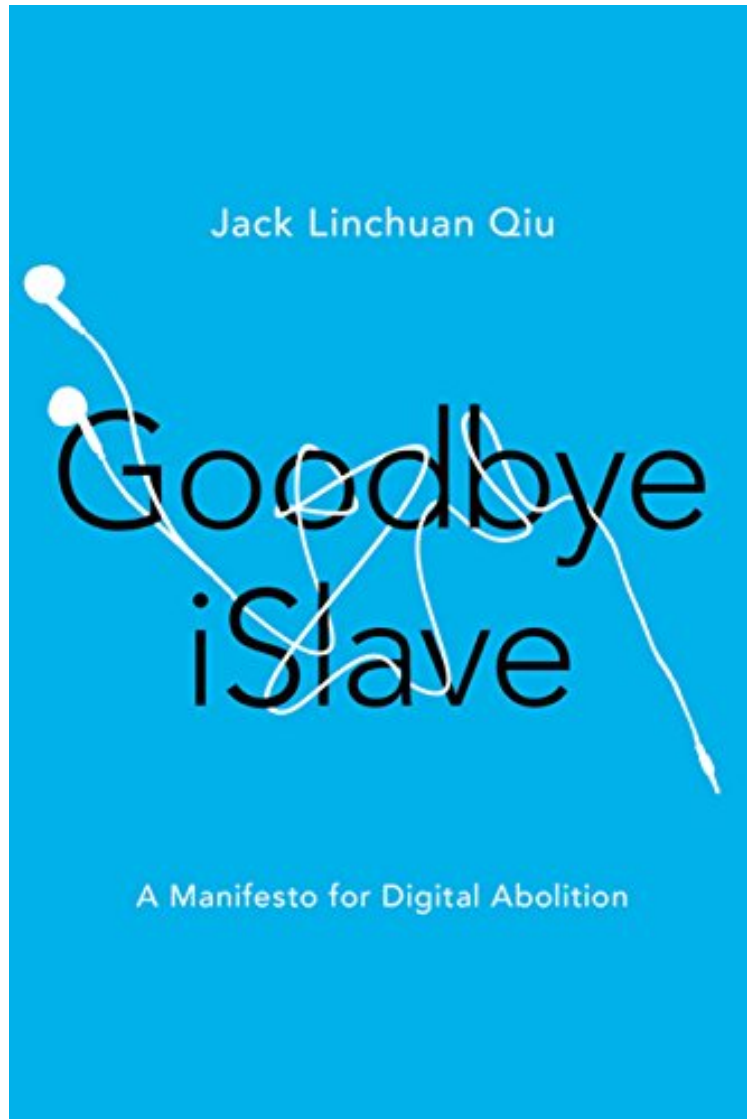


[E-BOOK] Goodbye iSlave: A Manifesto for Digital Abolition (Geopolitics of Information)

## Goodbye iSlave: A Manifesto for Digital Abolition (Geopolitics of Information)

*Jack Linchuan Qiu*

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**Jack Linchuan Qiu : Goodbye iSlave: A Manifesto for Digital Abolition (Geopolitics of Information)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Goodbye iSlave: A Manifesto for Digital Abolition (Geopolitics of Information):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. iSweetsBy David WinebergThere are two kinds of iSlaves. One is the laborer, worked to exhaustion in unendurable positions all day, making electronic gadgets. The other is the consumer, slavishly craving the latest version, the newest technology, and the most toys. They reinforce each other,

keeping millions miserable. Foxconn alone has 1.4 million employees, far more slaves than Britain had African slaves at its peak in the early 1800s, according to Jack Qiu in *Goodbye, iSlaves*. Qiu says great thinkers from Marx to von Mises associated slave labor with traditions of backwardness. They underestimated slavery's importance in the past and completely missed its continuing vitality. Today, the UN thinks there are 26 million in slavery. Qiu thinks it's more like a billion, the way he defines it. The electronics age was supposed to take us away from industry into a lighter, brighter, cleaner and more open future. The truth is manufacturing has tripled in the past ten years; but there's far less of it in the West, and infinitely more of it in the East. At the core of *Goodbye iSlaves* is the eerie parallel between 18th and 21st century slavery. Capitalists then got Europeans hooked on a new opiate; sugar; and created a whole economic sector for slaves to grow it and ship it. Today, the sweet opiate is electronic gadgets. Millions of Chinese slave to produce shiploads of gadgets. Worse, just like slave ships that spread netting all around to catch the suicidal, so Foxconn surrounds its housing with netting to catch jumpers; after 15 suicides in 2010 alone. Three million square meters of netting to discourage suicides. And just as on slaveships, protests, fighting and riots are a constant problem at Foxconn. The real crime here is by China's central government. Like the US in the 1800s, China won't touch the overlords. Terry Guo, Foxconn's owner, defies the Chinese government to jail him if he has broken any laws. He is too big to fail, and China needs him more than he needs China. Guo, an admirer of Genghis Khan, is known by the credo: "You want his money, he wants you dead." Working for him; not such a pleasure. How pervasive is Foxconn? A group in California tried to make a computer entirely free of Foxconn products. It proved impossible. Unfortunately, the fascinating 1700-2000 parallel is buried in dense text. There are four dozen pages arguing the definition of slave. Qiu is forever "repeating" and "recapping". He describes what each chapter is about, and then recaps what each chapter was about. He refers backwards and forwards to other chapters, retelling the same stories. Pulling the essence out is not easy. But the message is crucial. He quotes the designer of an alternate smartphone: "We've lost any connection with the source of how it is made, who made, where does it come from and the social consequences attached to it during the production process... Every pixel you see, every byte you send, has a whole world of minerals, factories, recycling and distribution behind it." "We've read exactly the same things about our food. Our society is totally detached from the sources of its consumption. So iSlavery thrives. David Wineberg of 0 people found the following review helpful. Informative and heartbreaking. By Indigo A compelling and informative read on the humans behind our technology, both the employers and the employees. I thought I would be bored since the first few pages were dry - indeed some portions of the content were rather technical - but the Foxconn stories drew me in. The stories on the "slaves" who had lost much in working for the big names were especially heartbreaking. One would have thought that the author has some bones to pick with Foxconn with the way he uses the company as a main example in illustrating the "iSlaves", but he was careful to remind us that his purpose is to make us think. I really enjoy this book, despite it being a hard topic to read. \*Got a free copy from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Welcome to a brave new world of capitalism propelled by high tech, guarded by enterprising authority, and carried forward by millions of laborers being robbed of their souls. Gathered into mammoth factory complexes and terrified into obedience, these workers feed the world's addiction to iPhones and other commodities--a generation of iSlaves trapped in a global economic system that relies upon and studiously ignores their oppression. Focusing on the alliance between Apple and the notorious Taiwanese manufacturer Foxconn, Jack Linchuan Qiu examines how corporations and governments everywhere collude to build systems of domination, exploitation, and alienation. His interviews, news analysis, and first-hand observation show the circumstances faced by Foxconn workers--circumstances with vivid parallels in the Atlantic slave trade. Qiu also shows how the fanatic consumption of digital media also creates compulsive free labor that constitutes a form of bondage for the user. Arguing as a digital abolitionist, Qiu draws inspiration from transborder activist groups and forms of grassroots resistance to make a passionate plea aimed at uniting--and liberating--the forgotten workers who make our twenty-first-century lives possible.

"This remarkable dissection of twenty-first century global iSlavery, rooted in Qiu's on-the-ground and comparative historical research, gives a high-voltage jolt to complacent iCitizens--and examples of what to do next."--John D.H. Downing, editor of the *Encyclopedia of Social Movement Media*