Leftover Women in China: New Book Challenges Stigma and Redefines Female Independence

An intimate and eye-opening look into the lives of China's so-called "leftover women"—navigating love, career, and identity in a society that tells them they're too late.



A CULTURAL STIGMA AND THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE



JEROME ENRIQUEZ JOHN

New Delhi, Delhi Apr 8, 2025 (Issuewire.com) - In a powerful and timely new release, Leftover Women in China: A Cultural Stigma and the Struggle for Independence, Jerome Enriquez John sheds light on the complex realities faced by unmarried women navigating modern Chinese society. The book explores the intersection of tradition, gender expectations, and personal freedom, challenging the derogatory label shèngnǚ—or "leftover women"—that has been used to marginalize a growing demographic.

Drawing from personal narratives, historical accounts, and contemporary analysis, the book uncovers the societal pressures that continue to shape women's lives in China. Through interviews with women who have defied convention, data on gender and marriage trends, and critical examination of media and policy, Leftover Women in China reveals a nuanced portrait of independence, resistance, and the price of autonomy.

"In a society where marriage is often seen as a duty rather than a choice, these women are rewriting the script," says John, author and researcher. "This book is about giving them the voice they've long been denied."

From career-driven urban professionals to those quietly resisting familial expectations in rural regions, this work highlights the diversity of experiences and the common threads that connect them. Leftover Women in China is not just a study of stigma—it's a celebration of resilience and a call for cultural reckoning.

Leftover Women in China: A Cultural Stigma and the Struggle for Independence is now available in print and digital formats through Amazon.

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