Preface and acknowledgment

In today's interdependent world society, lessons in development should be viewed as a global public good, with success stories objectively assessed and widely circulated. A century of development in Taiwan is unique not only in economic but also socio-political terms. In fact, Taiwan's transformation from a subjugated colony to a culturally rich, economically prosperous and politically progressive democracy is often overshadowed by its economic development from an agrarian economy to the high-tech hub of Asia.

The "Enlightenment Movement" in the 1920s, exemplified by the establishment of the *Taiwan Cultural Association* and the movement of a "Petition of Establishing Taiwan Parliament" is arguably a historical turning point in Taiwan's modernization. After numerous setbacks, both movements precipitated a series of social and political transformations that stoked Taiwanese self-consciousness, autonomy, and self-determination during the Japanese empire period. Despite subsequent repressive governance under the authoritarian regime in post-World War II, the Taiwanese nurtured distinct cultural, ethnic, and national identities, as well as strong democratic ideals in their struggle for nation-building.

This book offers a critical review of the development of socio-cultural, economic, and national identity in Taiwan in the twentieth century and beyond. It is hoped that exploration of Taiwan's development as a modern, industrialized democratic country will offer a compelling model of development across multiple academic disciplines and important policy implications in world development. This edited volume reflects the collective wisdom and in-depth research of distinguished scholars in diverse areas of Taiwan study.

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