

Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	ix
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xi
Introduction	3
ONE	
Merit Accumulation in the Early Chinese Tradition	28
TWO	
Merit Accumulation for Status Advancement	61
THREE	
The Debate over Supernatural Retribution and Merit Accumulation	110
FOUR	
Preserving the Social Hierarchy in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries	157
Conclusion	229
Appendix	
Extant Morality Books and Ledgers of Merit and Demerit Published in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries	241
<i>Glossary</i>	243
<i>Sources Cited</i>	261
<i>Index</i>	277

