

## Conventions

### Tibetan

The transcription of Tibetan words in this book follows the Tibetan and Himalayan Library (THL)'s Simplified Phonetic Transcription of Standard Tibetan. The Wylie transliteration is usually given on first usage, either in an endnote or in parentheses in the text as appropriate. This book capitalizes the first letter of all Tibetan text titles, personal names, and place names, regardless of whether it is the root letter.

### Mongolian

Keeping the spelling of Mongolian words consistent and not overly technical for the sake of nonspecialists is always challenging. For example, the Mongolian translation of Faxian's *Record* examined in these pages was written using the vertical literary script with classical Mongolian spellings and literary flourish, yet also informed by nineteenth-century Buryat conventions and in some cases, supplemented by twentieth-century spelling. In addition, the Mongolian secondary scholarship that accompanies these materials was written in Khalkha Mongolian using the Cyrillic script. To keep things as clear as possible, I transliterate the vertical script for all persons, places, and technical terminology, usually also giving equivalents in Sanskrit, Chinese, French, and Tibetan (marked in notes and parentheses as "Mong."). For the vertical script, I

use the Tibetan and Himalayan Library (THL)'s simplified Mongolian transcription system, developed by Prof. Christopher Atwood, except that I keep  $\gamma$  instead of  $\dot{g}$  or  $gh$  on the old Mostaert and Lessing models. For Cyrillic, I also use the Atwood system, except that I keep "v" for  $\mathbf{B}$  on the Library of Congress model. Cyrillic Mongolian transliteration is marked in notes and parentheses as "Kh. Mong."

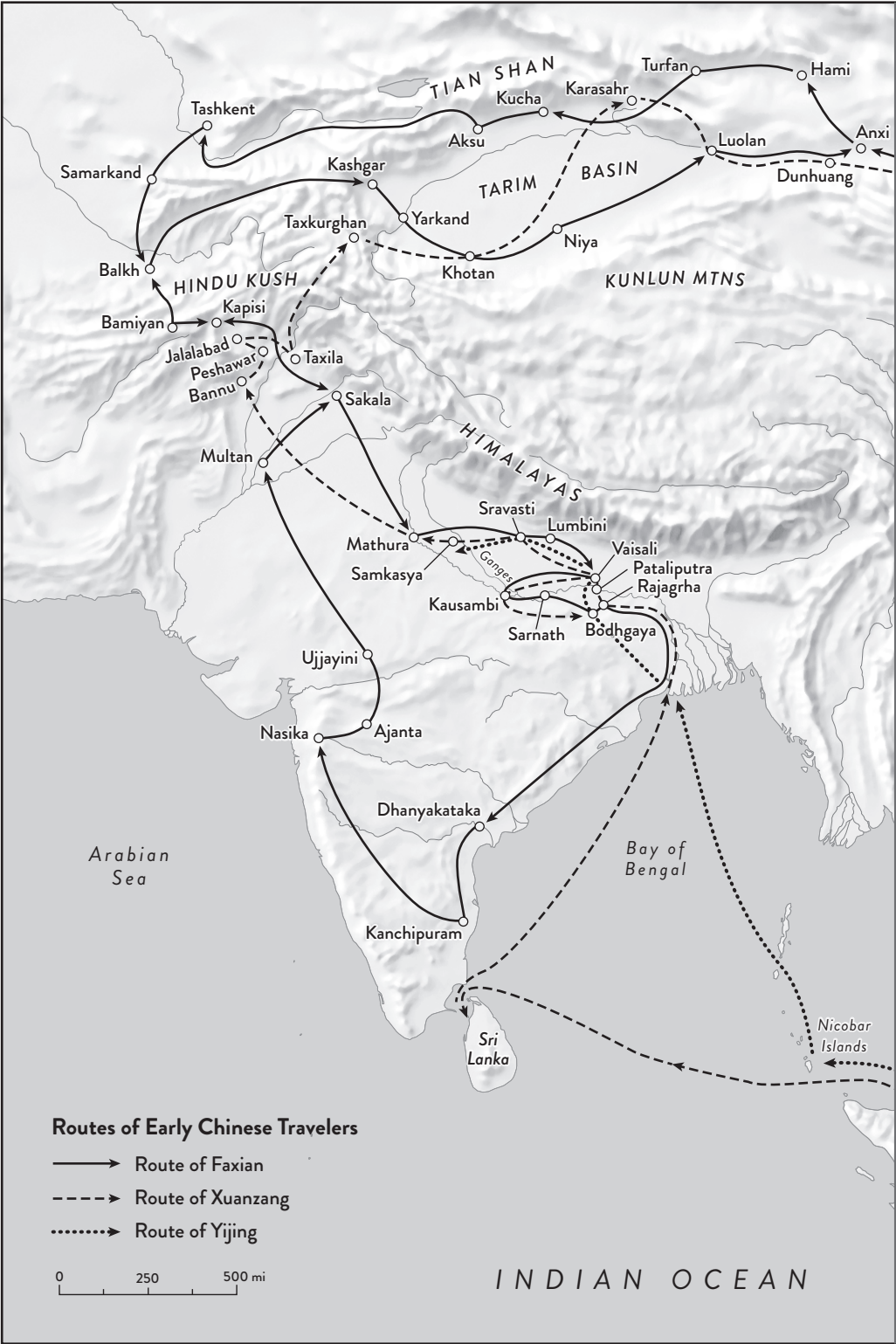
## Chinese

According to convention, in these pages I give the pinyin spelling for all Chinese cited or translated in this book. When citing the work of the many seventeenth- to nineteenth-century French, German, English, and Russian scholars who appear in these pages, I have retained their idiosyncratic transliteration systems, though usually also providing readers with the pinyin and characters in endnotes or parentheses. I do the same for the Mongolian and Tibetan rendering of Chinese; whenever possible, I have provided the Chinese reference.

