

Asian Americans, particularly Chinese Americans, are the so-called "model minority": highest grades, best jobs, highest rates of successful marriage, lowest rates of divorce, and overall doing the best in America. That may be true, but some people forget about some of the not-so-nice parts of that success: constantly getting yelled at for low grades, having almost no voice in what I want to do and become, tutoring sessions, math competitions, clubs, constant stress and fatigue, and a seemingly never-ending load of homework from school and tutoring. Even though I have not experienced even half of what my other Chinese-American contemporaries experience daily, I am no stranger to such elements of a typical Chinese American childhood. Despite such a harsh lifestyle, it has influenced me for the better and allowed me to better understand the Chinese language and culture that I would not have understood otherwise.

亚洲美国人，尤其美国华人，是叫“模范少数民族”：最好的学校成绩，最好的工作，最多的婚率，最低的离婚率，和在美国总之在活的最好。那是不错，但是很多人忘记那个成功的最苦，最困难的特点：拿到底成绩一直被父母骂，没有什么任何的自由和自己的之后主义，补习课，数学比赛，每天压力很多，而且有许多学校和补习作业。虽然我自己的生活在别的老中美人轻松多了，我可以理解一般的中国画孩子的童年经验。既然这样的生活非常困难，那样的童年对我有好的影响，而且让我更理解中国语言和文化。

Having been born in America with a Chinese cultural background, I do not have the same immersion and knowledge of Chinese culture, such as holidays, history, and education compared to my parents. In fact, there are certain aspects of Chinese culture like its holidays and calendar system that I have yet to extensively learn about. When I was younger, I never really gave much thought about Chinese culture; I always thought it was just a part of my life, something that I grew up with. Once I became more aware of the culture via AP Chinese class and self-study, I realized that exposure to the culture could not just be through interaction with parents: it was imperative that I made an effort to learn about the culture, read the literature written by famous authors, and be privy to the history and politics of my cultural heritage to truly understand Chinese culture.

虽然我有一个中国文化背景，我不想我的父母跟中国那么熟，比方节日，历史，或者教育方法。其实，有几个中国文化特点像节日或者中国农历我真的没有学过。我当前没有对中国文化那么在乎：我以为只是我的生活一个部分，一个童年的部分。我上学校先修汉语课而且自学了中国文化就发现我从我的父母的文化经验是不够：我发现很重要我自己找办法学中国文化，读很有名的小说家的书，而且自学中国历史和政治所以我可以真的理解中国文化。

Most of my understanding of Chinese culture comes primarily from my parents, education, college, and activities. I had your so-called typical Chinese American childhood: lessons at Kumon and Gauss Math, art class, piano lessons, tennis lessons, and lots of yelling about how lazy I was or how I did not do a good enough job. That all came to a head in 9th grade, when I quit art class, stopped Gauss Math, no longer did Debate club, and just did not do anything my parents wanted me to do. Despite this, I have come to peace with how my parents raised me. Their extreme emphasis on academics is partly related to the extreme pressure and difficulty of academics in China and how college entrance depends only on gaokao grades. Their emphasis

on me obeying their wisdom also does come from how children in China are expected to honor the older generations and respect their parents, sometimes to an extreme. I do regret not using my high school years in a wiser manner, but the past is the past, and all I can do is to make sure I do not make the same mistakes in the present and future ever again.

我对中国文化的理解一般从我的父母，教育，大学，而且课外活动来得。我当时有你的“一般的美国华人的童年”：Kumon 和 Gauss Math 的课，美术课，弹钢琴课，打网球课，和被我的父母整天挨骂因为我太懒或者我没做够好我的作业。在九年级的开始的时候，我停掉美术课和 Gauss Math，不上理论社团会，而且故意不做其它我父母要求的事。但是，我现在接受我的父母的要求。他们非要我在学校学好因为他们在中国学习的时候有非常多的压力和苦难，而且他们的进大学的机会只靠高考成绩。他们非要我听他们的话因为中国文化要求孩子尊重长辈而且尊重父母。我现在对我的高中年后会因为我没做了更好，但是当时的事就是当时的事，我现在只可以在现在或者之后不犯同样的错误。

As much as I could gripe about all the things that my parents did not do well, I do think that their influence has shaped me into the man I am today. Their emphasis on hard work, determination, and pushing myself to be the best as I can will positively impact my life regardless of what I do. They are not perfect, as they can be overprotective and overbearing, but the positives outweigh the negatives by a large margin. By combining their Chinese values with the American values that I am surrounded by, I have developed a unique value system that has assisted me in ways that I never imagined possible.

我真的可以在我的父母的后面说为什么他们那么马虎，但是我觉得他们的影响对我现在有好处。无论我做什么事，他们的要求我成功，耐心，和望子成龙对我的生活有好处。他们有他们的缺点，比方太对我担心或者，但是他们的影响的优点比缺点更大。我自己造了一个自己特别的给我我从来没想过的优点应为我中国文化和美国文化。