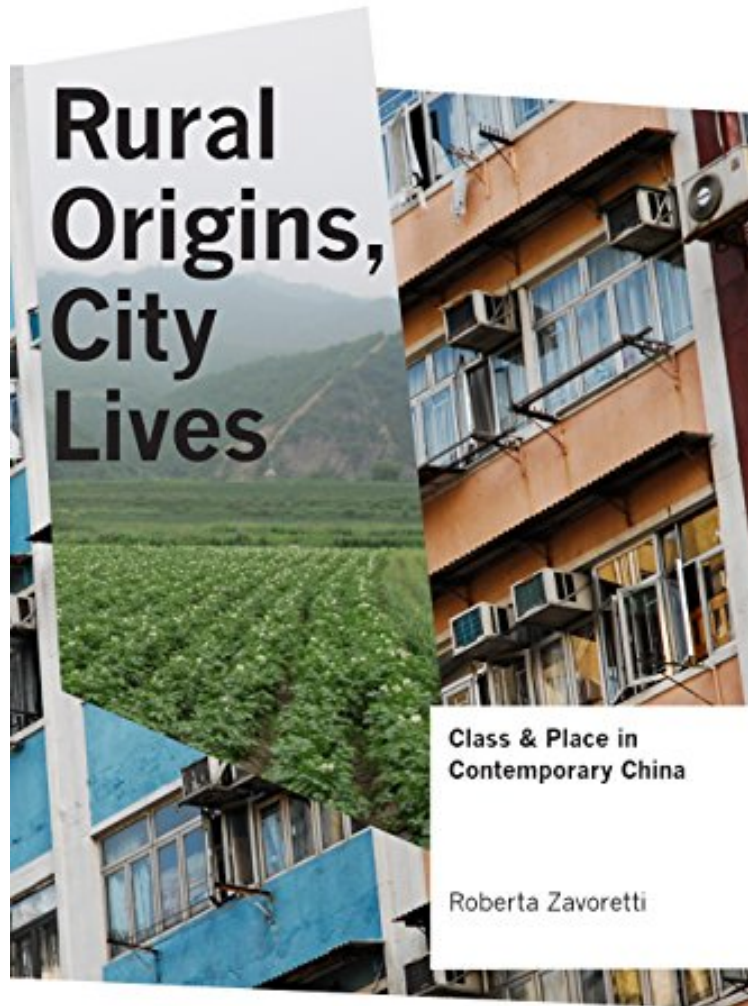


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Rural Origins, City Lives: Class and Place in Contemporary China

Roberta Zavoretti

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Roberta Zavoretti : Rural Origins, City Lives: Class and Place in Contemporary China before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rural Origins, City Lives: Class and Place in Contemporary China:

Many of the millions of workers streaming in from rural China to jobs at urban factories soon find themselves in new kinds of poverty and oppression. Yet, their individual experiences are far more nuanced than popular narratives might

suggest. *Rural Origins, City Lives* probes long-held assumptions about migrant workers in China. Drawing on fieldwork in Nanjing, Roberta Zavoretti argues that many rural-born urban-dwellers are contrary to state policy and media portrayals heterogeneous in their employment, lifestyle, and aspirations. Working and living in the cities, rural-born workers change China's urban landscape, becoming part of an increasingly diversified and stratified society. Zavoretti finds that, over thirty years after the Open Door Reform, class formation, not residence status, is key to understanding inequality in contemporary China.

"A timely, smart, and rich study of everyday practices, struggles, dreams, and aspirations of rural migrants living in the city of Nanjing. This book makes a valuable contribution to the investigation of a number of issues central to China studies." Li Zhang, author of *In Search of Paradise: Middle-Class Living in a Chinese Metropolis* "A very good ethnography of migrant workers in Nanjing. It shows us the lives of several different types of workers and contrasts the lived experience of interacting with these workers to the stereotypes about them." Andrew Kipnis, author of *Governing Educational Desire: Culture, Politics, and Schooling in China* About the Author Roberta Zavoretti is a research associate at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology.