On both sides of the world inevitably it is the poor that suffer, and current economic turmoil in China, and at home is fueling the divide. History has shown time and time again society on the edge of instability can be grounds for social unrest and upheaval. In China the poor have lost all their self confidence, its system devours individuals; I see individuality though, it's found under the surface, it lurks in the shyness and timid ness of the nation. The repression of the self is something I find criminal, im not sure if you would agree with me on this. I look back at my own culture from this vantage point and see the same reflections of right wing politics and repression of peoples' freedom and self expression creeping into our lives much the same as that of the Chinese nationals.

"There is only one security, and when you've lost that security, you've lost everything you've got. And that is the security of confidence in yourself; to be, to create, to make any position you want to make for yourself. And when you lose that confidence, you've lost the only security you can have. ... Self-confidence is self-determinism. One's belief in one's ability to determine his own course. As long as one has that, he's got the universe in his pocket. And when he hasn't got

that, not all the pearls in China nor all the grain and corn in Iowa can give him security, because that's the only security there is.” -- L. Ron Hubbard

I hit the streets and asked some questions, in the hope of gauging the general feeling of change in Chongqing.

The questions

Please note; I've retain Chinglish, for posterity.

Q: Where do you see yourself in 10 years in relation to Chongqing?

A: I lived in CQ over 5 years, but still feel like stranger to this city.

Q: What are your thoughts on the move to urbanization in Chongqing, and how will it affect you?

A: Would be fine move to urbanization... I like city life... I would be more relaxed... But, it seems a kind of ideal life... My work is in the city.

Q: Do you feel that your quality of life will be better and why?

A: Sure, air would be more fresh, the quality of my life would be better if we move to urbanization because the environment is better, my mind would be refreshed.

Q: What in your opinion are the three top problems that Chongqing faces now?

A: Traffic is in a mess, always traffic jams... Housing big problem, only part of people can live in an apartment, another part whose income is only middle class or lower, can not afford an apartment, environment is terrible, and pollution is too serious.

Q: In your opinion do you feel that the CPC is an effective governing body; do you feel that it looks after the interests of the majoritory of chongqingese?

A: Absolutely not! They do care about their own interests, as a result the rich families are richer, the poor families are poorer, CQ can not get away from poverty if the government keeps the management in the same way.

Q: Have you anything else you would like to say about CQ which you feel important to address?

A: Poor management, the ineffective government, employees' interests can not be guaranteed.

“China is more prosperous than before. The people have better lives but they are not happy and confident because the scars are still there.” -- Jung Chang

(Note: More detailed accounts of this segment found in the full edition)

Expatriates

Currently, there are several different types of foreign residents living here in Chongqing. The first type and most common are the worker-traveler, student and peace core workers. Together they represent a predominantly young demographic. The longevity of their stay is usually determined by visa and season. This demographic is most preferred by schools, young and vibrant with no idea about business or cultural ethics and values in China. The second type; are the long-term expatriates coming from a mixed pool of former teachers, foreign professionals and consular staffing. A demographic most usually are tied long-term to the area by work or marriage. This category also represents a diverse range of age groups and nationalities, from older male Baby Boomers looking for Chinese partners, to odd bodies looking to make a life in a new and exciting environment, Nevertheless, we sometimes find the go-it-alone business man and women, endeavoring to sell their products, or representing foreign companies whom are fishing to capitalize on Chinas “economic boom”; Thirdly, are the foreign professionals working for big business here as previously mention, Ford and companies like BMW, multinational businesses calling Chongqing home.

When we combine all these categories it really represents a multicultural demographic, suffering the same class disparity and wage gaps. Chongqing’s expatriate community has not yet matured. Some figures quoted tend to ring true, Chongqing province supports sum 7000 foreign expatriates, so when absorbed into a population of 33 million there is little impact on the social environment.

The current hot-spots for foreigners in and around Chongqing are, Taproom Street Cliffs’ Bar, Starbucks YangGuanCheng, ShaPingBa, JieFangBei HongYaDong and The Holiday Inn NanPing.



