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# Acknowledgments

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The chapters in this volume were first presented at a conference at the Institute of International Relations (IIR), National Chengchi University, in January 1989. The conference was jointly sponsored by the Institute of International Relations and the Center for International Affairs, Harvard University. Over two hundred people attended the conference at various times, including a contingent of fifteen social scientists from the United States.

The conference came at a propitious moment in Taiwan's political development and, at the time, was a somewhat novel event. Our purpose was primarily academic: to inquire into the development and prospects of democracy in Taiwan from a broadly comparative perspective. In any country undergoing political liberalization, however, such discussions are never purely academic; moreover, we actively sought to encourage a broader dialogue on the issues at hand.

President Lee Teng-hui of the Republic of China on Taiwan sent a welcoming and encouraging opening message to the conference, and he received the US delegation. The conference was attended not only by leading academics on Taiwan, but also by members of the press, high-ranking officials of the ruling party, and leading figures in the opposition. The result was an invigorating exchange of views not only among academics, but also between government and opposition as well.

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