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This book provides an important contribution to the economic history of modern China. It examines the history of the coal mining industry – one of China's largest and most important – from the beginnings of modernization around 1895 to the start of the Sino-Japanese War in 1937. It addresses questions of both economic and socio-political history and contributes to our knowledge of many aspects of early twentieth-century Chinese history. It examines the slow growth of the modern sector of the Chinese economy and considers the effects of foreign investment and ownership, the supply of capital, the technology of production, the availability of local entrepreneurship, and compares the evolution of the Chinese coal industry with development elsewhere.

Part I analyses the determinants of the rate and pattern of the growth of coal output. It concludes that by the 1930s at least demand rather than supply was the crucial constraint on the growth of total output. Both the geographical and the temporal patterns of growth were affected by short-term political as well as by longer-term economic factors.

Part II looks at the industry in the context of China's social and political history. An examination of the role of foreign companies shows a more complex interaction between those enterprises and Chinese officials and firms than is usually assumed. A discussion of Chinese-owned companies again questions the accepted picture of 'bureaucratic capitalism' in the Chinese economy. Two chapters on labour and the labour movement give a detailed picture of the life and activities of the mine workers.

This book will be of interest to those concerned with the problems of industrial growth in general as well as to specialists on modern China.

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**TIM WRIGHT**
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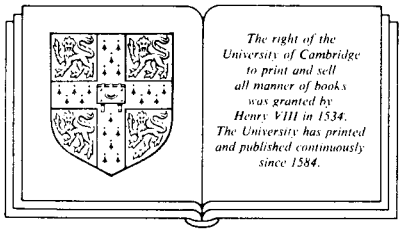


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# ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| ¢ | Chinese cents |
| CEB | *Chinese Economic Bulletin* |
| CEJ | *Chinese Economic Journal* |
| CER | Chinese Eastern Railway |
| ILO | International Labour Office |
| IMC | Imperial Maritime Customs (later Inspectorate General of Customs) |
| IUP | Irish University Press |
| J¥ | Japanese yen |
| KMA | Kailuan [Kailan] Mining Administration (also referred to in the text as Kailuan) |
| KYZB | *Kuangye zhoubao* (Mining weekly) |
| MCG | *Mantetsu chōsa geppō* |
| MMT or SMR | Minami Manshū tetsudō kabushiki kaisha (South Manchurian Railway Company) |
| NCH | *North China Herald* |
| NKGB | *Nongkuang gongbao* |
| NP | Nathan Papers, Bodleian Library, Oxford |
| NSGB | *Nongshang gongbao* |
| SKJ | *Shina kōgyō jihō* |
| ¥ | Chinese silver dollar |
| ZGJJNJ 1936 | China, shiyebu, Zhongguo jingji nianjian bianzuan weiyuanhui, *Zhongguo jingji nianjian disanbian* (Shanghai, 1936) |

**Chinese Railways**

| | |
|---|---|
| An–Feng | Sujiatun–Andong |
| Bei–Ning | Beijing–Shenyang |
| CER | Manzhouli–Suifenhe |
| Dao–Qing | Daokou–Qinghua |



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| | |
|---|---|
| Ji–Dun | Jilin–Dunhua |
| Jiao–Ji | Qingdao–Jinan |
| Jin–Pu | Tianjin–Pukou |
| Jing–Han | Beijing–Hankou |
| Jing–Sui | Beijing–Baotou |
| Long–Hai | Lianyungang–Tianshui |
| Shen–Hai | Shenyang–Hailong |
| SMR | Changchun–Dalian |
| Yue–Han | Guangzhou–Hankou |
| Zheng–Tai | Zhengding–Taiyuan |
| Zhu–Ping | Zhuzhou–Pingxiang |

For a reference list of the major Chinese coal mining companies, see Appendix B, pp. 200–1.

