

Scholarly Conventions

Chinese characters and romanization are provided at the first occurrence of personal and place names and of titles of works in Chinese. After the first occurrence, Chinese works are referred to by translated title in the chapters and appendix but by romanized title in the notes and bibliography.

The *Spring and Autumn* (*Chūnqiū* 春秋) text used is that associated with the *Zuǒ Tradition* (*Zuǒ zhuàn* 左傳), unless otherwise noted. The *Gōngyáng* and *Gǔliáng* versions of the *Spring and Autumn* sometimes differ slightly, and this is noted as appropriate. References to *Spring and Autumn* records are marked CQ and are keyed to Yáng Bójùn's 楊伯峻 edition, *Chūnqiū Zuǒ zhuàn zhù* 春秋左傳注. Individual records are designated by ruler, year, and entry number according to Yáng Bójùn's numbering scheme and include corresponding page references. Thus "CQ, Yǐn 3.2, 24" refers to the second record (by Yáng Bójùn's count) of the third year of Lord Yǐn, on page 24 of *Chūnqiū Zuǒ zhuàn zhù*. References to the *Zuǒ Tradition* are marked *Zuǒ*, and they also refer to *Chūnqiū Zuǒ zhuàn zhù* and use similar conventions.

Titles of the traditional five ranks of regional rulers (*zhūhóu* 諸侯) are left untranslated and are instead romanized, as Gōng 公, Bó 伯, Hóu 侯, Zǐ 子, and Nán 男. The traditional English renderings corresponding to European titles of nobility are clearly unsuitable, but to date no consensus on appropriate translations has been reached. The term *gōng* serves two separate functions, as a title associated with a specific rank, and as an honorific, often coupled with a posthumous name in reference to a deceased ruler. When *gōng* refers to the title of a regional ruler, I have treated it as described above, but when it serves as an honorific, I render it "Lord." Lǚ rulers actually had the title Hóu but are conventionally referred to by their posthumous names plus the honorific "Lord" (*gōng*). For additional discussion, see note 16 to the introduction.

The term *dàfū* 大夫 is translated with the generic term “nobleman,” since in the *Spring and Autumn* this term designated a broad group of members of the upper class who were not rulers, including officials as well as sons or other male kin of the ruler; this translation would not necessarily be appropriate for other early works, in which *dàfū* may refer to a more specific group of individuals or may designate an official title.

Unless otherwise noted, all translations are my own.

Spring and Autumn Period Rulers of Lǚ and
Their Reign Dates

Ruler		Reign dates (BCE)
Lord Yǐn	隱公	722–712
Lord Huán	桓公	711–694
Lord Zhuāng	莊公	693–662
Lord Mǐn	閔公	661–660
Lord Xī	僖公	659–627
Lord Wén	文公	626–609
Lord Xuān	宣公	608–591
Lord Chéng	成公	590–573
Lord Xiāng	襄公	572–542
Lord Zhāo	昭公	541–510
Lord Dìng	定公	509–495
Lord Āi	哀公	494–467

The preceding table lists the twelve Lǚ rulers whose reigns are covered by the *Spring and Autumn* together with their reign dates. Although Lord Āi’s reign lasted twenty-eight years, to 467 BCE, the *Zuǒ Tradition* version of the *Spring and Autumn* ends in 479 BCE and thus covers only sixteen years of his reign; the *Gōngyáng* and *Gǔliáng* versions end two years earlier, in 481 BCE, and cover only fourteen years of his reign.