HANDBOOK OF CONTEMPORARY CHINA

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HANDBOOK OF CONTEMPORARY CHINA

edited by

William S Tay

Professor Emeritus

*Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
and the University of California, San Diego*

Alvin Y So

Chair Professor, Division of Social Science

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

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PREFACE

China launched its reform just over thirty years ago. No crystal ball then could have predicted its outcome. Titles of recent books such as *China Rules the World: The End of the Western World and the Birth of a New Global Order* and *The Beijing Consensus: How China's Authoritarian Model Will Dominate the Twenty-First Century* clearly confirm that China has finally arrived. Statistical projections from venerable institutions such as International Monetary Fund or Goldman Sachs appear to point toward a robust future: the former predicts that China's share of global GDP (in current prices) will pass the 10% mark in 2013; and the latter that China will surpass the US in terms of GDP in 2027.

There are, however, several well-known Chinese sayings which remind us about the truism that to know the past is to know the future. It is with this in mind that we accepted the invitation from Dr. Lim Tai-Wei on behalf of World Scientific to organize a handbook on China's reform for a professional and general readership interested in visiting or revisiting the travails of the last thirty years.

William S. Tay
Alvin Y. So

December, 2010

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