In the Herder's Boots: Challenging Life of the Nomadic Cashmere Goat Herder in the Gobi Desert of Mongolia

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This course reading...

- Highlights the herders' economic plight, trapped in a monopsonistic market.

- Documents practical initiatives and creating sustainable supply chains within Mongolia.

- Portrays Mongolia as a nation of enduring strength and showcases the determination of its people.

- Ideal for students, educators, and scholars interested in Asian Studies and challenges in globalization and economics.

How are Mongolia's resilient cashmere herders overcoming harsh conditions and economic challenges to thrive?

In the Herder's Boots explores the struggles of Mongolia's nomadic cashmere goat herders to survive on the arid Alta Plateau of the Gobi Desert. They face harsh conditions: frigid winters, scorching summers, and scarce grazing. Despite producing the world's finest cashmere, they're trapped in a market dominated by China, earning a mere fraction of its value. **Stephen Parliament**, contracted by USAID and Mercy Corps, helped organize herders into cooperatives. This enabled them to sell directly to indigenous Mongolian processors in Uluunbaatar, Mongolia's capital city, rather than Chinese traders, improve their herds, and access better veterinary care. By working with Mongolian colleagues, he fostered sustainable practices and empowered herders to thrive, even amidst powerful neighbours.

Ideal for students, educators, and scholars interested in Asian Studies. It is also essential for readers concerned with the challenges of globalization and economics.

Stephen Parliament is a political scientist, activist, educator, cooperative housing developer, and writer with global teaching and advocacy experience.

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