Contents

List of Maps viii
Acknowledgments ix
Chronology xi
Maps xiii

Introduction 1
1 The Political and Intellectual Framework: The Minsheng Mandate and China’s Economy of Scarcity 16
2 Efficient Markets, Jiangnan’s Luxury, and Productive Consumption (1500–1800) 51
4 Nation Building, Strategic Markets, and Frugal Modernity in the Early Decades of the Republic of China (1912–1930s) 158

Conclusion 197

Glossary 204
Bibliography 215
Index 230