

In 'American Factory', Chinese money and Ohioan workers collide

What makes a factory American? A **captivating** new documentary — produced by Barack and Michelle Obama — opens with an **unambiguous** case. In Dayton, Ohio, a large General Motors plant had employed 2,000 workers assembling SUVs.

captivating 迷人的; 有魅力的

unambiguous 清楚的; 明白的

It closed in 2008, leaving behind a **shell** of a building and a local unemployment rate that peaked in 2009 at 12.5%.

shell 壳; 外形

The factory that opened in its place was supposed to be American too, despite its Chinese owner. The film follows Cao Dewang, chairman of Fuyao group, a Chinese glass manufacturer, as he **prowl** his new plant, and advises **contractors** against putting Chinese pictures on the walls.*** He brings in Americans to fill senior management positions.

prowl 徘徊; 踱步

contractor 承包商

Tensions within the partnership quickly emerge. The Americans are accused of having fat fingers, of being slow and of being afraid of heat. The **clashes** might leave some viewers with the impression that the plant is not very American at all.

clash 冲突

revel in 纵情于

But when a group of workers from Ohio visit one of Fuyao's outposts in China, "American Factory" draws a contrast. They look on in horror as Chinese workers sort large **shards** of glass without safety **goggles** or cut-resistant gloves. The Americans' eight days off a month and eight-hour shifts are dismissed as an easy life.

shard 碎片

goggle 护目镜; 眼镜

"American Factory" is available on Netflix from August 21st. Viewers can decide themselves whether they think the Fuyao factory in Ohio is truly American — or they can **revel in** the film's complexity and conclude that there is no right answer.