

Hey Y'all!

What is up!?! I hope everything is going great! Hope you all had a great week! Okay, not much to say this week, more (what I hope are) interesting reviews are on the way soon for you guys! As always, if you have any feedback, things you would like to say, recommendations for the MRC, please go ahead! On to the Cavalcade!

(Note: this review was written in November of 2020 post the election results being confirmed!)

Oof. The heartland of America. How I miss it. How I wish I could spend more time there. The wide open expanses. The people. The lifestyles. It's a different America than the coastal enclaves I have spent most of my life in. Different but the same.

[American Factory](#) (available for streaming now on Netflix) is a documentary released in 2019 from veteran documentarians Steven Bognar and Julia Reichert through Barack and Michelle Obama's Higher Ground production company. The film follows the opening of a Chinese owned automotive glass manufacturing facility in Dayton, Ohio from February 2015 through the end of 2017. The factory is in the very same building in which General Motors closed an auto plant in 2008. In fact, many of the same workers who worked at that GM plant return to try their luck as part of Fuyao, Inc.'s new venture.

Fuyao (according to Wikipedia), was the fifth largest automotive glass maker in the world in 2007 with 3% of global market share (60% of the market within China). They chose to invest hundreds of millions of dollars to create this American factory. And to bring in hundreds of workers from China to help supervise and train around 2,000 American factory workers. What was the result of all of this? A culture clash, a way for people to continue to survive, the broadening of horizons, a new adventure in people's lives, stamina depleting repetitive manual labor, discord, struggle, and sometimes triumphs and defeats. All of the above.

What I can tell you is that American workers are more uppity than their Chinese counterparts. And I feel like that is a good thing, really! At one point in *American Factory* we follow several of Fuyao's American employees as they travel to the Fuyao facilities in China in order to learn how their company operates in it's native land. There, we meet migrant Chinese workers with kids, who work 12 hour shifts, who work weekends, who only get to visit their homes once or twice a year. You get a sense that they are resigned to this life. That they don't feel like things will necessarily get better for them and that there just may not be a lot they can do about that.

This documentary contains some very dry humor. Very dry. Like why does the Chairman of Fuyao choose to hang large portraits of himself within his offices and factories which are very

reminiscent of that infamous Chinese leader whose name his even rhymes with? Made me chuckle, lol.

American Factory does a lot to give you slices of insight regarding these factory workers' lives. People who with a camera in their face are not going to admit their deepest darkest thoughts about the world. But will still reveal a lot. Be they American or Chinese, we learn a lot about how these workers feel about their own lives and each other. We become privy to the stress they feel from trying to fit in with a company while also trying to remain individual human beings. The pressures that come with working to create a dynamic product tuned to the ever ricocheting demands of the global consumer marketplace that advertising, public relations, corporate dominance, and planned obsolescence coupled with the lack of a quality educational system has wrought upon all of us.

What is missing from this documentary is the broader economic context. Why did Fuyao want to start a factory in America? Was all this just the sterling ambition of a man already a billionaire who had (after years of consolidation and achieved economies of scale) already secured his company's position within the global automotive industry? Was making this American factory profitable just a matter of choosing to invest enough money within a racket that he already had enough control over the dynamics of? Maybe so.* That makes you question what all of us are doing here on god's green Earth. To have our lives subject to the whims of jet-setting glass billionaires lol. Makes you wish for stronger worker focused governments loooooo. And more global cooperation between those governments.

I'd watch this film. It's a good film. It's a lot to take in. You got to hand it to these Fuyao people and the Chairman of the company. That they allowed this documentary to be filmed at all. When I see this film. What I think is that these Chinese people and American people, they are the same, just brainwashed differently. Different but the same.

Well that's it for this week's Cavalcade! I hope everyone has an amazing week! Much more next week! And much more after that!

Peace Y'all!

-Nandhish

*How many automotive parts subsidiaries, cut outs, pass throughs, and original equipment manufacturers within a global vertically disintegrated supply chain system does it take to

subsidize a life of subsistence? Apply to [Lincoln Technical Institute](#) today and put your life in the hands of these people and find out! Whee! Whoosh! Sigh!