Contents

List of Illustrations ix

List of Tables xi

Preface xiii

Abbreviations and Conventions xvii

Chronology xix

Introduction

- 1. Setting the Stage 17
- 2. Emperor Jiajing (r. 1522–1566): A Four-Decade Persecutor 36
- 3. Empress Dowager Cisheng (1545–1614):

 A Great Patron 56
- 4. The Eunuchs: Organized but Not Always Reliable 90
- 5. Scholar-Officials: Struggling for the Right Position 119
 - 6. Eminent Monks: Engaged in, or Entangled with the World? 156

viii 🛶 CONTENTS

7. Temples: Evolving Under Influence 199

8. Setbacks: Losing Beijing as a Growth Engine 220

Conclusion 243

• • • • •

Notes 251
References 297

Index 325