**Global Forum Book Club**

Further Reading for *Country Driving*

***River Town* by Peter Hessler:** The first of Hessler’s China Trilogy, Hessler talks about his time in the Peace Corps in China in the late ‘90s. This one focuses on his time as an English teacher, Chinese education, and the transformations taking place in the small city of Fuling.

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/94053.River_Town>

***Oracle Bones* by Peter Hessler:** The second of the China Trilogy, this one focuses on a handful of characters who are considered outsiders by some in Chinese society. He also explores China’s history through some of the artifacts that have been unearthed by archaeologists in recent years. It’s a great look at the struggle between past and present.

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/9755.Oracle_Bones>

***Factory Girls* by Leslie T. Chang:** Chang tells the stories of two young women who moved to the city to work in the factories. Through them she examines what life for millions of migrant workers is like as they move from the countryside into the cities. (Chang is also married Peter Hessler)

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2635587-factory-girls>

***Age of Ambition* by Evan Osnos:** Osnos explores the struggle in modern China between individuals and the state, and how the party is country is adapting to censorship and foreign influence. Good for a broader overview of recent history.

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/18490568-age-of-ambition>

***The Corpse Walker* by Liao Yiwu:** Yiwu interviewed members of China’s underclass in the late ‘90s and wrote this oral history. It’s a bit dated, but Yiwu still presents a powerful narrative of the poor, oppressed, and marginalized in their own words.

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2880708-the-corpse-walker>

***The Party* by Richard McGregor:** A glimpse into the secretive Chinese Communist Party that has ruled since Mao. McGregor explores its influence in all aspects of society, how it’s adapting, and what its future might be. A great book if you want to look at the government beyond the villages from *Country Driving*.

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/7822182-the-party>

***China in Ten Words* by Yu Hua:** One of the most well-respected authors in China today discusses modern Chinese society as he experiences it through this series of personal essays. He uses ten common Chinese words/phrases to frame his essays and explore his experiences.

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/12884314-china-in-ten-words>