Jobs and Education

In the case of education, it is evident that huge revenues are at stake. When considering its supply and demand and its contribution to the economy, we see huge investment potential for both facilities and facilitators, in accommodating market

growth. Notwithstanding, national estimates in 2006, that put the numbers of university graduates upwards of four million nationally. It's become clear that revenue created by education supply in China draws from the local pool, with cries from local communities over rising tuition fees. On the other hand, creating jobs and filling positions for these newly educated jobseekers is paramount, but faltering in application because of the lack of service sector spending. Creating jobs will be critical to ensuring a percentage of the social harmony ideal.

The incredible turn out in 2007 at a single Shenzhen job fair saw 60,000 jobseekers bidding for placements. The relative sea of hopefuls, flocking to one city alone only further underscores China's economic imbalance. This imbalance is not merely found in education. On the flip side, walk off the high street into any large shopping centre in Chongqing, and you will notice the presence of numerous employees, but little in the way of purchaser power keeping them busy. If this is the face of social harmony, then by 2020 the educated will be crowded into shops and restaurants like sardines in a tin... A local restaurant that I regularly eat in not long ago put on another 5-8 staff bringing the count to 15 waiters and waitresses, to service a room not much larger than 60sqm, the service is now substandard, and the food has doubled in price, leaving me in two minds whether to ever return. Not that promoting jobs is a bad thing. Although, can it be said filling vast numbers empty unproductive businesses with the educated be seen as a viable solution to China's growing numbers of unemployed?

China's "official" 4% unemployment rate can only be dealt with when changes in cities like Chongqing push for reform and implementation of a service based economy: creating local jobs for local people; developing sustainable living for migrant workers, at home, and in the country side; and stemming the tide of peasant workers into cities like Chongqing, all are crucial. This one example of dysfunction is part of a whole series of issues which plague the area. But is a total contradiction to the CPC's vision under their current policy.

Westerners entering China are immediately aware of the governments drive to use language as an economic tool, from cab drives, to shop staff, and the over eagerness of Chinese students wishing to practice and tone their skills, all heightens ones awareness of Chinas future direction. The integration of the English language into society is bridging the cultural gap; although, the cultural divide is still as strong as ever, with little movement in the way Chinese approach business relationships under the shadow of communism, causing huge problems for those individuals and businesses trying to enter the Chinese markets, for China it is a game in economic control. The word is, share the dream or submit and then you will know China and China will know you. The Chinese system has given rise to an ethic of lies, cheating and unfairness, which prefer short-term self interest, over that of social harmony, a direct polarization of interests between officialdom and those to whom it supposedly works in interest, the people.

*“Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper.” -
-Robert Frost*

Due to a cultural fascination with higher education, China's well integrated education system contributes greatly to a large portion of Chongqing's micro economic wealth. Education drives several economic engines in the area; the first being, Chongqing's University and higher education network. Chongqing province has approximately twenty nine universities which exploit the interests of both local and non-local entities in-line with government initiated and socially driven expectations; the second being, co-venture private education, which in many instances can be traced back to government sector influences working with private enterprise; third, the micro industries which influence local micro economic trends.

The first and foremost entry point for an individual or foreign nationals new to life in Chongqing is via local education, either as a foreign teacher, Student or Investor, although this is changing . The exploitation of foreign entities within education can be examined and categorized as generic throughout China, and differs little in respects to Chongqing. Yet, the fundamental nature of the way the Chinese deal with foreigners is seen under this model to be a reflection of greater Chinese socioeconomic patterns; and the problems it creates through cultural norms, political and socially, on personal and business relationships, regardless of our inherent differences and understanding of those; and how it integrates foreigners on a wider scope under current trends to fit government structured economic development patterns, to return the highest profit, rather than create a healthy business environment for investor in the region.

There are some points of concern attributed to the process of dealing with individuals in China, and the ambiguity in which the Chinese system utilizes foreign interests to support the communist system. To give some indication of Chongqing, and the function of the local systems that influence: We need to look at the use of ambiguity by individuals in best exploiting us to support personal and political gain. Exploiting westerners can be a tricky subject to address, nonetheless, it is important to give you some indication of the pit-falls that reside within the Chinese love of ambiguity and subtle control, which with hindsight utilizes the collective ethics of the Chinese drive to feed the socialist system; thereby, tapping cultural norms to create economic dividend for individuals under the pretext of socialism, a trend seamlessly applied by Chinese individuals in both the context of social and business dealings. This realizes ambiguity as paramount to a profitable and/or positive out come in China, hiding behind the principal of face to a greater extent. As apposed to a serious issue of transparency which would soon be raised as an areas of concern, among foreigners when dealing with counterparts at home. Chinese culturally, strive to conduct business and personal relationships under its mystique. Preferring not to

directly deal with issues head on the Chinese instead opting to save face by concealing such indiscretions.

