

Conventions

Administrative levels

China's administration essentially operates in a vertical hierarchy at the central, provincial, prefectural, county, township and village level. Even in pastoral areas, some prefectures and counties have been elevated to 'city' status depending on criteria such as economic output and structure and levels of urbanization and the status confers them with different powers, roles and responsibilities. Many administrative regions in pastoral areas with large minority populations also have special autonomous powers and titles that reflect this status. Thus there is the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region (provincial level), the Yili Autonomous Khazak State (prefecture level) and the Hefeng Autonomous Mongolian County (county level). Furthermore the administrative levels have ethnic derived titles such as in the case of Inner Mongolia where leagues, banners, sumus and gacas substitute for the Han Chinese titles of prefecture, counties, townships and villages. To facilitate comparison across the different administrative titles used in the pastoral region, this book employs the more widely understood Han Chinese titles for the various administrative levels.

Place names

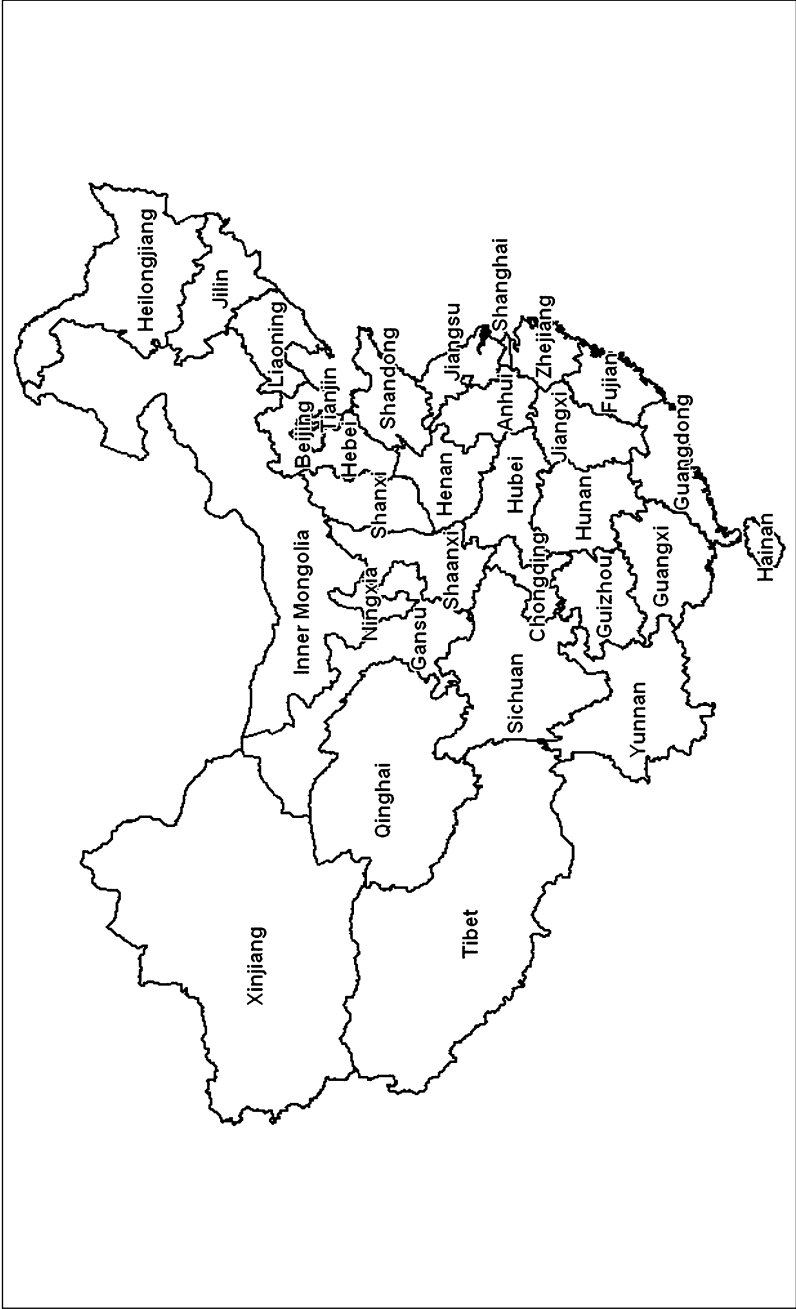
Localities in China are also referred to by various names especially in minority areas where the local or ethnic name differs from the Han Chinese name. For instance, Uxin Banner in Inner Mongolia is most widely referred to as Wushen County while most officials in Hobokosar County in Xinjiang refer to the county under its Chinese name of Hefeng. Similarly Xilin Gol League is more well known as Xilinguole Prefecture. As a general rule this book uses the Han Chinese name except where the local name is more widely referred to in the broader literature.

