

BUILDING CHINA

Informal Work and the New Precariat

SARAH SWIDER

ILR PRESS
AN IMPRINT OF
CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESS
ITHACA AND LONDON

CONTENTS

Preface	ix
Acknowledgments	xix
1. Building China and the Making of a New Working Class	1
2. The <i>Hukou</i> System, Migration, and the Construction Industry	21
3. Mediated Employment: A City of Walls	37
4. Embedded Employment: A City of Villages	58
5. Individual Employment: A City of Violence	83
6. Protest and Organizing among Informal Workers under Restrictive Regimes	101
7. Informal Precarious Workers, Protests, and Precarious Authoritarianism	123

Appendix A. Methods, Sampling, and Access	141
Appendix B. List of Construction Sites	147
Appendix C. List of Interviews	149
Notes	151
References	169
Index	183