The Chinese enter into business relations with foreigners in a way that undermines our perception of what we believe individuals and companies determine as, sound business practice. Thus, giving rise to immediate problems relating to ethical practice and trust ability. The tendency of Chinese to mix business with pleasure for instance, highlights this further, with the reluctance to define the line between business and personal relationships; it becomes obvious this is open to giving mixed signals toward individuals not familiar with traditional etiquette.

In dealing with some of these inherent issues of ambiguity, I will endeavor to pinpoint the warning signs and fundamentals currently affecting working foreigners in education in the region. And as they not only relate to one particular field or profession; nor do they have specific limitations in geography; I hope they will encompass a general informative narration to China and the Chinese when living and working in the country.

This list is a reflection of salary expectations for foreigners working in education in south west China.

When working in education on the Chinese mainland, it can be safely assumed that, in most cases anyway, the role of westerners in language institutions at best amounts to face value or dare I say skin color. In some international schools where foreign subject teachers are employed, exceptions are found. On the other hand, the face value of teachers is one area where Chinese find dividend. Chongqing's ESL system is currently in chaos. The predominant nature of institutions to favor cheap young inexperienced travelers, a market for exploitation by middle men, essentially, trading in these individuals with schools for percentages of their hourly rate. Depending on how many middle men are acting on behalf of a foreign individual, the teaching salary can amount to as little as RMB4K per month, working within the university system, or as much as RMB12K per month working for a private enterprise. Nevertheless, when comparing these figures to a true expatriate's salary of RMB100K per month, and beyond, it shows huge discrimination. Notwithstanding, this has given rise to feverish attempts by all manor of individuals, groups and government bodies, to act as go betweens, to access a slice of the pie. Recently, one such large private institution failed to pay wages or appropriate foreign working visas for their foreign staff, and prior to this was known to use dispensable proxies in dealing with foreign teachers, creating an atmosphere of ambiguity and risk on the part of the foreign teacher. It is also well know that the dishonoring of contracts not only in the private sectors leave teachers high and dry.

(Note: More detailed accounts of this segment found in the full edition)

The Chinese people have been pushed into spending big on education and language. With an abundance of private English language schools and university courses, cashing in on the education push; government backed and co-owned language centers and joint ventures partner ships, are dominating the education arena. Not necessarily just in Chongqing do we see such evidence, the greater China is a-buzz with students taking their first steps on the road to international education, hoping one day to study overseas.

In Chongqing we seen to be exposed to more advertisements for language education than in any other city I've visited in China, busses, bus stops, road side dominate the centre of JieFangBei.

The governments drive to make language a deep-seated part of Chinese curricula has sparked a wave of entrepreneurial spin-offs. These exist to exploit the current systems, giving rise to substandard services, with little or no safety nets for the communities that are pressured to embrace them. Chongqing is one of the areas where such exploitation is rampant, a culture of undercutting and middlemen are by products of the business environment here; an environment where the use of low transparency and lack of accountability thrive. Not only in the education sector, but across the board, the Chinese socio-economic system favors this type of practice as nothing more than a shortcut to dealing with bureaucracy, and where the system is so encumbered by government's intervention, it's not hard to see what effect this can have on the choices local officials make in affecting their authority.

Business in Chongqing is deeply rooted in culture, and western expectations with regards to transparency and accountability seem to counter the cultural ethics, which are entrenched in the fabric of its people.

