Chinese Professionals and the Republican State
The Rise of Professional Associations in Shanghai, 1912–1937

Xiaoqun Xu makes a compelling and original contribution to the study of modern China with this book on the rise of professional associations in the Republican era. Xu focuses on their origins and political and socio-cultural milieu in Shanghai, the center of their professional activities. This book is rich in detail about the key professional figures and organizations in Shanghai and fills an important gap in the city’s social history.

The professional associations were, as the author writes, “unambiguously urban and modern in their origins and functions . . . representing a new breed of educated Chinese” and they pioneered a new type of relationship with the state. In analyzing the relationship between the state and society in this period, a central issue in China studies, Xu proposes an alternative to the Western-derived concept of civil society. This book illuminates the complexity of modernization and nationalism in twentieth-century China and provides a concrete case for comparative studies of professionalization and class formation across cultures.

Xiaoqun Xu is Associate Professor of History at Francis Marion University and a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow.
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Chinese Professionals and the Republican State

The Rise of Professional Associations in Shanghai, 1912–1937

XIAOQUN XU

Francis Marion University
For Yin and Daniel
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Acknowledgments

This book is the final incarnation of my Ph.D. dissertation at Columbia University. My interest in China studies started with my taking a class with Madeleine Zelin in the fall of 1989. Professor Zelin’s engaging doctoral seminar attracted me to the study of modern Chinese history. Subsequently, as my dissertation adviser, she supported my idea to explore the rise of Chinese professional associations – at the time, a seemingly unpromising topic. During my years at Columbia, the rest of my dissertation committee – Andrew Nathan, Myron Cohen, Robert Hymes, and Michael Tsin – believed in the potential of my work and helped me in various ways.

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Abbreviations of Frequently Cited Sources

CSPSR  Chinese Social and Political Science Review
CWR   China Weekly Review
DZ    Dongfang Zazhi
FP    Falü Pinglun
FZ    Faling Zhoukan
GZG   Guomin Zhengfu Gongbao
MRD   Minguo Renwu Dacidian
MSX   Minguo Shanghai Xianzhi
NCH   North China Herald
QYTZHH Quanguo Yiyao Tuanti Zonglianhehui Huiwu Huibian
SB    Shi Bao
SLGB  Shanghai Lushi Gonghui Baogaoshu
SnB   Shen Bao
STSFH Shanghai Tebieshi Shizheng Fagui Huibian
SWZX  Shanghai Wenshi Ziliao Xuanji
SYZ   Shanghai Yanjiu Ziliao
SYZX  Shanghai Yanjiu Ziliao Xuji
WZX   Wenshi Ziliao Xuanji
XYZ   Xinwen Yanjiu Ziliao
YC    Yijie Chunqiu
YCH   Yijie Chunqiu Huixuan
YP    Yiyao Pinglun
ZG    Zhengfu Gongbao
ZGFH  Zhengfu Gongbao Fenlei Huibian
ZMXFD Zhonghua Minguo Xianxing Fagui Daquan
ZXS   Zhongyi Xin Shengming