## Foreign Terminology in Parentheses

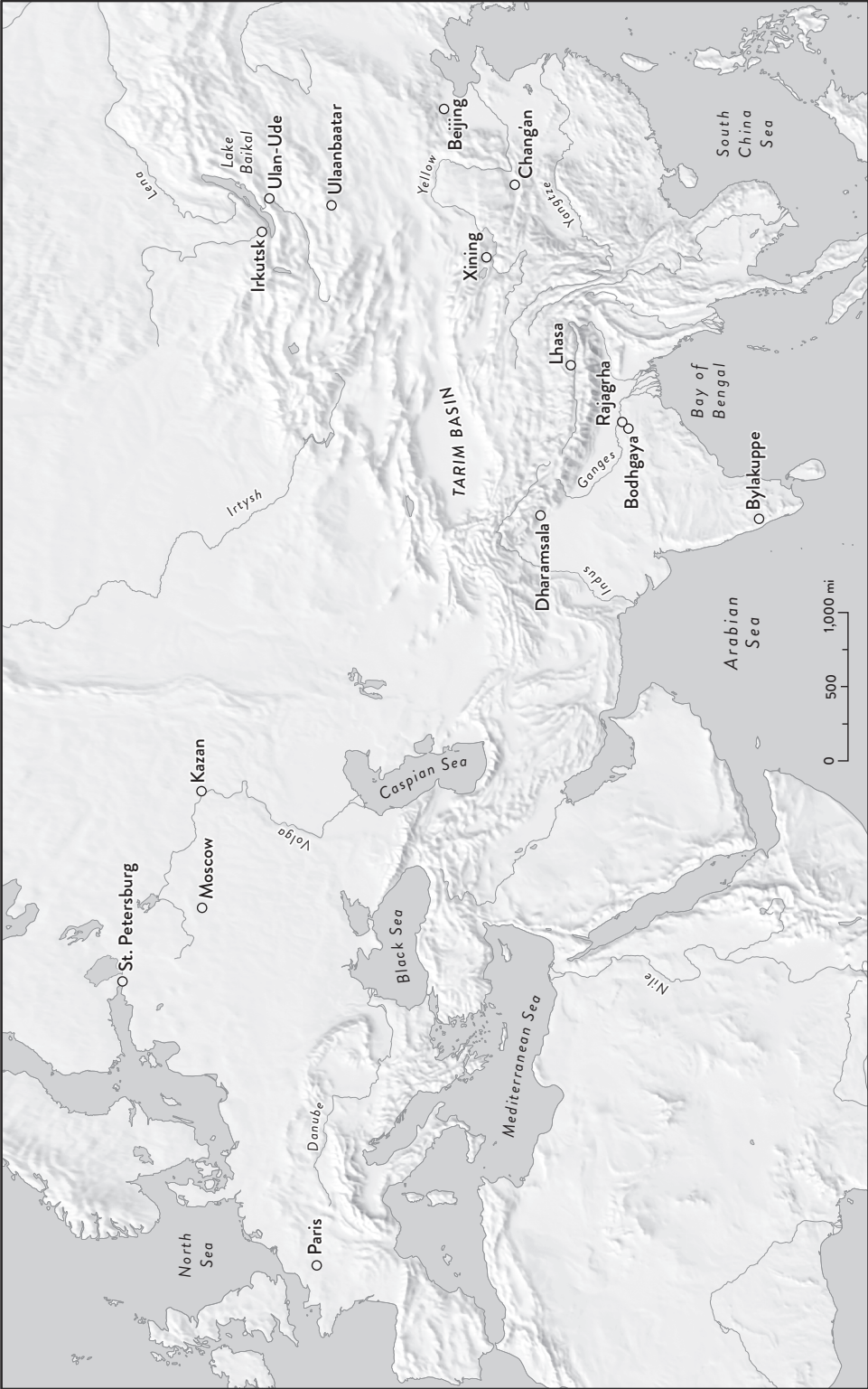
Certain French terms, Buddhist technical language, and proper nouns are followed by transliterated equivalents in Tibetan and, as the case may be, Mongolian, Sanskrit, Chinese, French, German, or Russian. In each case, transliterated equivalents are given in parentheses or as notes with the respective language clearly marked, separated by a semicolon. The order of the equivalent terms changes in the course of the book, depending on the chain of translation being examined. For example: Tib. *Tun ha'ang*; Mong. *düing-huwang*; Fr. *Thun houang*; Ch. *Dunhuang* 燉煌.





MAP 1. Faxian's journey across Asia





MAP 2. Eurasia, with key cities

In the Forest of  
the Blind

