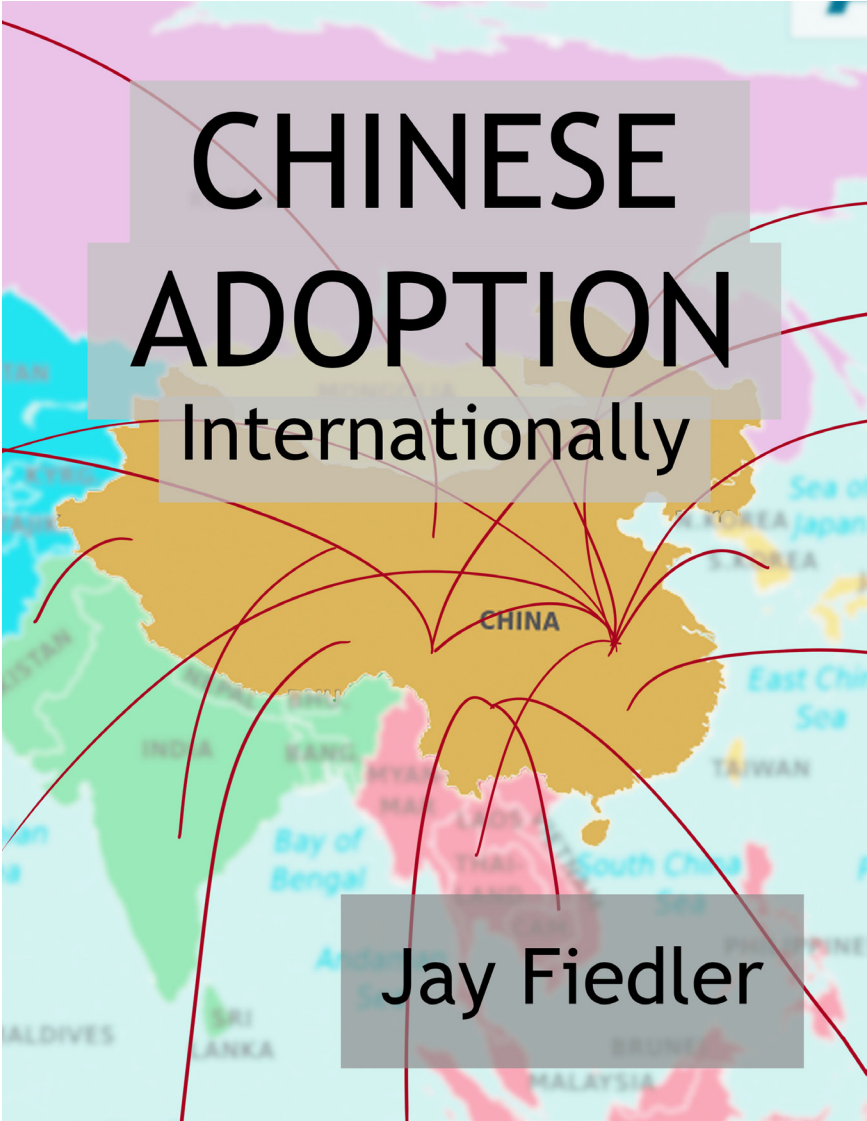


A map of China is centered, colored in a light orange-yellow. Numerous thin, dark red lines radiate from a point in eastern China, extending across the map to various countries including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, and Japan. The lines represent international connections or adoptions. The background map shows surrounding countries in various colors: green for India, pink for Southeast Asia, blue for the oceans, and light blue for other regions. The title text is overlaid on the map in a semi-transparent grey box.

# CHINESE ADOPTION

Internationally

Jay Fiedler

## BABY BOOM OF 90's - 2000's

In 1979 the Chinese gov enacted the (one child policy) requiring citizens to limit their families to one child

The effects of this began to show as China over a decade or two became the biggest source of international adoptees.

Since 1995, US citizens have adopted 70% of those kids

Due to certain cultural values and systems in place, the overwhelming majority of orphans are girls.

Q+A

Disclaimer: All answers are based on personal experience, I do not claim to speak for every adopted / chinese person ever.

Do you ever think about your Birth family? Want to meet them?



Sometimes I get curious about my past. I'd want to meet them because I have a lot of questions. I'd rather move on though

I do a lot but the actual likelihood is less than winning the lottery so... Sometimes I can't tell if I want to meet them or not



Yeah I mean not all the time, but it comes up medical records, astrology, IDK, I just don't know anyone who looks like me.

## Are adoptive families the same as biological families? Real?



I mean sometimes I'm conscious of the difference because of like race but in terms of the family structure, like they're who raised me and I think that's way more important.

It doesn't really matter to me, I mean I was adopted so young, I was one. So I mean that's my mom you know? Like she's always been my mom, when people ask I don't think twice.



I don't think I'm missing out on anything, but if I wasn't adopted it wouldn't even be a question. That being said, I love my adoptive family, they've always been there. And you know it's not perfect but no family is. My idea of family isn't about blood.

Well I was in foster care for a long time and I was very close to most of them. But with this family I feel even closer to them. That's why I really believe in nurture over nature. It's natural to love who cares for you.



what are your thoughts on racial identity?  
Importance of connecting to your native culture?



While it's true where you're raised and by who is a large part of your identity, I will never be able to get rid of my Asian face. Like stereotypes, forms, photos, they all scream Chinese in big yellow font and that's a part of me. Sometimes I grasp to be more of one box or another, but I'll always be in between.

Like a lot of Chinese adoptees, my parents are white, I grew up in a predominantly white area. So much of the culture I've been raised in is white, so I guess if I "have to" classify myself, it would be white. It's important to get the opportunity to explore your past.



Well I lived in China until I was about 8 and moving here was very different, I didn't know there were so many other races. I feel like the parts of China have been fading from my memory though, so I'd like to go back. It's important to understand where you come from and who you are.

A lot of my area is white, my parents are white so a lot of that culture I relate to, but there are times I am very conscious of my Asian-ness. I think it's super important to explore your roots and acknowledge it.



# What do you wish more people knew or talked about?



I wish people would stop saying "real family" like mine is somehow not legitimate enough. or stop asking me where my birth parents are. Most people have no idea.



I wish more families were willing to talk about it. Like how does it feel to be abandoned? I get it, it's sensitive, it's awkward but people shouldn't feel pressured to say they're okay. I think a lot of kids could benefit from that.



It's not some sob story, you know? Like I'm fine, I'm happy. I wish it was less taboo, less awkward. Like this was just something that happened, it's not that deep.



I mean the experience, the impact, it's different for everybody. I do wish it was less awkward, I feel like if you're respectful about it, it's fine.

# General Statistics

most adoptees are poc

73% of adoptive parents worldwide are white



1997 2007

About 110,000 Chinese have been adopted since 1999, 81,600 have gone to American families

## Gender of Chinese Adoptees



59% of International adoptees are Asian, about 33% are Chinese

Over 1/3 of Chinese adoptees are in America.

Children are ineligible for adoption in China at

14

Ending in 2015, the one child policy is predicted to have prevented

4mil Births

Despite the large number of Chinese adoptees internationally, Adoption - especially of mixed families - is hardly talked about.

To start some dialogue, this zine will give some background statistics and answer some common Q/A on the topic from me and some anonymous friends.