Measurement units

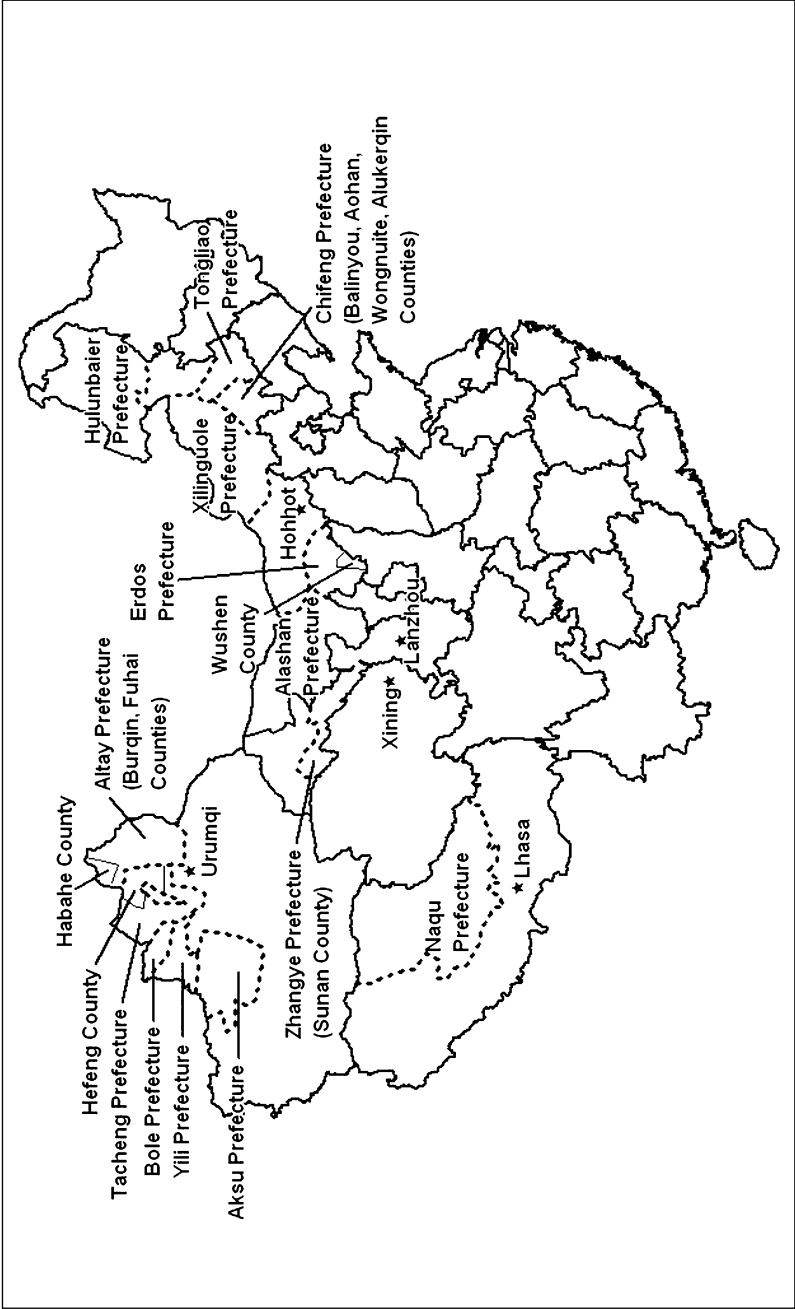
The book refers to standard units of measurement such as hectares, kilograms and litres. However some reference is made to the Chinese area unit of ‘mu’ where 1 hectare is equivalent to 15mu. Reference is also made to the Chinese currency unit of yuan renminbi (expressed as Rmb). At the start of 2000, Rmb1 was equivalent to around USD0.12 but at the start of 2008, Rmb1 was equivalent to USD0.138.

Institutional names

Readers need to be aware that, in China, the names of government organizations and even their status in the government hierarchy sometimes change abruptly. In general in this book, the status and hence the names of these organizations at the time this book was prepared have been used. However, in some cases where there has been a very recent change of a long established status and name — such as in the case of the State Environmental Protection Administration changing to the Ministry of Environmental Protection in 2008 — then the more familiar former name has been used throughout the book. In this regard, throughout this book reference is made to the Animal Husbandry Bureau. However, at the Central level, the Animal Husbandry Bureau was recently elevated to become a department (*si*). The status varies at provincial levels, but in western China it is also usually referred to as a department at the province level (*ting*). The bureau status (*ju*) remains the relevant status/title at prefecture levels and below.



Map 1 Provinces and autonomous regions in China



Map 2 Map of selected prefectures, counties and cities in China

