Contributors

of business in East Asia, the transitions to and from socialism, and the relationship between ethnicity and the state.

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Preface

This book began as an effort by some of Tang Tsou's students to honor him. Tang Tsou received his doctorate in political science from the University of Chicago in 1951 (his dissertation concerned the development of American political science), and he has been teaching there since 1959. As his seventieth birthday and retirement approached, Norman Nie, chair of the Political Science Department at the University of Chicago, suggested that his former students might organize a conference in his honor. Experienced academics reading this preface will know that, whether because of a deficit of filial piety among American academics or the lack of a thematic focus at such an occasion, such festschrift conferences and their written products often are diffuse and ephemeral. Former students and colleagues may want to participate out of nostalgia, but for outsiders they are like someone else's family album.

This project was different. First, Tsou's students' bond to their mentor is more than a historical bond. Tang Tsou is the most challenging and wide-ranging China scholar of our acquaintance, and so a conference honoring Tsou found us grappling with a current leader in the field, rather than engaging in retrospective reminiscences.

Second, it was fortunate that a number of Tsou's most active students are established experts in a quite comprehensive spread of important issue areas in Chinese politics. That diversity is due in part to Tsou's respect and support for the intellectual interests of his students. Credit also should be given to the Political Science Department at the University of Chicago, which has stressed intense intellectual activity over a wide range of substantive areas. Given these authors' range of expertise, every essay in this book has at least a monograph's measure of research behind it.

Third, the project had a successful model. Because of the importance of the Cultural Revolution, the University of Chicago sponsored a conference in 1967, called "China in Crisis," that attracted an exceptional
collection of China scholars. The co-hosts were Ping-ti Ho of Chicago's History Department and Tang Tsou, and they subsequently edited and published the papers. The full set of *China in Crisis* was an important and popular contribution to the discipline. The first volume contained a general essay on the historical background of contemporary China, by Ho, and a general political analysis of the Cultural Revolution, by Tsou, that were intellectually formative for many in our academic generation. Those essays were rare syntheses of the practical task of coping with the present and the academic virtues of comprehensiveness and profundity. Following that model, each of us set out to write a major essay synthesizing the full range and depth of our various subjects for the present, producing thereby a generational sequel, after twenty-four years, to *China in Crisis*.

Potential participants were enthusiastic about the project, and the Political Science Department of the University of Chicago agreed to underwrite the expenses of a conference. Hong Yung Lee suggested the theme: “Contemporary Chinese Politics in Historical Perspective.”

The conference honoring Tsou on the occasion of his seventieth birthday was held December 16, 1988, in the Common Room of Albert Pick Hall. Chris Achen, who had succeeded Norman Nie as chair, provided hospitable arrangements and co-chaired the conference, and Bernard Silberman and David Laitin chaired the two panels. Edward Friedman of the University of Wisconsin and Suzanne Rudolph provided excellent commentary for the panels. The essays were stimulating, and the audience was lively, asking incisive questions, but at the end Tang Tsou stole the show with an impromptu reminiscence that demonstrated how thoroughly was the blend between his life and his academic effort to understand Chinese politics. Later in the evening, in response to the department's request that he select a retirement gift, Tsou requested that each member give him a reading list of the best books in his or her particular area, because retirement had freed him to become a student again, and he intended to expand his horizons.

The demonstrations and ultimately the massacre of June 4, 1989, in Beijing were the most stirring and traumatic events in Chinese politics since the Cultural Revolution. They required a rethinking and reorientation of the oral presentations made five months earlier. It is testimony to the quality of the earlier work and to the underlying continuity of Chinese politics that the major task was that of reorientation toward the post-Tiananmen situation, rather than massive revisions of previous views. Indeed, Joseph Frewsmith's discussion of fundamental tensions in Deng Xiaoping's politics and Marc Blecher's critique of the antidemocratic features of the post-Mao era seemed prophetic in retrospect. But even the essays that established cumula-