The desire for the “core” leader has been embedded in the ruling philosophy of the Chinese Communist Party. As the role of the “core” leader and his interactions with other ruling elite are important in understanding Chinese politics, this book attempts to focus on the role of the party chief and how he could become the “core” of the leadership. Xuezhi Guo provides the most detailed and comprehensive scrutiny of the “core” of the Chinese Communist Party leadership and meticulously analyzes its cultural, philosophical, and ideological origins as well as its evolution throughout the party’s history. This study introduces an eclectic approach that integrates the most useful analytical perspectives and insights from Chinese political history, philosophy, and mainstream Western methodologies in order to explain the consistent patterns of elite politics and the behavior of the party’s high-ranking leaders during times of cooperation and conflict from Mao Zedong to Xi Jinping.

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The Politics of the Core Leader in China

*Culture, Institution, Legitimacy, and Power*

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To Frank and Julie
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Abbreviations

CAC  Central Advisory Committee
CCDI  Central Commission for Discipline Inspection
CCRG  Central Cultural Revolution Group
CCP  Chinese Communist Party
CMC  Central Military Commission
CPPCC  Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference
CPVA  Chinese People’s Volunteer Army
CR  Cultural Revolution
CRSASR  Chinese Research Society of Administrative Structural Reform
CYL  Communist Youth League
GLF  Great Leap Forward
GMD  Chinese Nationalist Party/Guomingdang
GO  Central Committee’s General Office
GPD  PLA General Political Department
MR  Military Region
NPC  National People’s Congress
OD  Central Committee’s Organization Department
PBSC  Politburo Standing Committee
PLA  People’s Liberation Army
PRC  People’s Republic of China
SOE  State-Owned Enterprise