

By Aihwa Ong *Spirits Of Resistance And Capitalist Discipline* Second Edition *Factory Women In Malaysia* Suny Ser 2nd Second Edition Paperback

By Aihwa Ong *Spirits Of Resistance And Capitalist Discipline* Second Edition *Factory Women In Malaysia* Suny Ser 2nd Second Edition Paperback Unpacking the Spirit of Resistance A Deep Dive into Aihwa Ong's *Spirits of Resistance and Capitalist Discipline* Aihwa Ong's *Spirits of Resistance and Capitalist Discipline* *Factory Women Malaysia* SUNY Press Anthropology Labor Exploitation Globalization Resistance Cultural Studies Gender Studies Southeast Asia Aihwa Ong's seminal work *Spirits of Resistance and Capitalist Discipline* *Factory Women in Malaysia* 2nd edition remains a crucial text for understanding the complex interplay between globalization, capitalist exploitation, and the resilient spirit of marginalized workers. This isn't just an academic treatise; it's a powerful narrative revealing the human cost of economic development and the surprising ways individuals navigate oppressive systems. This blog post will delve into Ong's core arguments, exploring her methodology, key findings, and lasting impact, while offering practical insights for anyone interested in labor studies, globalization, or the anthropology of resistance.

Ong's Groundbreaking Methodology Ong's ethnography is meticulously researched, drawing on extensive fieldwork in Malaysian factories. She employs a nuanced approach, moving beyond simplistic narratives of victimhood to reveal the agency and strategic resilience of the women workers. She utilizes a range of methods, including participant observation, in-depth interviews, and analysis of cultural symbols and practices, to paint a vivid picture of the women's lives and struggles. This multifaceted approach allows her to uncover the subtle ways in which workers negotiate their identities and resist the pressures of capitalist discipline.

Capitalist Discipline and its Manifestations Ong masterfully illuminates the ways in which capitalist discipline manifests in the Malaysian factory setting. This isn't just about long hours and low wages; it's a pervasive system that seeks to control every aspect of the workers' lives. Ong highlights the control of the body, factory regulations dictating not only working hours but also appearance, behavior, and even reproductive choices. The pressure to conform to a specific, often Westernized, ideal of the female worker is explored in detail. Psychological manipulation, the pervasive use of motivational

techniques and meritocratic ideologies masks the inherent inequalities of the system The illusion of upward mobility is used to maintain productivity and quell dissent Spiritual and cultural manipulation Ong brilliantly demonstrates how capitalist systems often intertwine with and exploit existing cultural beliefs and practices She explores the ways in which traditional spirit possession and healing practices are both a response to the stresses of factory life and a subtle form of resistance *Spirits of Resistance Unveiling Agency and Negotiation* Despite the oppressive forces they face Ong reveals the remarkable resilience and agency of the Malaysian factory women Their resistance isnt always overt it often takes subtle nuanced forms Spirit possession as a form of protest Ong meticulously documents how spirit possession becomes a powerful tool for voicing dissent and negotiating difficult working conditions These seemingly irrational outbursts are in fact strategic acts of resistance against the demands of capitalist discipline Informal networks and solidarity The women create their own support networks sharing information offering emotional support and collectively navigating the challenges of factory life This informal solidarity forms a critical counterpoint to the isolating effects of capitalist control Negotiation and adaptation The women are not passive victims they actively negotiate the terms of their employment finding creative ways to navigate the rules and maintain a sense of selfworth within the confines of the factory system Practical Implications and Lasting Impact Ongs work has had a profound impact on several fields including anthropology sociology gender studies and labor studies It provides invaluable insights for Labor activists Understanding the subtle forms of resistance employed by workers can inform strategies for organizing and advocating for better working conditions Corporate social responsibility initiatives Ongs research highlights the limitations of superficial CSR efforts that fail to address the underlying power dynamics within global production chains Policymakers The study offers critical perspectives on the social and human costs of economic development and the need for more equitable and sustainable labor practices 3 Students of globalization The book serves as a crucial case study for understanding the complexities of globalization and its impact on marginalized communities Conclusion *Spirits of Resistance and Capitalist Discipline* is not just a book its a call to action Ongs meticulous research forces us to confront the harsh realities of global capitalism and the enduring resilience of those most affected by its exploitative practices It compels us to move beyond simplistic narratives and engage with the complexities of power resistance and the human spirit in the face of adversity By understanding the strategies of resistance employed by Malaysian factory women we can develop more effective approaches to promoting social justice and building a more equitable world FAQs 1 Is this book only relevant to Malaysian factory workers No the books themes exploitation resistance the interplay between culture and capitalism are universal and applicable to understanding worker