Some examples of these business practices will highlight further the fundamental flaws the current system is facing, where ambiguity becomes a key to directing business objectives:

The Culture of Chinese business in dealing with foreigners can be extremely frustrating to those of us looking to use western logic; it becomes difficult to see past what seems to us like child's play. Having already touched on this subject I would like to touch on the ugly parts once more as its fundamental key to understanding the theory. The Chinese business system operates on a level, which directly isolates those working under it. For a foreigner working with a Chinese company the language barriers is the first obstacle, giving rise to the use of a multi-lingual proxy. The relative lack of Business English as a core skill, and the sensibility of international ethics, produces a bread of translators/assistants/foreign liaisons, with little or no prior professional

background. Often female school leavers with limited English skills, these intermediaries serve as go-betweens for senior management, lacking in core skills, professionalism and ability to make sound and decisive decisions, proxies, habitually use non domain specific email addresses and personal mobile phones, as tools for communication. This gives rise to issues of transparency and trust ability issues. Keying into the inherent culture of guanxi (professional contacts) and isolating individual relationships as a control mechanism. These proxies are often under the influence of senior staff that generally has little or no English language skills, thus thinking with Chinese business tact and mindsets.

Furthermore, the Chinese culture places the young as tools in business operations, whereby, effectively, enabling management to stay out of direct contact and/or conflict. The young are seen to possess little or no knowledge, which leads to diluted communication with senior staff. This type of relationship being the cultural norm is usually the first stumbling point. These simple issues fundamentally undermine all relationships between foreigners and Chinese business people, from decision making, to affecting communication on every level.

If we examine the individuals' management strategy, we will find some norms which present themselves inherently, giving us the ability to judge situations by merit. In the case of English education we can use the idea of the English Corner; the following fictional example is most evident:

Mr. Chinglish, who organizes the local English Corner, is a typical Chinese businessman. His operation helps him with networking Chinese, foreigners, local business entrepreneurs and government entities, while providing a cover for his own business activities he is able to utilize his network of students to gain information on local foreign players at little cost. Chinglish provides incentives to these students by philanthropy; holidays and gifts.

Mr. Chinglish is a co-owner of "Chinglish First Training Centre", he employes foreign teachers part-time and pays marginal rates of between RMB60 – 100 per hour. He is also affiliated with a network of business partners and government interests who together control and manage educational facilities, forming something that resembles a Cartel. They individually act as middlemen who trade in foreign teachers in around the city selling teachers to the government and private school sector.

Job Description (Teaching)	Hours per Month	Month Average Salary	
		Part-time	Full-time
Pease Core worker	N/A	1500 – 2500	
University	0 - 80	3000 – 5000	60-100
Middle Schools	0 – 80	3000 – 6000	60-100
Private Schools	0 – 80	3000 – 12000	100 - 125
International Schools	0 – 80	5000 – 15000	100 – 150

Please note: these figures do not include incentives like housing, air fares etc. But, seriously reflect the pay scales which are most common as of 2008. The higher hourly rates reflect the full after agency deductions. The lower hourly pay scales are given to none white teachers and those with multiple agents acting as representation on behalf of the teacher while on a part-time schedule. Agents would be expecting to see a least a 40% mark-up on these figures. It is strongly recommended that you stakeout your employment provider before taking on work. My recommendation is that you take nothing but the highest pay rates, experience is not required and their expectation is for you to entertain rather than teach.

(Note: More detailed accounts of this segment found in the full edition)

“The warmth of Chinese people is like sunshine on a cloudy day.” – Unknown Author, Rant about China



The Chinese have adopted a very simple positive outward nature in business; their love of self help literature is a good indication of how psychology is one of the driving forces behind their relationships with one another. But, is this enough? To be positive helps with short-term relationship growth; and is an important factor to building relationships through first impression. Nevertheless, the Chinese in business

soon forget the ethics needed to keep a relationship healthy over the long-term. The nature of Chinese business practices means that, to do well one must adopt negative actions, which lead to lying, cheating and mistrust. Essentially, burning bridges once a transaction has been closed. Short-term goal orientation using this method of business creates an unhealthy business environment, spawning mistrust. Whether we like it or not this is the environment you enter when coming into the Chinese market place.

Returnee Students to China

To give you some idea of the problems faced by Students here in China I would like to show you an example of some polishing work I did for a Beijing company, This article takes a look at the returnees from overseas study programs and some of the incentives that are offered to these individuals on the main land when they return. It also looks at some of the problems returnees face at home. The article as well gives us an insight into the propaganda machine, and its workings:

A wave of Hope

Students returning to mainland China from foreign shores were once held in high esteem, although this perception is now changing. Since the implementation of opening-up and reform policies by Deng Xiaoping in the late nineteen seventies, the repatriation of Chinese immigrants is accelerating. To date a total of 1.06 million students have left China for study abroad. And figures in 2006 estimated the total amount of returnees at 0.237 million and rising.

