THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF CHINA

Volume 9
Part Two: The Ch'ing Dynasty to 1800

edited by
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PREFACE

The editor of this volume, like the editors of the previous volumes in *The Cambridge History of China* series, has accrued many debts of gratitude. The foremost debt is to the authors of the chapters gathered here. Their scholarly contributions are the heart and body of the volume. All of them have shown forbearance, and some have had to be more than patient. Two of the chapters and their authors were included in the early plan for Volume 9 proposed many years ago by the late Frederick Wakeman Jr., and two more were prepared but for thematic reasons could not be included in what was published as Part One in 2002. At the opposite extreme, one of the chapters, the last to be commissioned, was not completed until January 2014.

The chapter authors and I are indebted to the late Denis C. Twitchett, my mentor and former colleague, who envisioned and remained the main force behind the entire project that is *The Cambridge History of China*. The readers, the users, of this volume, without fully realizing it, are indebted to Michael A. Reeve, whose critical acumen contributed to clearer articulation of the ideas presented, whose care for bibliographical detail led to more accuracy in the bibliographical citations across a body of literature in more than a dozen languages from the past three centuries, and whose skills in data management facilitated the progress of this long and complicated project. I am also indebted to Jenny Chao-hui Liu for editorial help on some of the chapters, and to my colleague Susan Naquin, who selflessly contributed her knowledge of Ch’ing history and her skills as an editor to the preparation of several chapters. The editor alone is responsible for the errors, inconsistencies, and infelicities that remain.

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Willard J. Peterson
2015
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