Bograd Weld Biography Award Shortlisted for the J. Anthony Lukas Book Prize

The deeply reported story of one indelible family transplanted from rural China to New York City, forging a life between two worlds

In 2014, in a snow-covered house in Flushing, Queens, a village revolutionary from Southern China considered his options. Zhuang Liehong was the son of a fisherman, the former owner of a small tea shop, and the spark that had sent his village into an uproar against a corrupt local government. Under the alias Patriot Number One, he had staged a series of pro-democracy protests, hoping to change his home for the better. Instead, sensing an impending crackdown, Zhuang and his wife, Little Yan, left their infant son with relatives and traveled to America. With few contacts and only a shaky grasp of English, they had to start from scratch. In Patriot Number One, Hilgers follows this dauntless family through a world hidden in plain sight: a byzantine network of employment agencies and language schools, of underground asylum brokers and illegal dormitories that Flushing’s Chinese community relies on for survival. As the irrepressibly opinionated Zhuang and the more pragmatic Little Yan pursue legal status and struggle to reunite with their son, we also meet others piecing together a new life in Flushing. Tang, a democracy activist who was caught up in the Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989, is still dedicated to his cause after more than a decade in exile. Karen, a college graduate whose mother imagined a bold American life for her, works part-time in a nail salon as she attends vocational school, and refuses to look backward. With a novelist’s eye for character and detail, Hilgers captures the joys and indignities of building a life in a new country—and the stubborn allure of the American dream.

Chinese Immigrants

Michael Teitelbaum 2009-01-01

The United States is truly a nation of immigrants, or as the poet Walt Whitman once said, a nation of nations. Spanning the time from when the Europeans first came to the New World to the present day, the New Immigrants to the United States set conveys the excitement of these stories to young people.

Beginning with a brief preface to the set written by general editor Robert Adler that discusses some of the broad reasons why people came to the New World, both as explorers and settlers, each book’s narrative highlights the themes, people, places, and events that were important to each immigrant group. In an engaging, informative manner, each volume describes what members of a particular group found when they arrived in the United States as well as where they settled. Historical information and background on the various communities present life as it was lived at the time they arrived. The books then trace the group’s history and current status in the United States. Each volume includes photographs and illustrations such as passports and other artifacts of immigration, as well as quotes from original source materials. Box features highlight special topics or people, and each book is rounded out with a glossary, timeline, further reading list, and index.

Landed: The expatriate’s guide to buying and renovating property in Hong Kong

Christopher Dillon

Want to buy property in Hong Kong, but don’t know where to start? It’s easier than you think. Over five years, Christopher Dillon—a bilingual expat—bought and renovated an office, an apartment and a factory in Hong Kong. Based on this experience he wrote Landed: The expatriate’s guide to buying and renovating property in Hong Kong. Landed Hong Kong explains how properties are bought and sold. It introduces the players and the parts of the buying process that are unique to Hong Kong. It profiles the neighborhoods that are popular with expatriates, and outlines alternatives to investing in residential property. It looks at how to successfully renovate your new property, using case studies with budgets and lessons learned. Landed Hong Kong concludes with a list of resources covering everything from architects to utilities.