

Acknowledgments

Politics in East Asia has been a very long time in the making. The idea for writing the book first came to me in 2006, but I never seemed to have the time to make any progress. Around 2011, in conversations with James Kim, a colleague who teaches in the Department of Political Science at Cal Poly Pomona, I was encouraged to make the project a priority. Originally, James and I were going to coauthor *Politics in East Asia*, but our schedules never quite meshed. Still, my early discussions with him were invaluable; he also commented on several draft chapters and made direct contributions to Chapter 6. So, while we did not end up as coauthors, I am grateful to James. In addition, I would like to thank Patrick Thompson, a publisher's representative at Oxford University Press, who put me in contact with James, since he knew that both of us were contemplating writing a similar book. I would also like to thank Stephen Ma, a colleague in my department at California State University, Los Angeles, who provided helpful advice and a lot of enthusiastic support for my discussions of China.

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