

## Across the Great Divide

The sent-down youth movement, a Maoist project that relocated urban youth to remote rural areas for “re-education,” is often viewed as a defining feature of China’s Cultural Revolution and emblematic of the intense suffering and hardship of the period. Drawing on rich archival research focused on Shanghai’s youth in village settlements in remote regions, this history of the movement pays particular attention to how it was informed by and affected the critical issue of urban–rural relations in the PRC. It highlights divisions, as well as connections, created by the movement, particularly the conflicts and collaborations between urban and rural officials. Instead of chronicling a story of victims of a monolithic state, Honig and Zhao show how participants in the movement—the sent-down youth, their parents, and local government officials—disregarded, circumvented, and manipulated state policy, ultimately undermining a decade-long Maoist project.

Emily Honig is Professor of History at University of California, Santa Cruz. She has written extensively on issues of gender and sexuality during the Cultural Revolution. Her books include *Sisters and Strangers: Women in the Shanghai Cotton Mills, 1919–1949* and *Creating Chinese Ethnicity: Subei People in Shanghai, 1850–1980*.

Xiaojian Zhao is Professor of Asian American Studies at University of California, Santa Barbara. She is the author of *Remaking Chinese America: Immigration, Family and Community, 1940–1965*, which was awarded the History Book Award by the Association for Asian American Studies. More recently, she authored *The New Chinese America: Class, Economy, and Social Hierarchy*.

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# Across the Great Divide

*The Sent-Down Youth Movement in Mao's  
China, 1968–1980*

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Emily Honig

*University of California, Santa Cruz*

Xiaojian Zhao

*University of California, Santa Barbara*



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## Stylistic Note

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Most sources cited in the footnotes are listed in the bibliography with the Chinese characters for the authors and titles. However, all the references to archival documents include the Chinese characters in the footnotes the first time the item is cited; the archival documents are not listed in the bibliography. Chinese terms in the text are in Pinyin. The glossary lists the terms with the Chinese characters as well as the definition (except for names of individuals or places).