Social Sciences : Social Structure, Social Inequality

Cappelletti, Alessandra, Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, Suzhou, China

Socio-Economic Development in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region

Disparities and Power Struggle in China’s North-West

- Examines socio-economic development and identity building in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR)
- Highlights challenges faced by the region in terms of cultural diversity, richness in resources, geo-strategic location and environment
- Focuses on the dynamics underpinning social change and disparities in Xinjiang

In an unprecedented exploration of space and power in rural Xinjiang, a Chinese region home to the Muslim population of the Uyghurs, this book adopts a grounded theory approach and a trans-ethnic perspective into the complex and sensitive topic of land issues and agricultural land evictions in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. By exposing the dynamics of land acquisition and power building in the politically contested space of the region, the author shows how state owned land in a key commercial and cultural hub on the new Silk Road became a commodity, in a context of violent human interactions driven by power. Relying on previously undisclosed material and on a unique field research among farmers and local authorities, the author retraces the steps of Uyghur peasant workers, entangled in a suspended situation between abandoned rural villages, migration and urban alienation, in a book which explores agency in violent processes of social change, and adds concepts and insights to the current knowledge of how we become modern citizens. The microcosm of Kashgar, an oasis-city in Xinjiang, acts as a mirror reflecting socio political dynamics framing people's identity. Shedding light on one of the most inaccessible region in China, this book is a key read for academics and a broader public willing to get a clearer view of one of the sourest power struggle in the most contested region within the next superpower.

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