experiences in various global contexts The specific cultural context of Malaysia enriches the analysis but doesn't limit its broader applicability 2 Is the book overly academic and difficult to understand While it's an academic work Ong writes in a clear and engaging style The second edition likely incorporates updates making it more accessible to a wider audience However some familiarity with anthropological concepts might be helpful 3 What are the limitations of Ong's study Like any ethnography the study is limited by its scope and timeframe The experiences of the women studied might not be fully representative of all Malaysian factory workers Further the focus on spirit possession might be seen by some as prioritizing a specific type of resistance over others 4 How has the situation in Malaysian factories changed since the book was written While significant changes have occurred in Malaysian labor practices many of the core issues Ong identifies exploitation precarious employment and the need for worker protection remain relevant today Recent research can be consulted to assess the current situation and compare it to Ong's findings 5 Where can I find further reading on similar topics Further research can be explored through works focusing on global labor Southeast Asian studies feminist anthropology and critical studies of capitalism Look for works exploring similar themes of resistance agency and the experiences of women workers in globalized industries 4 This detailed exploration of Aihwa Ong's groundbreaking work aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of its significance and lasting impact The book remains a vital resource for anyone seeking to understand the complex dynamics of globalization capitalist exploitation and the indomitable spirit of resistance

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Freedom Punishment and Penal Discipline
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Capitalism, Patriarchy, and Crime
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new edition of the classic ethnographic study of malay women factory workers in the two decades since its original publication *spirits of resistance and capitalist discipline* has become a classic in the fields of anthropology labor gender and globalization studies based on intensive fieldwork the book captures a moment of profound transformation for rural muslim women even as their labor helped launch malaysia's rise as a tiger economy aihwa ong's analysis of the disruptions conflicts and ambivalences that roiled the lives of working women has inspired later generations of feminist ethnographers in their study of power resistance religious upheavals and subject formation in the industrial periphery with a critical introduction by anthropologist carla freeman this new edition upholds an exemplary model of anthropological inquiry into cultural modes of resistance to the ideology discipline and workings of global capitalism this work remains powerful for its refusal to over simplify the complexities of export industrialization as a model for economic development and for its demonstration of the intimate dialectics of culture economy gender religion and class and the meaningfulness of place amid the swirling forces of global capitalism it opened up many of the questions that should continue to inspire our analyses of globalization today indeed these questions are equally compelling for the reader returning to this work after twenty years and for the reader new to this text and to the intriguing and complex puzzles of globalization from the introduction by carla freeman

in the two decades since its original publication *spirits of resistance and capitalist discipline* has become an ethnographic classic in the fields of anthropology labor studies and gender and globalization studies based on anthropological field work in an agricultural district in selangor peninsular malaysia *spirits of*

resistance captures a moment of profound transformation illustrated by the disruptions conflicts and ambivalences in the lives of malay women during the rapid industrialization associated with malaysia's rise as a tiger economy aihwa ong's nuanced approach to the malay women factory workers' experiences of the contradictions of modern globalized capitalism has inspired subsequent generations of feminist ethnographers in their explorations of key questions of power resistance femininities religious community and social change with a new critical introduction by anthropologist carla freeman this new edition of *spirits of resistance* continues to offer an exemplary model of sophisticated analysis of culturally based resistance to the ideology surveillance and institutional authority of globalized corporate capitalism

