

Cultural Analysis 文化解析

The concept of a night market would almost be unheard of or considered **preposterous** (荒謬) in an American society. Businessmen stick to their work hours diligently: those on a 9 to 5 **payroll** (薪水) leave at 5pm sharp, diners and restaurants that say “Closed at 9pm” will close at that time without question. Overtime payments are much higher than normal **wages** (工資), and 24-hour convenience stores are rare. Westerners who visit Taiwan for the first time tend to find Night Markets a marvel. Such late hours! So much food! What a huge variety of interesting vendors!

Taiwanese who visit America for the first time would be equally amazed. They may see Americans as lazy people: they close their stores so early! However, they may also **spark** (觸發) interest in **flea markets** (跳蚤市場) and **garage sales** (???). In Taiwan the concept of the flea market—an **assembly** (集合、集會) of people who bring secondhand items and sell them at very low prices—have become slightly more common than it used to be, but still is a rare occurrence.

Garages are **commonplace** (很常見的) in America; practically every house would have one. When a family wants to sell furniture, toys, clothes, books, and other items that they no longer need in their homes, instead of recycling or **tossing** them **away** (丟棄), they would open a garage sale. Neighbors, friends, or passersby are free to look around, and if they find something they want or need, they will buy it, perhaps even **haggle** (討價還價) with the owners, too.

