

Preface

This book is the product of long collaborative effort by the two authors. We began to discuss the idea of writing a book on China's Taiwan policy in 2001, when Xiaoting LI was a graduate student at Utah State University, where Jing HUANG, an associate professor of Political Science, served as Xiaoting's advisor. We co-authored a journal article and a presentation on the topic; and later on, Xiaoting wrote his Master's thesis on the implications of the one-China concept for cross-strait relations.

In 2004, Jing joined the Brookings Institution as a senior fellow in the Foreign Policy program. A few months later, Xiaoting was also hired by Brookings, first as Jing's research assistant, and later promoted to the rank of research analyst in 2007. We then began to work together for a systematic study on the evolution of China's Taiwan policymaking through four generations of Chinese leaders, from Mao Zedong, to Deng Xiaoping, to Jiang Zemin, and to Hu Jintao. Drawing on a wealth of primary Chinese-language materials and numerous interviews in Beijing, Taipei and Washington, we completed the first draft of the book manuscript in late 2006. After that, we went through several rounds of revisions and rewriting, partly because of valuable suggestions and comments from our colleagues, but mainly because of the fast changing situation in the Taiwan Strait in 2007–2009.

Many people have offered help and support to us in writing this book. Our former colleagues Jeffrey Bader and Richard Bush shared with us their valuable insight and knowledge on the Taiwan issue. Lowell Dittmer, Robert Suettinger, and Yu-Shan Wu read the first draft and provided critical comments, which helped to make this study a better work. Carlos Pascual, then director of Foreign Policy Studies at Brookings, went through the manuscript and made valuable suggestions. Laura Mooney at the Brookings Library helped us obtain all necessary references for our researches. Eileen Hughes' painstaking effort to edit the original manuscript improved the book's readability. Kim Tan, our production editor at World Scientific Publishing, worked hard to ensure a smooth publication process. We would also like to thank various colleagues and friends in the Foreign Policy Studies Program of the Brookings Institution, especially at the John Thornton China Center, where we worked.

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Jing HUANG and Xiaoting LI
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