

## Book Reviews

*International Migration of China: Status, Policy and Social Responses to the Globalization of Migration*, by Lu Miao and Huiwao Wang, Singapore: Springer, 2017. 135 pp. \$139.99 (paper). ISBN: 978-981-10-6073-1.

*Reviewed by*  
**Shuai Zhou**  
Pennsylvania State University

*International Migration of China: Status, Policy and Social Responses to the Globalization of Migration* focuses on international migration, which is a phenomenal population flow existing in China for decades. It covers the causes and influences of migration, most of which consists of returnees from abroad. Meanwhile, the authors also indicate that there are political and practical barriers that prevent foreign intellectuals from entering China. In their concluding chapter, the authors suggest some approaches that will smooth the international population flow between China and the rest of the world.

This work is divided into six chapters. The authors begin with some background information on migration studies, including the definition of key concepts, the causes of global migration, and a brief history of China's international migration, which they call the "third wave of migration."

Chapter 1 goes on to explain further the factors that result in international migration in the context of China. Apart from the common factors mentioned in the introductory material, the authors discuss how educational resources and political settings also affect Chinese people's international migration. They then describe different scenarios that Chinese migrants have encountered in the United States, the countries of the European Union, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and Africa. In their research, they discovered that most recent international migrants are from an affluent and privileged background and could be termed "new migrants" (10). When it comes to the in-flow and out-flow, the authors discuss how China faces the problem of a "migration deficit," meaning that more Chinese are flowing out than foreigners flowing in. Chapter 2 is a logical extension of chapter 1. In this chapter, the authors introduce the migration policies in the main destinations for Chinese international migrants, North America, the countries of the European Union, and Australia. Then they explain in detail the situation of investment immigrants, skilled migrants, and Chinese students who are studying abroad. By juxtaposing students with other migrants, the authors

tend to categorize students as immigrants. This point of view is doubtful because it is not clear whether students are resettlement driven or not.

Chapter 3 focuses on the return migration embedded in the migration process. Many studies have concluded that migrants always dream of returning to their hometowns (e.g., Guarnizo 1996; Leavey, Sembhi, and Livingston 2004). The authors employ “push and pull” theory to explain Chinese returnees’ decision-making process. On one hand, Western societies have not recovered from the economic recession since 2008, leaving the opportunities limited, especially for immigrants; on the other hand, China is on the rise in many aspects. The government has recognized the importance of talent as well, and has conducted multiple programs to attract overseas Chinese talent, like the Thousand Talents Programs. In so doing, China has witnessed a tide of returning talent. Nevertheless, it is also clear that *guanxi*—which the authors define as “interpersonal ties rooted in common background and experience that facilitate exchange” (61)—and social inequality resulting from it constitute the main barriers that prevent some Chinese from returning to the motherland. Foreign talent and businesses are facing more severe restrictions than Chinese talent. Chapter 4 demonstrates the main practical difficulties foreigners encounter, among which the visa system is the critical one. The authors note that only a limited number of visas can be offered to foreign talent currently.

Chapter 5 attempts to provide some solutions to current problems. From the authors’ perspective, immigration policies and related systems urgently need modification. The main reason for that is that China will become an aging society with a labor shortage, therefore requiring a more aggressive immigration policy to attract migrants, both Chinese returnees and foreign investors and talent. The authors also describe some successful programs at both the national level and provincial level in attracting international migrants. Chapter 6 offers some practical approaches to the international competition for talent. The authors propose a more competitive talent immigration system to attract foreign talent on the one hand and to continue enticing Chinese returnees to China through robust programs, including welfare.

This book describes current international migration from a broad view and then narrows it down to return migration in the Chinese context. It provides readers with some updated data with regard to migration. However, some of the assertions the authors make need more robust materials to back them up. The use of “push and pull” theory is appropriate but one-sided. According to Lee (1966), there are push and pull factors in both origins and destinations, while the authors mention only advantages in destinations and disadvantages in origins. In sum, this

book offers some updated figures and points out the direction for further studies. It can be a useful handbook for policymakers and provides introductory materials for students who want to dig further into international migration studies.

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*A Foodie's Guide to Capitalism: Understanding the Political Economy of What We Eat*, by Eric Holt-Giménez, New York: Monthly Review Press, 2017. 280 pp. \$25.00 (paper). ISBN: 978-1-58367-659-2.

**Reviewed by**  
**Timothy P. Clark**  
North Carolina State University

In his new work, *A Foodie's Guide to Capitalism: Understanding the Political Economy of What We Eat*, Eric Holt-Giménez—executive director of Food First—embarks on an ambitious task: unpack how the structural imperatives of capitalism influence and shape the consumptive and productive dynamics of the modern food system in such a way that is, no pun intended, easily digestible for a wider audience than is found in an advanced graduate school seminar. Taking a praxis-oriented approach, Holt-Giménez (16) argues that a "critical knowledge of capitalism" is "vital to the struggles of social movements," and thus also posits that contemporary food activists and scholars must reacquaint themselves with the often antagonistic and paradoxical forces of the capitalist political economy that structure the contemporary food system.

The work takes a long, historical view of the capitalist food system, tracing its origins back to early enclosure laws that privatized common land. It argues that similar forces are at work across rural, agrarian systems today as well. Holt-Giménez combines elements of Marxian political economy and literature in food regime theory to explain, in a relatively