

Preface

This volume analyses a key facet of the post-Cold War political economy of security in the United States and China and how the pursuit of economic security is helping to shape Sino-American industrial relations. Examining industrial relations through the lens of security shifts attention from the opportunities of economic engagement to the particular challenges it presents for political authorities. The requirements of economic security policy in both states are proving more complex as Sino-American industrial integration deepens. The Sino-American industrial relationship encompasses complex processes across multiple sectors, and is the subject of growing policy concern and attention in both the United States and China. Foremost among the objectives of this volume is that of considering how the perceived requirements of economic security are defining state approaches to transnational integration in high-technology industrial sectors. This is a complex issue, and this study is intended to provide a more comprehensive and nuanced account of the evolving Sino-American economic security relationship.

This approach to the study of security and its impact on economic relations demands a relatively broad perspective in considering economic security, which must be situated in the context of distinct local features and broader industrial and security trends. China and the United States have distinct economic security agendas, which have significant implications for how they engage industry and each other. This requires considering economic security perspectives, approaches to the operationalization of economic security concerns, and the impact that this has on industrial relations within as well as between China and the United States. This approach facilitates analysis of the factors underlying approaches to economic security in China and the United States, the relationship between diverse economic security concerns and approaches, and the impact of the international economic and security environment on the pursuit of economic security. The nature of the security/economics nexus in the United States and China and the changing international environment within which political authorities are pursuing economic security contribute to the evolution of the Sino-American industrial relationship. The effects of this are not limited to the United States and China; their prominent economic and security roles ensure that their respective quests for economic

security will influence the environment for economic security in the East Asian region and beyond.

This study offers unique insights into the nature of the security/economics nexus in the United States and China and the manner in which political authorities approach their respective economic security objectives. There is considerable tension between economic security requirements in both states, which is growing as national security concerns increasingly intrude upon an economic relationship which emerged and developed in a far more benign political environment. In the process, this study seeks to contribute to the debate over how the Sino-American relationship is evolving as China re-emerges as a great power and the United States redefines its position in the international system, and that of the potential of economic interdependence to promote collaboration and contribute to international peace on the basis of opportunity–cost considerations. It is hoped that this study will raise important questions as much as helping to answer them.

I am grateful to Deakin University for providing me with a Central Research Grant, which enabled me to devote the time necessary to bring this project to fruition and supported crucial research in Washington, DC. I am deeply indebted to the American Political Science Association's Centennial Center for Political Science and Public Affairs for offering me an institutional home in Washington. Particular thanks are due to Betsy Super and Veronica Long at the Centennial Center. I would like to thank Munroe Eagles, Baogang He, Chris Hickey, David Lowe, Craig Snyder, and Andrea Witcomb for support and advice in various forms and at various stages of the project. I would also like to thank the staff at the Deakin University Library for their assistance in obtaining research materials and Mao Yue for her valuable research assistance. Finally, I owe a particular debt of gratitude to Alex Pettifer and the staff at Edward Elgar for their patience with what proved to be the protracted gestation of this study and for their careful copy-editing of the manuscript. Any shortcomings of this study remain the responsibility of the author alone.