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# Foreword

The two books — *Oil in China: From Self-Reliance to Internationalization* and *Oil and Gas in China* — published by World Scientific represent the monumental work of painstakingly constructing the complete political economy and developmental history of the post-1949 contemporary Chinese oil industry. It is the culmination of intense transnational field work carried out across the Asia Pacific accompanied by taxing translation work over three languages as well as archival research. These two volumes on the Chinese oil industry are the first of its kind in detailing China's rise as an energy superpower at a period of time when global attention is focused in this area.

The first book — *Oil in China: From Self-Reliance to Internationalization* — seeks to analyze key historical developmental concepts and events in the Chinese oil industry: namely the concepts of self-reliance, Sino-Japanese oil trade and the transition from self-reliance to internationalization; from the establishment of the Daqing oilfield to its early days of internationalization. These themes were examined in the subsequent chapters and are embedded within the empirical case study of Daqing, the premiere oilfield People's Republic of China (PRC) for most of the postwar period and a symbol of industrialization and self-reliance in the country. In the process of

examining the selected themes, Japan's role in stimulating the development of the Chinese oil industry was highlighted as the Japanese state and its business sectors emerged as suppliers of technology and equipment to the Chinese oil industry and its first major oil customer in the early internationalization phase of the industry. The political and conceptual metamorphosis of self-reliance to internationalization are also examined in this volume.

The second volume entitled *Oil and Gas in China* examines crucial topics and contemporary questions about the Chinese oil industry. The volume examines the impact of its rapid economic growth on China's relations with other countries in its neighboring region when it seeks more oil importation from overseas sources. The impact of pressures to look for new sources of oil has implications for potential regional rivalries, the success of regional agreements on maritime resources and bilateral/multilateral frameworks for easing of tensions, confidence-building and perhaps resolution. Perhaps the most important sections of this volume go into China's ability in striking a balance between economic growth and energy consumption, its internal debates over development or environmentalism, and the growing importance of the post-industrial debate and environmentalism. This highlights the issues of alternative energy trends, conservation and renewal of old resources to meet China's future energy needs.