This book provides a comprehensive history of the emergence and the use of the concept of sovereignty in China from the year 1840 to the present. It contributes to broadening the history of modern China by looking at the way the notion of sovereignty was gradually articulated by key Chinese intellectuals, diplomats, and political figures in the unfolding of the history of international law in China, rehabilitates Chinese agency, and shows how China challenged Western Eurocentric assumptions about the progress of international law. It puts the history of international law in a global perspective, interrogating the widely held belief of international law as universal order and exploring the ways in which its history is closely anchored to a European experience that fails to take into account how the encounter with other non-European realities has influenced its formation.

Maria Adele Carrai is a sinologist and political scientist with a strong interest in conceptual history and history of international law. She is a Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellow at KU Leuven and a Fellow at Harvard University Asia Center. She completed a PhD in Law in 2016 at the University of Hong Kong, where she received the Award for Outstanding Postgraduate Research Student for 2015–2016, the HKPHD Fellowship, and the Swire Scholarship. She was a fellow at Columbia University (2019), Princeton-Harvard China and the World Fellow (2017–2018), New York University (2016–2017), and the European University Institute (2015–2017). Her research has appeared in various peer-reviewed journals, and she has spoken in a variety of forums.
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SOVEREIGNTY IN CHINA

A Genealogy of a Concept since 1840

MARIA ADELE CARRAI
European University Institute, Florence
To Oladapo
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