

# It's All About China

by Karen

Karen in America



These days when Americans are complaining about the lack of jobs in the country, they are finally realizing how many goods in the market are imported, mostly from China.

It was a turnoff for this Chinese to pick up a souvenir labelled "Made in China." Why would I want to buy gifts manufactured in my home country? This quandary has occurred to me more than once while I've travelled in America.

In Pittsburgh, in Boston, in New York, in Washington D.C., in Denver and even in the pristine Amish community in western Pennsylvania, Chinese goods seem to have extensively penetrated the local markets.

The retail giant, Wal-Mart, also sells a large quantity of products from China. While I might pay ten *yuan* for a pair of plastic slippers in China, I have to pay ten US dollars (or more) for them at Wal-Mart.

You can't convert your expenses into *renminbi*. This is my lesson after arriving in America. Or you'll feel you're being ripped off all the time.

Upon my arrival, I was often asked how much I missed China. Looking at all these "Made in China" labels in the stores, how could I be homesick? On the other hand, I'm a bit upset that I don't see many produce-origin labels from other countries besides China.

No kidding that China is the single largest foreign holder of US treasuries.

I tell my friends that lots of "Made in China" goods sold in the US are not seen in the Chinese market. The Canton Fair is probably the best place in Guangzhou to see all these samples before they are exported.

I don't know if the "Made in China" label gives American consumers faith in good quality or only the assurance of a low price. But whatever it is, Chinese should also be able to consume products as high in quality and low in price as Americans do. Selfishly speaking, why do we give the best to others but not to ourselves?

Nevertheless, as a foreign tourist, I wish I could buy more "Made in USA" handicrafts than those made elsewhere. 