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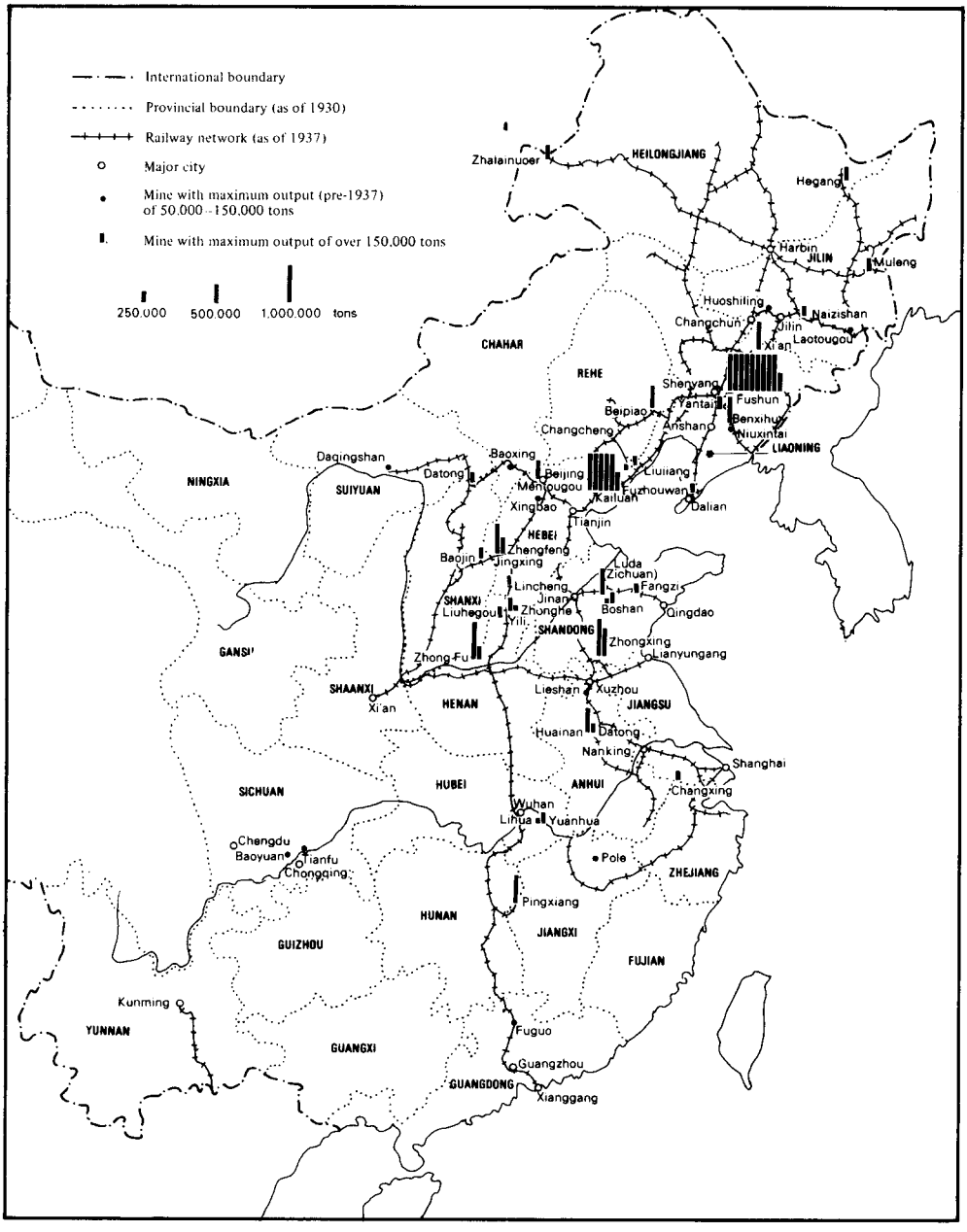


*Map of major Chinese coal mines and railways*

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