

## *A Note on Terms*

I have romanized Chinese words throughout this book using the pinyin system, with a few notable exceptions. For well-known figures, I have retained their most commonly used Anglophone names rather than using the pinyin romanization (Sun Yat-sen rather than Sun Zhongshan; Chiang Kai-shek rather than Jiang Jieshi, Chiang Ching-kuo rather than Jiang Jingguo).

In all cases in which it was possible, I have referred to women by their natal surnames. In China, women did not take their husband's surnames upon marriage, though elite women might be referred to as "Madame Husband's-Surname" or "Wife of Husband's-Surname." By the 1910s, it was increasingly common to refer to women by their own names or by some combination that involved their natal surnames and given name—a tendency that grew more pronounced from the late 1920s forward. For instance, Madame Chiang Kai-shek (also known in the West as May-ling Soong) was alternately referred to in Chinese as Song Meiling, Madame Chiang Ms. Song Meiling, or Madame Chiang Kai-shek. I refer to her as Song Meiling and attempted to use natal surnames for other women when possible.

During the period discussed in this book, the name of the city of Beijing changed multiple times. For clarity, I refer to the city as Beijing throughout the text.

Chinese ages are counted in *sui*. In China, a baby is one *sui* upon birth, and a person gains a *sui* with each passing Lunar New Year. Generally speaking, people are one *sui* older than they are years old. Because some documents I reference used years and some used *sui*, for clarity, I have converted all *sui* to years by subtracting a year from the given *sui*. This method may result in a slight age difference for individuals born in the spring or when calculating ages around the Lunar New Year.



FIGURE 0.0 \* Eastern China in the late 1930s. Map by Kate Blackmer of Blackmer Maps.