

Terms and Conventions

This book uses traditional Chinese characters and the Pinyin system of transliteration to keep consistent with current usage in North America. When sources that originally used the Wade-Giles system of transliteration are cited, the Wade-Giles transliterations are converted into Pinyin except for the titles of the publications and the author's name. Endnotes and bibliography largely follow *The Chicago Manual of Style* (17th edition), but they also take into account the conventions of premodern Chinese literary and cultural studies. An official or standard history is often a collective project and not written, compiled, or edited by one scholar, so this book cites its title instead of the author, compiler, or editor appearing on the front cover of the history. This book cites a multiple-volume Chinese primary source, such as a standard history, literary collection, or book of philosophy, by its *juan* number and page number in the format “x.y.” *Juan* is a unit of division of a traditional Chinese manuscript which can be translated as “fascicle” or “chapter.” The *juan* number of these texts is often more useful for the purposes of citation than the volume number. With respect to the translated, annotated, or commented edition of a primary source, as these commentaries and translations are a substantial work of scholarship, this book often cites the translator, annotator, or commentator rather than the original author, compiler, or editor. The use of another scholar's translation of a primary source is indicated by an endnote; all other translations and annotations are my own.

This book uses the BCE and CE calendar era designations instead of B.C. and A.D. The English translations of Chinese titles such as official and document titles generally follow Charles O. Hucker, *A Dictionary of Official Titles in Imperial China* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1985), and David R. Knechtges and Taiping Chang, eds., *Ancient and Early*

Medieval Chinese Literature: A Reference Guide, 4 vols. (Leiden: Brill, 2010, 2014). For explaining the meaning of certain characters, I largely provide the definitions given by Paul W. Kroll in *A Student's Dictionary of Classical and Medieval Chinese* (Leiden: Brill, 2017).