The Rise of Asia

THE RISE OF ASIA

Economics, Society and Politics in Contemporary Asia

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PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book is the outcome of a number of years of teaching a broadly comparative course in economic history. I have felt the need for a text which would provide an introduction not only to the economics of growth and development in Asia, but also to the social and political contexts of growth. As a historian I have a professional prejudice in favour of a treatment which takes account of the longer term and which is sensitive to the continuities underlying the extraordinary changes taking place across Asia today. As a comparative historian I have been interested in the need for multiple disciplinary perspectives as well. As a teacher I am concerned to introduce students to history not as a body of facts, but as a problematical and contested terrain. The structure of the book reflects these concerns. It also reflects both my own range of interests and those of my students. Most of the sections within chapters began as lectures, discussion group topics, or essay assignments, and although they are very far from covering all possible areas of concern, they have proved successful in the classroom environment. As such, I hope they will prove useful to others as well.

The specific occasion for writing arose from a request from Richard Tilly that I prepare a survey of recent work on the economic and social history of Asia for inclusion in an issue of *Geschichte und Gesellschaft* devoted to 'extension of social history'. Working on that project reinforced my conviction that the shift among a wide range of Asian specialists towards an emphasis on the internal dynamics of Asian societies had significantly altered the terms in which economic development, social change, and political processes were being studied, and that these newer approaches did indeed constitute a broad underlying consensus. Within that framework, the book attempts to do a wide range of specialist fields justice, keeping in view the obvious fact that a consensus on a basic approach does not preclude vigorous and impassioned debate over facts and their interpretation. I might emphasize that this is particularly the case in economic history, where many of the 'facts' are produced synthetically. The most

important 'fact' of all, the amount of goods and services produced in a country, for example, is always an estimate subject to more or less wide margins of error, and the margins increase rapidly as we move backward in time.

The University of Sydney, and the Australian academic community generally, is an exciting place to pursue Asian and comparative studies. I have benefited from the advice and assistance of a number of individuals. Some of their forthcoming work is cited as working papers. In particular, my departmental colleagues John Drabble and Lily Zubaidah Rahim have shared their knowledge of Southeast Asia with me. Haishun Sun (Economics) has informed me on recent foreign investment in China, and Michael Leigh (Government and Public Administration) on Malaysian politics. The discussion of Asian nationalism and of Indonesia in particular has benefited from suggestions made by Michael van Langenberg (School of Asian Studies), and the chapters on Japan have benefited from conversations with Elise Kurashige Tipton (also School of Asian Studies, who has borne the additional burden of being married to me). Pierre van der Eng (Economic History, Australian National University) has been exceptionally generous in introducing me to the statistical study of the Indonesian economy. I have benefited from reports produced by the Economic History of Southeast Asia (ECHOSEA) project at the Australian National University, whose individual country and thematic studies will be appearing over the next two years. The 1996 meeting of the Asian Studies Association of Australia, *Communications With/In Asia: 20th Anniversary Conference of the Asian Studies Association of Australia*, held at Latrobe University, provided the opportunity to present a session on the role of the state in Asian economic development. My fellow panel members Linda Weiss (Government and Public Administration, University of Sydney), John Hobson (Politics, LaTrobe University), and Kanishka Jayasuriya (Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University) have also shared their work and their insights with me. A visit to The University Professors, Boston University, in 1994 led to discussions with Liah Greenfeld on nationalism and with Harry Gelber on the role of the state in increasing productivity which have strengthened those portions of the book. The book also incorporates research which has been supported by grants from the Australian Research Council, and the writing was speeded by leave granted by the University of Sydney. Finally, there are a number of individuals both in and out of government who have responded to my requests for information, assistance, or evaluation, who prefer anonymity. The book is better

for the efforts and support of these individuals and institutions; the blame for its shortcomings is mine.

The bibliography lists works cited in the text; I have generally confined citations to secondary works in English, especially those which provide introductions into more specialized areas. I have tried to be even-handed in citing works on different sides of the various disputed areas considered. In the bibliography I have listed surnames, followed by commas, then given names. In the text names are given in the order of the language from which they come, except for migrant Asians who have adopted the Western order of given name first, for instance Kozo Yamamura. Chinese names of people and places in mainland China are given generally in Pinyin, except where this would cause confusion, for instance Chiang Kaishek, or when the place is known historically in an older spelling, for instance Dairen. People and places in Taiwan are given in the modified Wade-Giles system used in most English-language publications produced in Taiwan. The quotations from Confucius and Mencius are from the excellent translations by D.C. Lau (London: Penguin, 1970 and 1979). Everyone interested in social and economic history owes an immense debt to B.R. Mitchell's *International Historical Statistics* (Mitchell 1992, 1993, 1995).

And finally but not least importantly, the book is dedicated to my two daughters, Lee and Christine.

FBT

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February 1997