This book examines the transformation of contemporary social democracy through the concept of “third way” reforms. It proposes a set of theories about the possibility for continuing social democratic ideological adaptation, for ideologies to overcome institutional constraints in triggering pathbreaking innovations, and for social democracy to bridge the insider–outsider divide. Empirically, the book utilizes these theories to account for social democratic welfare state and labor market reforms in nine advanced industrialized countries after the end of the Golden Age.

Based on the logic of “public evils,” the book proposes that the ideologically contested nature of institutions provides incentives for institutional innovation. Social democratic ideology shapes the fundamental characteristics and content of the third way policy paradigm, and the paradigm’s practical implementation continues to be path dependent on historical institutional settings.

Jingjing Huo earned his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and currently teaches at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. His primary research interest is comparative political economy and institutions, and his work appears in *Comparative Political Studies*, the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, and the *Journal of European Social Policy*. 
Third Way Reforms

Social Democracy after the Golden Age

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To Helen
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