

## *A Chinese Kaleidoscope; An American Mosaic*

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Since the People's Republic of China's economic reform, there has been much remarkable innovation on its culture and art. Several years ago, many local entertainment firms or clubs invited jingju clubs, Guangdong clubs, sideshows, or even axing sheng over from China for performance in the New York City. However in terms of those, the companies who held the events only sought for profits and many young Chinese immigrants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation don't understand those traditions, the box offices were laying low; most tickets of the shows were actually given for free.

Standard of education in America varies by race. Usually Caucasians averagely have a degree of high schools and colleges. Of course of those go to graduate schools and earn doctor's degree. Chinese in general would be reaching for diplomas at colleges and universities.

Even though lots of parents of Chinese descent are not familiar with English, their children still could turn out to be lawyers, doctors, or accountants. If children from Chinese families are born here, they tend to work for corporations or companies. On the other hand, if those are immigrants coming in their older age are likely to establish their own business after working with large firms for 2-5 years.

About 30-50 years ago, Chinese immigrants moved here and oftentimes only could have jobs in restaurants or for clothing manufacturing due to their insufficient English ability. Couples at that time worked hard to save more money so as to run a business, so their children were taken care of by the grandparents. Parents' hard work finally paid off when they watched their children entering the mainstream society in the United States.

Among Chinese communities, many entertainment companies do invite famous singers to casinos in Connecticut and Atlanta on both Chinese and American holidays. Basically casinos would be responsible for 80% of the sales of tickets. The good seats are usually for VIPs of casinos. Overall most of those entertainment companies make quite huge bucks by holding concerts, and they also further help accelerate the prosperity of casinos.

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TV news anchors are not only famous but also earn high incomes in the United States. Also the hosts of all talk show make a lot of money as well. There are many game type shows for lottery, sports, singing competition, and talents of all genres. When the election season is coming up, candidates would make the best use of television as the key media to communicate their political views.

TV news is broadcasting on spot and that fills in people with what's going in the world right away. American Museum of Natural History has a great collection of treasures from all over the world. It's located at 79<sup>th</sup> Street and Central Park West. If anyone wants to go through all those collections of variety in detailed, it would probably take a couple of days.

Another very notable museum is the Metropolitan Museum of Art in another tourist spot for people to be well nourished by those wonderful exhibitions and a rich number of art work. Still, the Museum of Modern Art, New York Aquarium, and Intrepid Sea, air and Space Museum are some other can't-miss museums in the New York City.

The New York Public Library is located on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 41<sup>st</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> Streets with nearly 53 million items on view.

In the latest 10 years, quite many businessmen imported Chinese porcelains, sculptures, and other art works to America. Since supplies way much access demands, the market prices for those art works are down and they're hard for sale. Kitchen utensils and foods from the Mainland China have also been largely sold to the U.S.A. markets in the recent years.

Foot massage has been growing up to be a good business while feng shui is also quite an epidemic.

Chinatown is regarded as the epitome of the Chinese society since it possesses the vibes and lifestyles of the mixture of Hong Kong, Taiwan and China.

The printing industry is active in Chinatowns in the New York City. They cover the business of printing menus, calendars, business cards, as well as newspapers and magazines.

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Even though we live in the era of science and technology, but people still believe in supernatural. Fortune telling and psychics are kind of popular in the United States. And among the Chinese communities, all kinds of face reading or fortune telling, and feng shui are what people care about either for marriage, giving birth to a baby or real estate purchase, shop opening.

In this way, professional fortune-tellers and feng shui masters could make a decent living through cash incomes.

Since Americans pay a lot of attention to a good living environment, parks are everywhere in the city. Central Park is the world's No.1 largest park located inside the downtown area.

In Chinatown there are Columbus, Roosevelt Park and Seward Parks. There are many more pleasant parks in Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island.

As long as parks are built, there is no way to change its function or have it renovated. Usually besides the enticing gardens in the park, there are basketball or tennis courts, playgrounds, benches, and pavilions. The natural ambience combined with comfortable equipment provides citizens a nice spot for relaxing and resting.

More and more cultural interaction occurs after China's economy reform. There are also frequent academic exchange events happening all the time by sending students between China and America at most times. However, the percentage of Chinese students coming to the United States is much larger than American students going to China.

Quite a lot of Chinese government officials with low to moderate ranks have come to here for further investigation and study on management, environment protection, laws, etc. That often benefits much to their jobs when they return to China.

### **It's All up to You: Education, Training, Free Charge and Transportation Subsidies**

In general the age of college or university students would be around 18-22 years old, 22-23 for students at graduate schools and 24-26 for ones who study the doctor's degree. From kindergarten to all the way reaching PhD usually take roughly 24 years to finish.

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80% of students in the United States enter the job market after graduating from schools while immigrants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation from other countries continue to pursue a master or PhD degrees.

There are some private colleges in America aiming to accept foreign students and collection high tuition from them without really focusing on offering anything educational at school. In other words, they're more like selling a legal status, student visa to those who want to stay in the United States.

