

<<有朋自远方来>>

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内容概要

《有朋自远方来》从一个在中国生活了近10年的美国人的视角出发，针对2008年北京奥运会期间将有大量的国际友人涌进中国的现实问题，介绍了中西方文化和习俗中存在的共性和差异，从社会秩序、行为处世、人际关系等方面提出了一些与他们交往中的注意事项和具体做法，告诉我们应该怎样更好地做好奥林匹克运动会的主人和接待工作，以让来访者有盼而来，满意而归，并给他们一个关于中国和谐、文明的美好印象。

全书语言简洁、明快，叙述生动、诙谐，多处以讲故事的形式展开话题，让读者在轻松、有趣的阅读中自然地了解西方文化和习俗。

该书不仅适合奥运会的志愿者和其他有机会接触外国访客的工作人员阅读，同样可供广大英语爱好者学习西方文化使用。

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章节摘录

“ We Chinese don't like to lose face. ” Many of my Chinese friends have said this to me as if it were only a Chinese thing. I don't know anybody who really likes to lose face. However , it is true that saving face is stressed more in eastern countries. When China re-opened after the Cultural Revolution , she realized she had fallen behind much of the world. Since that time , Chinese people have worked very hard to overcome the fear of appearing backward. Even with all of the modern development , I have noticed that some places , people , and situations are not very photo-friendly for fear the outside world will look down on their “ backwardness ” .

I've also been surprised at some of the things Chinese people think we foreigners look down on. If you are worried about foreign visitors thinking China is backward , then we had better take a look at what outsiders really think is backward and what they don't think is backward. A lot of neighborhoods are trying to “ clean themselves up ” from street vendors. With the arrival of foreigners and in anticipation of the Olympics , many locals fear these outsiders will look at street vendors and stands as being backward. The government's attempt to collect taxes from sellers is understandable , but if China's concern is appearance , the presence of street vendors is nothing to worry about. Cluna is not the only place in the world where these stands can be seen. Many cities in the United States and other countries also enjoy street vendors. From hot dog and taco stands to gyro vendors , from T-shirt displays to people selling fake Rolex watches , they are a permanent feature of hundreds of American streets. In my opinion street vendors are one of China's most fascinating attractions. Nobody from the outside world is looking down on you because of them. There are some vendors with problems worthy of losing face over. The most “ backward ” are the ones who like to get in our face. Every time I walk by Silk Alley , I'm bombarded with , even followed by , people shouting , “ DVD. ” I wonder what first-time visitors will think when they hear people yelling “ 发票 ” at Subway Stations. The wide assortment of street vendors is one of China's charming features , but aggressive sales people are a sure turn-off. Another issue with some food vendors is cleanliness. I don't think removing them from the streets is the answer to saving face , but some of them need to raise their standards. Not only are dirty food stands an eyesore , they are also a health hazard. This may seem like an extreme measure , but if those serving food were required to wear head coverings and refrain from smoking while waiting on customers , things would be much more sanitary. Also , things like “ 麻辣烫 ” should have a glass cover to prevent people from breathing on the food. Every country has its own kind of bacteria which locals have grown immune to. I have lived in China long enough that I rarely get sick from street food , but I've seen a lot of first-timers fall ill from local germs they weren't used to. If you visit another country it may happen to you too. One of the best ways to keep from losing face is to take steps toward helping food stands reach higher health standards. If you have neighborhood vendors that you enjoy visiting , perhaps it would be wise to make some of the above suggestions , “ in light of the upcoming Olympics. ”

1 Are Some Vehicles Backward ?

I will never forget my wife's first visit to the USA. We were on a highway leaving the Detroit Metro Airport and she saw a car covered with ugly rust holes. Her first instinct was to think the rusted-out car had bullet holes. One reason may be Hollywood's portrayal of Americans shooting at each other , but I think there was another reason. I have lived in China since the beginning of 1998 , and I do not recall ever seeing a car on the road with as much rust as many American cars have. These rusty cars must really look dumpy to Chinese visitors , but if you point to them on American roads it won't make me lose face. I suppose that if America's rusty cars were on the streets of China's modern cities , local people would lose face over the appearance of being backward. But should Chinese people really lose face over their variety of vehicles ?

Actually I have never seen as many BMWs and Mercedes Benzes anywhere in America as I have seen in Beijing and Guangzhou. Some of my Chinese friends are afraid the masses of foreigners coming to China in 2008 will think China is backward for its numerous three-wheel pedicabs. My last visit to New York proved otherwise. After living so long in China , I felt right at home when I saw these cute little vehicles all over the streets of Manhattan ! If pedicabs make China backward , then we would have to agree that New York is equally backward. We know

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that isn't true , and we can rest assured that nobody from outside of China is going to look down on this wonderful aspect of Chinese society. What about bicycles ?

Do foreigners look down on China for the masses of people riding bikes ?

Is this something worth losing face over ?

Again , I don't think so. I live in Beijing and do not own a car , nor do I desire to. I like to get from point A to point B as quickly as possible , and more often than not , I find myself zooming past long rows of unmoving cars on my bike. Most of the people I have hosted in Beijing from my country have had only positive comments about China's bicycles. Some European countries also have a lot of bicycles on the street. They are more concerned about getting exercise , saving money and protecting the environment than they are about losing face or appearing backward. If anything , I think bikes are an area of development where China is way ahead of the USA. Recently , I heard someone say that the leaders of Chicago's government are talking about finally adding bicycle lanes to the city's streets. Maybe some day they will catch up with China !

With raising gas prices , environmental concerns , increasing traffic jams , and the need for more exercise , I wouldn't be surprised if the bicycle becomes the choice vehicle of the future. China , nobody is looking down on you for your bicycles. People outside of China don't think bikes are backward , but rather , they look up to you for having so many of them.

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媒体关注与评论

这是一本能激发奥运志愿者、英语爱好者和中西方文化探索者兴趣并给他们以深刻启迪的书籍。与大多数文化对比类书籍不同的是。

后者多告诉我们如何学着融入西方人的世界，而这本书却告诉我们如何更好地展示自己。

——北京奥组委语言服务处张勇 “文化越来越成为民族凝聚力和创造力的重要源泉、越来越成为综合国力竞争的重要因素”，弘扬中华民族文化、吸收外来优秀文化是每位文化捍卫者和传播者的首要任务。

本书可贵之处在于其作者担当起这样的职责：他在比较中赞扬我们的人民，在差异中寻找文化的精髓，在记述中直陈生活的琐细，在喟叹中捍卫求同存异的友善。

——北航举重馆运行团队宋官雅 如果您想在北京奥运会期间做一名更合格的奥运工作者、服务志愿者、东道国国民，如果您想提高自己的英语水平、了解西方社会文化，我诚挚地向您推荐这样一本好书——《有朋自远方来》。

——奥体中心场馆群杜美红

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