Wang Yafei, the first Chinese woman to acquire an MBA Degree from the United Kingdom, was one of twenty students originally sent by the Chinese government in 1987, to receive a foreign education. The resulting collaboration between British and Chinese officials paved the way for further governmental cooperation, and was the platform from which Wang Yafei's career would be launched.

Wang's career includes: overseeing the International Exchange and Cooperation Program run by the Guanghua School of Management Peking University; while at the same time being regarded as a prominent leading female scholar in the fields of Securities and Financial Investment. Wang is also credited with founding China's first Vocational Guidance Center for students.

Returnees like Wang Yafei were once praised for their multiculturalism and foreign education. Although, in the light of present day trends, this praise is rapidly dwindling, due in part, to the now abundant number of students returning from study programs abroad.

China has reassessed these culture-savvy returnees. Today, Wang's burgeoning counterparts suffer many setbacks. One of these is the absence of employment opportunities. Their general lack of work experience in China and abroad, coupled with the increasing number of Job seekers, makes finding employment extremely difficult. Wang explains, "People in mainland China are changing their attitudes towards returned students as the society and economy develop. In the

meantime, the returnees no longer think they're different from the general run." Wang further illustrates, "As China gradually opens its markets to the world, local talent with an international background, and the global intelligent who are familiar with Chinese will certainly become a trend."

High Expectations

No news for an overseas student running for head of the Villager's Committee, or a female returnee seeking work as a cosmetician in a funeral parlor. Tens of thousands of students go abroad every year searching for that education-with-an-edge. Some of whom are enrolled by second or third-rate schools, offering substandard courses. While back at home people have come to recognize the ineffectiveness of those sporting a lesser education and have adjusted to suit.

Sixteen year old Zhang Jin is looking forward to studying in New Zealand. His parents expect him to finish his undergraduate and postgraduate education there, and eventually become a senior talent in his chosen career. However, it will not come cheap to realize their dreams. Zhang's first stop on this now well trodden path, will probably start with an intensive six month ESL course, provided by one of China's flourishing private language schools. Costing upward of 2,000 yuan, language classes will be their initial expense. With tuition fees snowballing from there; high school tuition fees of 60,000 yuan per year; annual fees for higher education starting from 80,000 yuan, all seem like a high price to pay. Notwithstanding, general day to day living expenses, when totaled could eventually push a students expenditure in excess of one million yuan.

According to New Zealand's labor laws, students sixteen and over are allowed to work part-time to support themselves while studying. Nevertheless, their part-time income falls far short of their needs.



Thus the huge spending spree chalked up by returnees' casts a shadow over their job seeking efforts back home, requiring jobs with large salaries to counter their education costs. On the other hand, the Chinese employers are quite realistic preferring to employ those who can immediately take to the tasks at hand; on the salaries they are able to pay. Employers tend to resist employing returnees with little or no work experience, placing the employees' educational status a close second behind the bottom line.

As a matter of fact, lack of working experience is also an obstacle for domestic graduates. Returnees and local competition are; in a sense, seen to be starting

from parallel platforms. And no matter how prestigious your education and background, employers still focus more on experience and personality over pure intellectualism.

Learn through Practice

Before leaving study, Li Qi won a business start-up competition and qualified for a postgraduate recommendation. She believed that there was a bright future ahead of her, as long as she buckled down and worked hard. Wanting to continue her study overseas Li opted for both obtaining a degree and experiencing a brand-new life perspective. With the aim of enriching her personal experience, Li finally chose to study in the UK. According to Li, “one’s personal development is effected by opportunity, ability and way of thinking.” Furthermore, “you’re not able to foresee your opportunities but can train your personal ability through study and hard work. As for improving your way of thinking you need to keep in touch with new people and new events.”

A young man who just returned from Singapore tells us that modern students are quite different from their older counterparts. Since they needn’t worry about tuition fees, and taking part-time jobs are no longer a case of livelihood, but more a way of broadening their scope.