One of the characteristics of American education system is that school, parents and students always work together to make it better especially during the mandatory education period. Parent associations overall play an important role in school development and academic endeavors.

Student clubs in colleges or universities play a role as parent associations for helping students solve problems in life and also improving entertainment and schooling on campus. Many student Associations are comprised of students from same specific countries or areas. They are especially helpful to students who just come to the United States. Hong Kong Student Associations, Taiwan Student Associations and Guangdong Student Associations are some of them.

All kinds of ball games are widely welcome everywhere in the United States especially American football, which is the most popular. Even it really doesn't read to the rest of the world. In addition to that, golf, basketball, baseball, and tennis are also favored.

Bookstores in America usually occupy huge space and mainly sell books, publications in English. Chinese books that come from Hong Kong, Taiwan and China are only available in the bookstores in Chinatown.

There many stationary stores in America as well. Basically they sell papers, office supplies, printer ink, toner, technology, electronics and office furniture. They also offer various service of printing, faxing, etc.

In New York, SoHo is a trendy hotspot where many artists, painters dwell. They do the business of oil painting, modern painting, porcelain, and wired sculpture.

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With the Chinese immigration rush, in recent years a larger number of Chinese artists, photographers have been coming to the United States, too. Many of them are having a booth on streets, particularly around Times Squares. Though not charging people big busks, they'd still earn a living. Every month in the lounge of Confucius Plaza in Chinatown, there would be exhibitions showcasing the spectacular works of some talented painters or photographers. That not only helps the artists sell their art pieces but also enhances the aesthetics of common people.

The libraries in the New York City are all of large-scale and spread all over the 5 boroughs. The New York Public Library is located right on the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 41<sup>st</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> Streets. It has historically classic interior designs and formulated in a grade palace style. It's actually convenient for any citizen to research for documents or books there with clearly equipped system and management. With library account cared, you'd get to borrow a few books and DVDs at one time. The library also holds primary English and computer classes periodically for free. Those rich resources of culture, education and entertainment are provided for free by the New York City government.

The government in the United States also invests a lot on adults' and new immigrants' education by offering free English classes and job training programs beyond regular education systems.

When the immigrants attend the class, they are not required to pay any, and they'd be able to receive basic living subsidies of over \$100 every week instead. After the work training programs, the immigrants would be also helped to find suitable jobs accordingly.

American government also assists in helping people to get professional certifications, such as for real estate, accounting or insurance. Besides, the lectures of topics on day-to-day law, accounting, and tax issues are held for people to their best interest.

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The fashion industry in the New York City is on the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 41<sup>st</sup> Streets; it's usually called Fashion Avenue as well. Parsons The New School of Design and Fashion Institute of Technology are 2 famous fashion schools in the district.

Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) has cultivated many students into being fashion leaders in the industry. Some of them are ready-to-wear entrepreneurs, others might take jobs more design-related. In the past, many clothing head quarter offices were located there. They often created the designs in the offices and sent the samples to manufacturers nearby to massively produce them. But after Mexico and China has grown up to take the majority business of production from America's.

Fashion industry always puts a lot of weight on women's wear. Children's wear would be second thoughts, and men's wear usually comes the last. Women tend to be picky about outfits and are more willing to splurge on clothing shopping. They are also hoping to catch up with latest trends and styles every season. Guys usually make more money but they would have to reserve more for family use.

Different races often have their signature dress styles, such Qi Pao for Chinese and Sari for Indians and Malaysians. Besides, parents are fond of dressing up their kids as if they are little princes and princesses. And all those luxury brands are anymore the only privilege to the rich. More people could get access to those glamor merchandise with high prices if needed. Hand bags from those famous brands, like Louis Vuitton are in high demand.

Most recently, all kind of merchandise made in Wenzhou are exported all over the world due to its low costs and cheap prices. Take slippers for instance, the ones from Wenzhou is retailed at \$2 while exactly same ones on selves in American stores can be sold at a far higher price at \$12 for a pair.

Fabrication counts a lot to fashion in additions to designs and production. High-end couture retailers all are meticulous about fabric selection since it distinguishes them from ready-to-wear companies in the light of sophistication and taste.

There are some other outfits meant to be for special occasions, such as uniforms, wedding gowns, and costumes. Wedding gowns nowadays can be bought or rented upon diverse requirements.

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Most men are really careful about outfits. They are more in need of function other than trends or fashion. Suits usually are the main category for men's wear. Five-star hotels or high-end restaurants used to require men to be well dressed in suits. Nowadays they are loose in that regulation. As long as the attires are clean and presentable, they're all acceptable.

All tribes and races all over the world own their characteristic ethnic folk costumes to show their own identity as well cultural heritages. For instance, Sari from India and Qi Pao from China are two of those very iconic. They especially flatter women reside in those two countries.

From 1949 to 1975, people in the Mainland China wore Chinese tunic suits, also known as Mao Suits Among Americans. The suit is usually in blue and made of khaki. It well presented the nationality cognition. After the economy reform and with the increased incomes of common, people began to catch up with the new trends of fashion and are no longer in Mao suits. Though students in China at schools need to wear uniforms as regulated, in America on the contrary, there is no such a rule.