why are malay women workers periodically seized by spirit possession on the shopfloors of modern factories in this book aihwa ong captures the disruptions conflicts and ambivalences in the lives of malay women and their families as they make the transition from peasant society to industrial production to discover the meaning that the market economy and wage labor hold for malay peasants ong conducted anthropological field work in an agricultural district in selangor peninsular malaysia which is undergoing rapid proletarianization weaving together history ethnography and quantitative analysis she addresses many questions pertaining to peasants and state policies the book shows how the diverging roles of young men and women are increasingly channelled by educational and labor market pressures toward conformity with corporate culture and capitalist discipline a unique feature of this book is the portrayal of malay women workers in japanese factories caught between their culture and the culture of capitalism ong argues that cultural values and practices both islamic malay and foreign are reworked and reconstituted in the industrial hierarchy her vivid accounts of hysterical episodes violent incidents and women's self-perceptions provide insights into their attitudes toward capitalist relations by illuminating the encounter of malay peasants with global industrial production the book also throws light on the attitude of neophyte wage workers elsewhere in the third world

perhaps the most commonly held assumption in the field of development is that middle classes are the bounty of economic modernization and growth as countries gradually transcend their agrarian past and become urbanized and industrialized so the logic goes middle classes emerge and gain in number complexity cultural influence social prominence and political authority yet this is only half the story middle classes shape industrial and economic development they are not merely its product the particular ways in which middle classes shape themselves and the ways historical conditions shape them influence development trajectories in multiple ways this is the story of south korea's and taiwan's

economic successes and argentina s and mexico s relative failures through an examination of their rural middle classes and disciplinary capacities can disciplining continue in a context where globalization squeezes middle classes and frees capitalists from the state and social contracts in which they have been embedded

this book is not just about corporate strategies and stratagems it is about the faustian pact between real and financial powers governed by the rules of minimizing the costs to oneself of imposing losses upon others it is more than about limited rationality and irrationality it is about unlimited rationalisations and limited accountability

why did the number of strikes and other forms of labor unrest in indonesia increase so dramatically in the early 1990s a number of researchers have attempted to address this question through examination of economic factors and top down political changes such explanations while accounting for shifts in labor policy fail to address the question of why workers themselves choose to strike this dissertation explores the question of workers rising consciousness through analysis of fieldwork in a proletarianized urban community fieldwork involved not only participant observation and life history interviews with workers but also in depth case studies of strikes and protests at factories in west jakarta

many rural communities attract meat poultry and fish processing plants owned by transnational corporations they often bring social disorder in their wake incoming workers this work offers anthropological geographical sociological journalist and industrial perspectives on the issue

the book argues that capitalism as an economic system and patriarchy as a form of gender organization must be treated as interacting structures in any attempt to explain crime it begins with a socialist feminist critique of the failure of marxist criminology to analyze gender relations and the origin of female oppression accurately and therefore how these factors contribute to the development of crime in society it then explores such topics as the limitations of both liberal and radical feminist viewpoints concerning crime the causative factors for a variety of crimes ranging from street crime to corporate crime and the inadequacies of government s present conservative approach to crime

prison privatization is rapidly spreading in many western countries as governments seek to manage burgeoning prison populations within the constraints of a neo liberal political agenda but how is public

well being served when prisons are run for profit this volume discusses privatization in its historical and ideological context and in relation to united nations standards and rules it examines the adverse effects of private prisons on physical and sexual abuse health care education training and rehabilitation as corporations seek to maximize profits and describes the impact of cost cutting on prison staff paying special attention to the effect on women children and minorities it also offers a glimpse into the transnational spread of privatized incarceration as developing nations bound by imf restrictions are forced into the hands of transnational corporations to the detriment of local alternatives

coming from a broad cross section of academic disciplines and theoretical positions this collection of essays questions and reworks marxist critiques of capitalism that center on the west and which posit a uniform model of development more specifically

feminist scholars have shown that women have a long history of productive work outside the home and current research has focussed on the distinct nature of women's work and the role of women in the workforce while much attention has been given to industrialized nations this volume provides a comprehensive bibliographic record of books articles dissertations and audiovisual sources on women and work in developing countries the first chapter of the book provides entries for general works and for works of a theoretical nature and is divided into sections on the global economy theoretical considerations and methodological concerns other chapters are devoted to particular geographic areas and include sections on introductory works the social construction of gender development policies work and family issues women's experience of wage work work in rural areas and the efforts of women to promote change each entry is accompanied by a descriptive annotation the last chapter is on audio visual resources and the volume concludes with an appendix of organizations and research institutions

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