Private Business Start-up for Chinese Returnees

Li Kai was an excellent student at university, and entered into the public service after his graduation. Soon afterwards, he left his position to move to the US for further study. Li found that the whole situation in China had changed, when he finally returned home after two years living abroad, and having been rejected numerous times, he finally found a job with an association working directly under a ministry department. However, the overseas experience had radically changed him. Finding it difficult to deal with the bureaucracy of his position, Li resigned his job in search of personal growth and development. This is not a unique story; nowadays more and more returnee’s like Li Kai choose the freedom of having their own business over working for government and NGO’s.

To encourage overseas Chinese to set-up personal businesses at home, the All China Youth Federation holds various activities and offering all-around services to help the returnees strike out on their own.

A vast number of returned overseas students have succeeded in different fields. Han Xiaohong, the president of Beijing Ciming Checkup Centre, acquired her doctorate degree in Germany. Her own checkup center has become the largest

health organization in China. Han's great success brings benefit not only to her, but also benefit to the government. According to statistics, their fee-for-service contributed to a 90 percent reduction in undetected disease after visiting Han's health organization, which means the government, may save nearly 2 billion yuan in medical services every year.

Building on this positive example, a business start-up plan for returnees is planned; constructing more business zones for these individuals including; 150 zones at national level to be set-up over the coming years. Paving the way for returnees with sophisticated skills in technology and advanced ideas, to be well received in China by the Chinese community once again.

Tips: Top Five Vocations for Returnees

a. Telecommunications

Telecommunications in China is high profit; high profile. Especially in new technology arenas such as NGN, 3G and IPTV driving upsurge for this hi-tech industry. It provides a wide range of development space to encourage tech-savvy returnees with the latest knowledge from abroad

b. Real Estate

Real Estate and the building industry are now deeply influenced by globalization. The vacancies in project management, engineering, cost management, accounting and so on, offer a platform for emerging talents who manage at least one foreign language and are familiar with international conventions. These positions are just the kind of opportunities returnees should be seeking.

c. Finance

After entering the WTO, Chinese financial markets are gradually opening to foreign investment. At the same time a shortage of financial intellectual staff is emerging as foreign banks are streaming in and joint venture funding companies increase, creating job opportunities for finance professionals with international backgrounds.

d. Logistics

Logistics is considered as the sunrise industry, being closely linked to transportation, storage, manufacture and other fields at the core of Chinese economic development; Logistics plays a key role in international affairs. As China hosts more international events, returned senior logistics talent will be warmly welcomed.

e. IT

Though e-business has been operating for some years on the Chinese domestic market, it still needs strengthening. Therefore, returned industry professionals get the upper hand as they manage this modern theory and the outstanding creativity, on which domestic employers are putting more emphasis.

In addition, a large number of returnees are heading to the bigger cities located in Eastern China. Cities like Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou are rich in emerging service; services such as media and cyber gaming, although this is rapidly leading to a spatial disparity of talent distribution.

Small business incentive

Chongqing's expat community has been encouraged to participate in several urban development schemes; these offer incentive to foreigners who live here in the city to invest small sums in business ventures. HongYaDong shopping centre and Mexin Changjiang's International Taproom Street, both offer deals which allow foreigners to gain a foot hold in the market albeit under Chinese control. In examining these closely we find some potential, however, with no direct ownership rights, in most cases, and little market economic growth, for short-term profit, it is hard to tell whether lively hoods can be made over the long-term, under current contract restrictions. In the case of the Taproom Street, an area dedicated to novelty eastern and western architecture, quality workmanship and safety is already coming under fire. On the other hand, the potential of projects such as these to prosper under market conditions is evident. Although, in marketing to Chinese under such constrains leaves us with little inspiration to invest more than basic funding, when ownership rights and ultimate control over the business is taken from the hands of those running it. We find little here in the way of a solutions to the current issues faced by westerners. Of cause projects like this will benefit a small percentage of foreigners, although it's clear that this type of stage management of foreign enterprise will only see marginal success.

