Africans and Other Foreigners in South China's Global Marketplace

The World in **GUANGZHOU**

Gordon Mathews with Linessa Dan Lin and Yang Yang

The University of Chicago Press Chicago and London

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments vii

1 Introduction 1

What This Book Is About Impressions of Guangzhou A Brief History of Foreigners in Guangzhou Foreign Places in Guangzhou How This Book's Research Was Done

2 Foreigners in Guangzhou 29

"The Chinese Dream": Stories of Eight Foreigners Rich Foreigner, Poor Foreigner Race and Money Foreign Communities: Japanese and Nigerians The Power of Rumor Foreigners' Attitudes toward China and Chinese

3 African-Chinese Relations 55

African Traders in Guangzhou: An Overview Business Deception and Cheating Quarrels between Africans and Chinese Chinese Views of Africans African Views of Chinese vi Contents

4 Low-End Globalization 81

Low-End Globalization/High-End Globalization

How Low-End Globalization Works: Sourcing, Money, Copies, and Customs

Accounts of Low-End Globalization

Low-End Globalization's Circuits

5 Legal-Illegal in Guangzhou 115

Two Paths, Legal and Illegal

Visa and Passport Worries, Jail, and Deportation

Police

Accounts of Overstayers and Friends

6 Logistics Agents, Middlemen, and Cultural Brokers 139

Logistics Agents

Middlemen

Cultural Brokers

Accounts of Logistics Agents, Middlemen, and Cultural Brokers

7 Religion in a Foreign World 165

"I Believe in God but Chinese Believe in Gold"

Islam in Comparison to Christianity

Christian Churches

Accounts of Religious Seekers

Religion: Implications

8 Romance, Love, Marriage, and Families: A Chinese Barack Obama? 195

"African Chinese"

The Travails of Chinese-African Romantic Relationships

Children

Accounts of Marriages

Conclusion: The Larger Significance of Africans in China

Notes 221

References 231

Index 241