Department Stores in the United States oftentimes have sales or promotions all year around. Especially for clothing, a huge discount is frequently offered.

Many outlets are located in suburbs, noted for gathering offseason goods from all famous brands. Those products are the ones from last or several previous seasons that arrive in the outlets after they hit the stores for couples of months. The prices at outlets are amazingly cheap with impressive discounts.

The fashion industry in New York holds Fashion week or all kinds of runway shows time to time. Models in those fashion events inevitably play a crucial role to not only well showcase new season staples but also to help promote the garments.

Many delicate and fanciful boutiques in SoHo are run at a small scale and display quite many outfits at a limited supply; prices are relatively high in the light of that they are as if through a made-to-measure production process.

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There are people dressed in casual and laid-back styles of either simple dresses or T-shirts matching with jeans on street. Employees in the office used to be required to wear suits or formal attires with even new shoes. Now most companies are not restricted about that.

All kinds of purses are used for carrying credit cards and bills. It's sort of confusing that \$1 bill and \$100 bill come in an exact same size. It's not so common in most countries in the world.

And luxury furs of course need special care. In summer time, they are sent to sit in the cold storage rooms. As for other common clothes, it wouldn't hurt to have them all washed in washers. People could wash clothes at the Laundromats or ask the owners there to help take care the clothes. Dry clean stores and factories are everywhere and definitely a must to people's daily life in the Unites States.

Also several clothes made of unique fabrics would be better process by hand wash. The Chinese immigrants of early times were dedicated to that work and traditionally dealt with the ironing jobs in the Laundromats. That kind of ironing service now no longer exists.

The return policies in the United States are somewhat satisfactory. Usually if you're not happy with anything you purchase, you would get refund within 14 up to a month without any reason. Let's say if you buy a piece of clothing at \$100 and then within a month the store holds a sales and that product are now at a way cheaper price of 40% off. In this way if you go back to the same store with the correct receipt, the clerk would return you \$40 without a doubt.

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### **The Rich Accounts for 80% of Fortune in the United States while Common People Share the Rest 20%**

The United States Department of Commerce at the end of January in 2001 declared its own Unfavorable Balance of Trade was 763,000,000,000 and 17,700,000,000 of that is to the People's Republic of China. As for President Bush running the country, a big loss of 3,000,000 jobs in manufacturing emerged.

Credit cards are really convenient for everyday use. With a credit card in hand, it would be easier for you to go anywhere shopping for clothing, tickets, foods and any other life necessity. Although it is tricky, the companies who issue the credit cards possibly guide people to only pay partially for the purchase items. It looks like they help to postpone the payment when you are not sufficient with money. They however on the other hand only seek to earn more interest from you. Million people in the United States are filed bankruptcy due to their not being able to pay back the money they owe the credit card firms.

The overall fortune distribution in America is extremely uneven. The rich accounts for 80% of fortune here while the majority of common people share the rest of 20%. The people of rich category could make money from a few tens of thousand up to several million dollars per year.

Even there are quite many poor in the United States, not so a lot would be really suffering from hunger and cold. The government takes care of those needed people by providing affluent social welfares and subsidies. Unlike most countries in Africa or in the People's Republic of China, the charitable organizations in the societies are the ones who insist in those issues instead.

The range of finance here widely includes banking, stock markets, futures, and other economy-related events. New York Exchange (NYSE) was established the earliest right located at 11 Wall Street, Lower Manhattan. It is by far the world's largest stock exchange.

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The largest gold storage is also underground on Wall Street. The gold used to be prepared for producing American dollars. All large corporations all over the world will try to be on the list of stock exchange. But actually the stockholders are not necessarily American citizens; it can be anyone who affords to purchase stocks.

Developing communities for people with moderate to high incomes to live could be profitable and also beneficial a lot to the residents. No matter it is going to be located in the city or suburb, firstly it's important for investors to get a piece of land. After a delicate design, the community would come with synthetic functions to meet the needs of people regarding residency, shopping, workplaces, schooling, parks, clinics, theaters, and parking lots. Security guards would be arranged within a certain distance in order to make sure a safe environment.

The more progressive the society it will be; the more community development is going to happen.

About all kind of business, apart from paying salaries, employers also need to cover the insurance of unemployment, health, accident, medication, social security and retirement funds. With a new structure of economy, all professional plans and management are indispensable.

### **Watch out! Stocks and Funds Are Manipulated by a Certain Group of People**

In the past, people who wanted to purchase stocks have to ask for brokers for help. That left a possible deficit that sometimes the brokers might just take away the money from customers and vanish. In terms of that, the United States Government makes laws to protect the stockholders. They are required to buy the insurance through Central Counterparty Clearing.

Since America always has gold storage for preparation of finance, that's also why it was also called "gold dollar" in the past.

Bills in many Third Countries don't have gold as guarantee, so their value of dollars fluctuate very frequently even just a day-by.