

A NOTE ON ROMANIZATION

I have used the standard system of romanization, *pinyin*, used in today's People's Republic of China for most of the Chinese names and terms in this book. However, I have also kept the commonly known names used by people to refer to themselves and their communities and places, either at an earlier time or at present. These names and terms are rendered in the original regional language or dialect instead of Mandarin, followed by the pinyin form in parentheses at first mention.