

Women In Modern China

From Iron Maiden to Super Model

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The Bride Ad



kind, selfless, hardworking, virtuous, family oriented,
obedient, sexy, exotic, virgin, definitely not a bitch

Tradition



bound feet, family, class, luxury, virtue, hard working

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Revolutionaries: 1920's-1949



educated, courageous, selfless, hard working, martyrs

Mao's Era: 1949-1970's



women can do what men can do

Mao's Era: 1949-1970's

- 1950--Marriage Law (women won freedom to marry and divorce for first time)
- 1950--Land Reform (women won right to own property and land)
- 1953--Women won right to vote
- 1958--7 million women employed, ten times than 1949, with equal pay
- 1966--Rapid growth of women leaders in government and model workers

Mao's Era: 1949-1970's



Zhao Mentao 1936-63
Model Worker



Zhao Chune 1935-82
Model Worker



women hold up half the sky

Cultural Revolution: 1966-1976



iron maiden, red guards, little red guards

Tradition vs. Revolution



little lotus vs. Mao's little red guard

Mao's Era: Rural Urban Equality



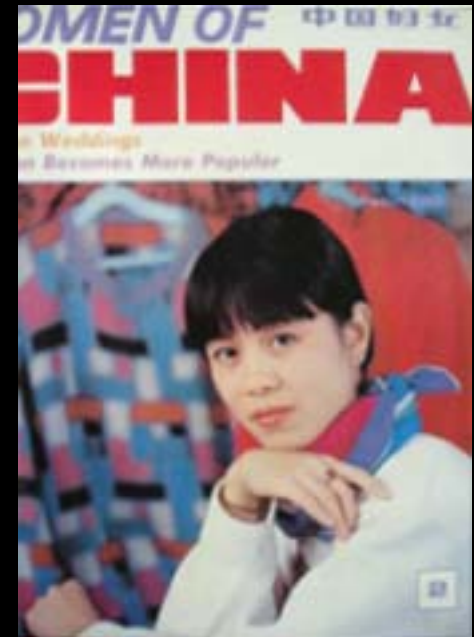
Women of China magazine 1966

educated youth in countryside – which is city girl?

Economic Reform: 1980's-present



Women of China 1980



Women of China 1990

family, science, and fashion

Pond's Cream Ads



1925

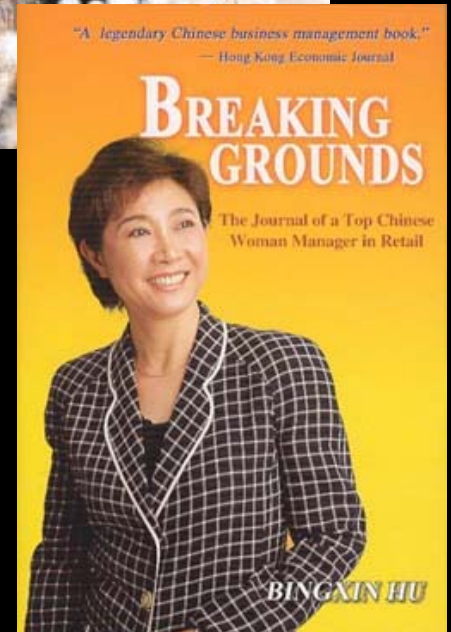


1991

Fashion and Advertising Explosion



Combo of Beauty, Brains and Business



hard as steel inside, they look as gentle as "Hello Kitty"

Economic Reform: 1980's-present

结婚是错误
生孩子是失误
离婚是觉悟
独身是大彻大悟
没有情人是废物



摆个小摊, 赛过县官
办个小厂, 赛过省长
全家作生意, 赛过总书记

women entrepreneurs

Emphasis on Appearance and Youth



- 70% laid off are women
- Lower pay than men: 50% of men's average salary in 91, 40% in 94

- Higher unemployment rate: men—8.4%, women—12.5% bet. 1990-2000



250 Million Rural Migrant Workers



child labor, long hours, low pay, no benefits, hazardous

40 Million Peasants Lost Land



dissolving of traditional family

Broken Family Empty Village



where's my mother?

Economic Reform: Rift Between Rich and Poor, Urban and Rural

- 27 million children unable to attend school – 10% of China's school-age children
- Girls attend at much lower rate than boys
- More girl dropouts in junior high
- Abandoned girls
- Child traffic into maid and sex service

Corruption and Bankrupt Peasants



下来一群瞌睡的
回去一群喝醉的

小车嘟嘟喇叭响
来了一车共产党
追得鸡鸭满天飞
碰的杯子叮当响



农民苦
背朝苍天面朝土
农民悲
四方摊派八方催
农民愁
孩子无钱把书读

Elderly Women in Economic Reform



Rural Elderly Fared Worst

- pension—much lower than men's, 16% to 36% of women's monthly income is below \$12 (Jia Yunzu, 2005)
- countryside—61% of women's monthly income is less than \$12 or no income
- health insurance: no coverage for countryside
- money spent on per peasant woman's health care annually: 80.70 yuan (\$10.00 USD) (Jia, 2005)
- higher divorce rate
- higher suicide rate: many elders take their own lives because of poverty, illness, loneliness, abandonment

Growing Old



Economic Reform: Social Morals

- 6 million sex workers, according to the world health org
- prostitution at all social levels, from high-class bars serving senior government officials to women in vans targeting migrant workers
- high rate of venereal disease and HIV/AIDS among sex workers
- high divorce rate due to extramarital affairs and prostitution
- child traffic into sex service
- China has the highest female suicide rate in the world: at least 250,000 suicides in 2003, 2 million additional attempts, biggest cause of death for women age 15-35, most suicides are rural women

三陪小姐的指数
一不偷
二不抢
怀里抱着个共产党



a man is not a man if he doesn't have a limo, keep a string of mistresses or go to brothels in Southeast Asia

Women Hold Up Half The Sky



- fire phoenix--all-female detective agency

- women in villages organized demonstrations against the government land grabbing

- women divorce unfaithful husbands

- women stay in the village and cause shortage of cheap labor in factories

