

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book, more than a decade in the making, has gone through several significant revisions, and my desire to continue revising it remains strong even on the eve of publication. My anxiety over completing the book not only indicates the level of complexity of the project but also, and more importantly, reflects the ceaseless transformations that have occurred in China, in the greater world, and in feminist, media, and cultural studies since the book's original conception. This book records an ongoing dialogue with all these changes as it reviews socialist feminist history in China from the 1920s to the 1960s; retraces mainstream feminist cultural practice from Mao's socialist period to the post-Mao promarket era (1950s–1980s); reengages with Western feminist theories from the 1970s forward along with a set of influential English-language scholarship on Chinese socialist women's liberation produced in the 1980s; and reimagines a transnational feminist future with a mass-oriented cultural practice. Both the book's significance and limitations, as a result, lie in this open-ended and continuing dialogic engagement. I sincerely hope that this book, despite its unavoidable incompleteness, invites scholars from diverse generations, disciplines, and geographic regions to reflect continuously and critically on the geopolitical and socioeconomic underpinnings of current and emerging research paradigms and to forge new frameworks that promote a transnational emancipatory vision, endorse political-economically and socio-culturally integrated approaches, and revitalize historical materialism in the studies of feminist movements, mainstream culture, and women's cinema.

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This book is dedicated to my parents, Wang Yaobing and Fang Ya, who—having devoted their youth to socialist revolution and socialist construction, suffered during the Cultural Revolution, and experienced rapid market transformation in contemporary China—remain hopeful and committed to social justice and equality, better lives for all, and peace in the world.