

## Appendix B

### Notes on Currency, Weights, Measurements, and Chinese Romanization and Pronunciation

In 2017, the exchange rate between Chinese yuan (or *renminbi*) and the US dollar averaged between 0.145 and 0.155 US dollars for 1 Chinese yuan. Throughout the book, I try to give the currency conversions for the year that the figure was quoted in, instead of the year of writing.

One Chinese *jin* (斤), a unit in weight measurement, is roughly equivalent to 1 US pound (actually 1.1 pounds), so I simply convert 1 Chinese *jin* to 1 US-Anglo pound or 0.5 kilograms.

One Chinese *li* (里) is 500 meters or 1,640 feet, or about one-third of a Anglo-American mile.

One Chinese *chi* (尺) is 0.33 meters—i.e., 33 $\frac{1}{3}$  cm or 1.094 feet.

#### NOTES ON MANDARIN CHINESE ROMANIZATION AND PRONUNCIATION

The Romanization of Chinese characters in this book follows the pinyin system. Certain pinyin pronunciations may pose difficulties for readers who do not speak Mandarin Chinese, so here is a guide:

“C” is pronounced with a hard “ts” as in the consonant ending in “heights”

“Ch” has no English equivalent sound but is close to the “ch” in the word “chai,” plus an “r” sound, or retroflex curling of the tongue

“Q” is pronounced “ch,” as in “change”

“Sh” has no English equivalent sound, but is close to the sound “shr” in the word “shriek” plus an “r” sound, or retroflex curling of the tongue

“X” is pronounced “sh,” as in “shake”

“Zh” has no English equivalent sound but is close to the sound “dr” in the word “drink” with an “r” sound, or retroflex curling of the tongue