In the decades following World War II, factories in many countries not only provided secure employment and a range of economic entitlements, but also recognized workers as legitimate stakeholders, enabling them to claim rights to participate in decision making and hold factory leaders accountable. In recent decades, as employment has become more precarious, these attributes of industrial citizenship have been eroded and workers have increasingly been reduced to hired hands.

As Joel Andreas shows in Disenfranchised, no country has experienced these changes as dramatically as China. Drawing on a decade of field research, including interviews with both factory workers and managers, Andreas traces the changing political status of workers inside Chinese factories from 1949 to the present, carefully analyzing how much power they have actually had to shape their working conditions.

Disenfranchised:
• Recounts the tumultuous events that have shaped and reshaped authority relations in Chinese factories over the past seven decades
• Offers unique access to a variety of accounts at the shop floor level through interviews with workers and managers
• Introduces a general theoretical framework, involving industrial citizenship and autonomy, designed to analyze workplace authority relations in China and other countries around the world
• Provides a fresh look at the evolution of industrial relations as well as larger political and social changes in China since 1949

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