Food industries

With small developments such as Taproom Street and the introduction of larger western fast food outlets throughout the city, it's become essential to deliver services which appeal to the broader spectrum of Chinese society, and doing so inevitably targets a lower income demographic. In the case of Taproom Street and other locations open to foreign investment this is evident when looking at site patronage; recently, it's food which holds the most appeal to investors. The food and beverage industry provide a catalyst for investment in Chongqing. Although, it has several points which cause concern: Firstly, the availability of food stuff dependant on a reliable supply chain. Due to Chongqing's geographical location it suffer obvious logistical problems, notwithstanding, the up grade to rail and other transportation infrastructure, Chongqing airport is still predominantly domestic, with few international flights and one runway however, "Jiangbei Airport will receive a second runway, becoming the first airport in West China to have two runways"- China Daily ; the transportation of fresh food and beverages creates a logistical headache for small businesses, and to counter this westerners have fallen back on supplying the locals with local food, using local ingredients, Continuity in the supply chain is providing difficult to manage, with western food outlets like Metro often out of stock of essential items making reliance on one particular outlet risky; Food quality and hygiene standards in Chongqing are currently sub-standard, with poor hygiene education and lax preparation methods and low quality water supply. Over the last few years we have seen serious food poisoning out-breaks in schools and restaurants all over China.

The movement of large multinational food and beverage retailers into the Chongqing market place is starting to make an impact on areas like Jiefangbei where there are no less than three Starbucks outlets. Quoting a positive note from Starbucks President and CEO James L. Donald;

"Turning to China, I just recently returned from a 5-day city trip and was accompanied by Michael and 5 other senior Starbucks leaders. The trip provided a wonderful occasion for us to meet with partners and our company operators and license doors and observed first hand the opportunities that await us in this important market. Our retail presence continues to grow nicely as we opened over 50 stores in China market over the last 12 months including more than doubling our store count, in new company operator markets to 26 stores to-date."

The obvious incentive for F&B retail chain outlets is huge; Starbucks and Ray Kroc's Mac Donald's empire are clearly visible here in the Chinese market place, offering, premium products and services to the Chinese public. Nevertheless, they are owned and run by Chinese, not westerners. The Monopolization of the Chinese economy is in its self a feat of wonder. Keeping, a western firm out of direct ownership enables China to suck in capital like a fat kid does a super size coke.

Final thoughts

Communism



To sum up communism: for those of you who are average; who go to work everyday to a low input job and come home at night to sit in front of your TV sets and tune-in to feel good subtle propaganda; spending time on the weekend with your family and friends; living a simple life out of politics, life with communism can be a happy medium. It seems that the real issues start when we question the system, when we endeavor to think

outside the circle. That which scares me the most is the ability of communism to legitimizing injustice. Some would say it's exploitation of the mind. For the average person however communism is no more threatening than that of our current systems; systems, which bind us to fear of injustice leading to the exploitation of our pockets and propagation of laziness as tool to bolster our economies.

Freud's best known essay: *Civilization and Its Discontents* (1930) offers up a fitting analysis which is neither based on communism or capitalism but the human condition, the fundamentals of which I find when reflecting on China and all I have seen here: "At best, civilized living is a compromise between wishes and repression - not a comfortable doctrine"



Chongqing

To further sum up everything that I've witnessed here, to rap it up in a package and send it home, to try my best to give a gift that sums up its entirety, is almost impossible. Chongqing is developing fast, it will come of age in 10 years, with all the trappings that that brings.

However, it will be a Communist City; it will be a Chinese city. This city will be a model for the Chinese people. The current tendency is to stamp out westernism, adapting western flavor in a way that compliments Chinese ideals and taste. We see this in Chinese clothes fashion, Chinese western food, architecture and vehicles. By all accounts this area will suffer for the party, but maybe in the long and distant future when the dust of the economic war has long settled Chongqing and its people could be happier, healthier and wealthier.

To be blunt if I may, it's the population of the region that presents the most difficulties, their hopes and aspirations under communism will see a steady population boom unless something is seriously done to hold back the tide. For me population is the most complex and threatening issue modern man faces, socialism breads people and people who are striving for a consumer society and quality of life have the right to push their dreams, whether we are able to as a planet to gratify these wishes, is another matter entirely.

When you look at the world in total you see the fundamentals of human existence in everything. That which one culture does in pursuit of harmony others do in opposition; the balance of such is called the human race...

(Note: More detailed accounts of this segment found in the full edition)